

SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

Policy Reference No.: 2050
Effective Date: September 9, 2013
Supersedes: August 1, 2011

PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for a California licensed Paramedic to become accredited in the City and County of San Francisco.

II. POLICY

- A. Applicants for initial or re-accreditation as a paramedic in the City and County of San Francisco must apply to the San Francisco EMS Agency for a paramedic accreditation. Applicants must meet all minimum requirements identified in this policy.
- B. No person shall use the Paramedic scope of practice in San Francisco unless they are currently an accredited Paramedic or have completed the requirements to be an accreditation candidate.
- C. Paramedic applicants with background issues listed under Health & Safety Code, Section 1798.200 in the categories of actions constituting a threat to public safety may be precluded from obtaining a paramedic accreditation. The paramedic applicant may be required to submit additional information or participate in an in-person interview for determination of the applicability of Health & Safety Code, Section 1798.200. Denial of accreditation shall be subject to provisions of this policy and *Policy 2070 Certificate / License Discipline Process for Prehospital Personnel*. The EMS Agency Medical Director retains the final decision through his/her medical authority whether to grant or revoke a paramedic accreditation in San Francisco.

III. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PARAMEDIC APPLICANTS

- A. Submit a completed San Francisco EMS Agency Paramedic Accreditation application form (obtained directly from the EMS Agency office or downloaded from the website) along with the required fee.
- B. Provide a photocopies of the following:
 - 1. Current picture identification (State driver's license or ID card, valid Passport, valid US military ID card or other government-issued ID).
 - 2. Current California Paramedic license.

3. Current Basic Life Support (Healthcare Provider Level) CPR Card from the American Heart Association, American Red Cross or American Safety & Health Institute.

IV. INITIAL ACCREDITATION

- A. Submission of all general requirements listed in Section III.
- B. Submit photocopies of current certification cards or proof of course completion for the following:
 1. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
 2. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) or Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP).
 3. Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) or Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS).
 4. Incident Command System Training (ICS) 100, 200 and IS 700a, Introduction to National Incident Management System.
 5. Hazmat First Responder Awareness course (FRA) per 29 CFR 1910-120.
- C. Provide verification of a successful completion of a San Francisco EMS system orientation given by the employer. The verification form should include any San Francisco EMS approved Optional Scope of Practice protocols
- D. The EMS Agency shall notify candidates for accreditation of the decision to accredit within 30 days of receiving their application. The accreditation candidate may perform the basic paramedic scope of practice with a second accredited paramedic until s/he receives the local accreditation. The local accreditation card may be delayed beyond 30 days for incomplete applications or unresolved background investigation issues.
- E. The initial accreditation term shall be from the date issued until the candidate's Paramedic license expires. Upon renewal, accreditation will be concurrent with licensure.

V. MAINTENANCE OF ACCREDITATION

- A. Accreditation for practice shall be continuous as long as licensure is maintained and the following requirements are met:
 1. Submission of all general requirements listed in Section III.
 2. Verification of employment from a permitted ambulance provider.

3. Verification from the employer of completion of training on EMS Agency policy and protocols and updates or any other trainings required by the EMS Agency Medical Director that have been issued in the previous 12 months.
4. Submit photocopies of current certification cards for the following:
 - a) Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
 - b) Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) or Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP).

VI. LICENSE OR ACCREDITATION LAPSES

- A. Individuals with a lapsed Paramedic license must obtain a current valid California Paramedic license before applying for initial accreditation or re-accreditation in San Francisco.
- B. For an accreditation lapse of less than 30 days:
 1. Meet the requirements for Maintenance of Accreditation in Section V.
- C. For an accreditation lapse of greater than 30 days, but less than 1 year:
 1. Meet the requirements for Maintenance of Accreditation in Section V, and
 2. Submit written request from employer that the individual to be re-accredited.
- D. For a accreditation lapse of between 1 and 2 years:
 1. Meet the requirements for Maintenance of Accreditation in Section V;
 2. Submit a written request from an employer that the individual to be re-accredited; and
 3. Successfully pass a supervised skills competency examination provided by the ALS ambulance provider.
- E. For an accreditation lapse of 2 or more years:
 1. Meet the requirements for Maintenance of Accreditation in Section V;
 2. Submit a written request from employer that the individual be re-accredited;
 3. Successfully pass a supervised skills competency examination provided by the ALS ambulance provider; and
 4. Complete any additional training or evaluation required by the EMS Agency Medical Director.

VIII. TRANSFER OF SAN FRANCISCO PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION

- A. When a San Francisco Paramedic with current Accreditation is employed by another permitted ALS ambulance company, the new employer must submit notification of the following to the EMS Agency at least 2 business days in advance of assignment to the field. The notification must include:
1. Date that the Paramedic left the previous employer and the effective date of hire with the new employer. Submit only the effective date of the hire with the new employer if the Paramedic is concurrently employed at two or more providers.
 2. Verification from the new employer of completion of training on EMS Agency policies and protocols including any updates or revisions issued in the previous 12 months.

VII. AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.172 et seq., 1797.214, 1797.185 et seq. California Code of Regulations, Sections Title 22, Division 9, Article 1, Section 100142; and Article 6, Sections 100165 & 100166., Article 8, Section 100171; and Article 9, Section 100172.