

Wyoming EMS Frequently Asked Questions

This document provides guidance for Wyoming EMS agencies and personnel. It is based on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) presented to the Wyoming Office of EMS related to the authority to practice as an EMT or paramedic in Wyoming. It is an interpretation of current rules and should not be construed as the sole legal authority on these issues. In all cases, EMS agencies and personnel should rely on W.S. 33-36-101 and the *Rules and Regulations for Wyoming Emergency Medical Services* for legal authority.

FAQs:

1) What is the difference between “certification” and “licensure?”

Answer: “Certification” refers to verification by an entity that an individual or organization has met certain requirements or standards. “Licensure” or “license” is a specific authority to act. Historically, EMS has used these terms interchangeably, but **they do not** mean the same thing. The *EMS Education Agenda for the Future* provides the following:

*“**Certification** is the process of verifying competency at a predetermined level of proficiency. **Licensure** is the process of a state government agency granting official permission to practice within that given state. Although there are distinct differences, the terms “licensure” and “certification” are often used interchangeably. In actuality, **licensure is the process of an agency making a declaration of competence to practice.** The determination of eligibility for licensure is usually based on the completing of education requirements and the passing of an examination. **Most licensure processes require some form of certification by either a state or national agency to ensure minimum competence.**”*

When a student completes an EMT course, the Class Coordinator *certifies* to the OEMS that the student has completed the training. Based on that certification, along with the other requirements in statute and rule, the OEMS *licenses* or *authorizes* the individual to act as an EMT. While the current *Rules and Regulations for Wyoming Emergency Medical Services* uses the term “certification,” when you read our rules it should be understood that we are discussing the “licensure” or “authority to function” process.

2) What is the National Registry of EMTs?

Answer: The National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) is a non-profit, independent, **certification** agency. They have **no authority** to grant **any** EMT the right to work in **any** state.

3) Is there any Federal requirement that a state accept the certification provided by the NREMT?

Answer: No. States may accept or reject NREMT certification as part of the state's licensure process, based on the structure of the state's statutes and rules. The NREMT has **no authority** to require any state to accept its certification, change or alter levels of service, or any other component of EMS system design.

4) Does the NREMT develop or approve curricula or EMT courses?

Answer: No. The NREMT allows individuals to take the NREMT exams based on completion of a "state approved" EMT course.

5) I am a National Registry EMT or paramedic. Can I provide care in Wyoming?

Answer: No. The National Registry of EMT's is not a licensing authority. (See question #2.) You must comply with Wyoming's licensing process.

6) What does an EMT licensed in another state have to do to become licensed in Wyoming?

Answer:

- 1) Submit a completed application and fee to the Wyoming Office of EMS;
- 2) Provide documentation of successful EMT course completion that is substantially equivalent to a Wyoming EMT course;
- 3) Complete a fingerprint based background check through the Wyoming Department of Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- 4) Successfully pass the Wyoming Certification Exam.

7) Is there a provisional or emergency licensing allowance in Wyoming?

Answer: No. There is no current provision for provisional, emergency or expedited licensing.

8) Is there a limitation on what skills a person can provide in Wyoming?

Answer: Yes. Regardless of what certifications, licensure or training the individual maintains, they must adhere to the Wyoming scope of practice for their current level of Wyoming licensure.

9) I am a Wyoming licensed EMT and am functioning as a member of a wild-land fire response. What care can I provide?

Answer: The Rules state in Chapter 5, Section 11:

(b) An attendant who holds a valid attendant certificate issued by the Division, and who is acting with the consent of the patient, may be authorized to perform the skills defined below in the care of a patient, as consistent with the formal training for the category of the certificate held by the attendant and the skills authorized by the Division.

(d) A certified EMT Basic attendant is authorized to:

- (i) Render emergency care, rescue and resuscitation service consistent with formal training through the EMT basic course;*
- (ii) Provide emergency transportation; (provide care during transport in an ambulance)*
- (iii) Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation in accordance with the Healthcare Provider standards of the American Heart Association, or its equivalent;*
- (iv) Administer oxygen and assist a patient with self-administered medications as authorized by the Division for the EMT basic;*
- (v) Perform defibrillation using an AED according to the recommended guidelines of the Division;*

Each higher level is authorized by rule to perform these same acts. The limitation comes with the advanced skills and medications. This is spelled out in Chapter 5, Section 11(c):

*(c) EMT Intermediate and Paramedic attendants are limited to administering authorized medications and performing authorized advanced skills **when functioning as a member of their identified ambulance service**; when on duty with their identified law enforcement or military organization; or when assisting the Office of Emergency Medical Services' (OEMS) staff, functioning under the OEMS's identified physician medical director, during a state supported event.*

10) How is an EMS jurisdiction defined in Wyoming?

Answer: EMS jurisdictions are not delineated within Wyoming. A Wyoming ambulance service is licensed by the state, and may therefore provide care anywhere within the state, assuming all other provisions of rules are met. The only limitations that may exist are placed by virtue of local restrictions.