

# RECERTIFICATION OPTIONS

Updated April 1, 2011

The term EMT will apply to **all certified levels of emergency medical technicians.**

EMTs in South Carolina must recertify every four (4) years. Anyone certified at any level on or after October 1, 2007 must maintain a current National Registry EMT credential in order to recertify their SC EMT credential. Any EMT whose SC EMT credential expires prior to becoming re-certified - must now become and maintain a National Registry EMT credential to receive a SC EMT certification

**Criminal background checks are required for all EMTs every time they certify/re-certify.**

Recertification is granted by successfully completing one of the four (4) following programs:

The first three (3) options are only available to currently SC certified EMTs who became certified prior to October 1, 2007 and have maintained their state certification. An easy way to identify which individuals would fall into this category is by identifying their original SC EMT Certification numbers:

<b>Old Basic</b> certification numbers between	00001 to 30499
<b>Old Intermediate</b> certification numbers between	90001 to 94499
<b>Old Paramedic</b> certification numbers between	80001 to 85499

- 1. Refresher Course:** Successfully complete a Department approved refresher training program - **AND** - successfully pass the state written **AND** practical certification examinations. A repeat of the initial (full) EMT course is also acceptable in lieu of a refresher course. Plus submit a properly completed *Certificate Application* card\*\* and BLS\*/ACLS\* credential. **(All EMT-Basic candidates (initial & refresher) must pass the National Registry EMT-Basic examination.)** Current or former SC EMTs may participate in a refresher program.
- 2. CEU Option:** Obtain the required continuing education units (CEUs) for their level of certification, prior to the SC certificate expiration date, - **AND** - successfully pass either the National Registry CBT or the State Assessment written **AND** National Registry practical examinations - **(All EMT-Basic candidates (initial & refresher) must pass the National Registry EMT-Basic examination.)** Plus - submit a properly completed *Certificate Application* card\*\* and BLS\*/ACLS\* credential. **Only current SC certified EMTs may earn CEUs.** CEU packets **must** be received by DHEC prior to the EMT's certificate expiration date.
- 3. IST Option:** Successfully complete a Department approved In-Service Training Program (IST) - **AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING** - successfully pass either the National Registry CBT or the State Assessment written **AND** National Registry practical examinations - **(All EMT-Basic candidates (initial & refresher) must pass the National Registry EMT-Basic examination.)** - **OR** - receive the written and/or practical examination waiver from the agency's medical control physician responsible for the IST program - **Plus** - submit a properly completed *Certificate Application* card\*\* and BLS\*/ACLS\* credential. **Only current SC certified EMTs may participate in an approved IST program.** IST packets **must** be received by DHEC prior to the EMT's certificate expiration date.

The fourth option is available to all SC EMTs.

- 4. National Registry Option:** Submit a **current** National Registry credential showing an expiration date greater than your SC EMT certificate expiration date. Plus submit a properly completed *Certificate Application* card\*\* and BLS\*/ACLS\* credential. Packet **must** be received by DHEC prior to the EMT's certificate expiration date.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** In addition to the above, all EMTs (all levels) must maintain a current\* BLS credential in one of the following:

- American Heart Association (AHA) BLS for the Healthcare Provider
  - American Red Cross (ARC) CPR for the Professional Rescuer
  - American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI) CPR Pro
- EMT-Paramedics must also maintain a current\* AHA or ASHI ACLS credential.

\* Current means that the card expiration date is greater than that of the EMT's certificate date.

\*\* *Certificate Application* cards can be found on our website at [www.scdhec.gov/health/ems/certification.htm](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/ems/certification.htm)