



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

6 CCR 1015-3

[Editor's Notes follow the text of the rules at the end of this CCR Document.]

CHAPTER ONE – RULES PERTAINING TO EMS AND EMR EDUCATION, EMS CERTIFICATION OR LICENSURE, AND EMR REGISTRATION

Chapter 1 Adopted by the Board of Health on October 22, 2020. Effective January 1, 2021.

Section 1 – Purpose and Authority For Rules

- 1.1 These rules address the recognition process for emergency medical services (EMS) and Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) education programs; the certification or licensure process for all levels of EMS Providers; the registration process for emergency medical responders; and the procedures for denial, revocation, suspension, limitation, or modification of a certificate, license, or registration.
- 1.2 The authority for the promulgation of these rules is set forth in Section 25-3.5-101 *et seq.*, C.R.S.

Section 2 – Definitions

- 2.1 All definitions that appear in Section 25-3.5-103, C.R.S., shall apply to these rules.
- 2.2 “Accredited College or University” - For purposes of EMS provider licensing, a four-year college or university that is accredited by an educational accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the United States Department of Education, or is an international program that is recognized to be the equivalent of a four-year accredited college or university.
- 2.3 “Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)” - A course of instruction designed to prepare students in the practice of advanced emergency cardiac care.
- 2.4 “Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)” - An individual who has a current and valid AEMT certificate or license issued by the Department and who is authorized to provide limited acts of advanced emergency medical care in accordance with the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight.
- 2.5 “Basic Cardiac Life Support (CPR)” - A course of instruction designed to prepare students in cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques.
- 2.6 “Board for Critical Care Transport Paramedic Certification (BCCTPC)” - a non-profit organization that develops and administers the Critical Care Paramedic Certification and Flight Paramedic Certification exam.
- 2.7 “Certificate” - Designation as having met the requirements of Section 5 of these rules, issued to an individual by the Department. Certification is equivalent to licensure for purposes of the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24-4-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S.

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- 2.8 “Certificate Holder” - An individual who has been issued a certificate as defined in Section 2.7.
- 2.9 “Continuing Education” - Education required for the renewal of a certificate, license, or registration.
- 2.10 “Department” - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- 2.11 “Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC)” - The council established pursuant to Section 25-3.5-206, C.R.S., that is responsible for advising the Department regarding the appropriate scope of practice for EMS providers and for the criteria for physicians to serve as EMS medical directors.
- 2.12 “Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)” - An individual who has successfully completed the training and examination requirements for emergency medical responders and who provides assistance to the injured or ill until more highly trained and qualified personnel arrive.
- 2.13 “Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)” - An individual who has a current and valid EMT certificate or license issued by the Department and who is authorized to provide basic emergency medical care in accordance with the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight.
- 2.14 “Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate (EMT-I)” - An individual who has a current and valid EMT-I certificate or license issued by the Department and who is authorized to provide limited acts of advanced emergency medical care in accordance with the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight.
- 2.15 “Emergency Medical Technician with IV Authorization (EMT-IV)” - An individual who has a current and valid EMT certificate or license issued by the Department and who has met the conditions defined in the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight relating to IV authorization.
- 2.16 “EMR Education Center” - A state-recognized provider of initial courses, EMR continuing education topics and/or refresher courses that qualify graduates for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician’s EMR certification and for state registration renewal.
- 2.17 “EMR Education Group” - A state-recognized provider of EMR continuing education topics and/or refresher courses that qualify individuals for renewal of a national registry EMR certification and for state registration renewal.
- 2.18 “EMS Education Center” - A state-recognized provider of initial courses, EMS continuing education topics and/or refresher courses that qualify graduates for state and/or National Registry EMS provider certification or licensure.
- 2.19 “EMS Education Group” - A state-recognized provider of EMS continuing education topics and/or refresher courses that qualify individuals for renewal of a state and/or National Registry EMS provider certification or licensure.
- 2.20 “Education Program” - A state-recognized provider of EMS and/or EMR education including a recognized education group or center.
- 2.21 “Education Program Standards” – Department-approved minimum standards for EMS or EMR education that shall be met by state-recognized EMS or EMR education programs.

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- 2.22 “EMS Provider” - Means an individual who holds a valid emergency medical service provider certificate or license issued by the Department and includes Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate and Paramedic.
- 2.23 “Equivalent Field” - For purposes of EMS provider licensing, a four-year bachelor’s degree program that includes a minimum of 40 completed semester credit hours in courses that the Department determines, pursuant to Section 5.4.2, to be comparable to health sciences fields and disciplines.
- 2.24 “Field Related to the Health Sciences” - For purposes of EMS provider licensing, a four-year bachelor’s degree program in emergency medical services or in health professions and related programs as identified by the United States Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center For Education Statistics, Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP-2020).
- 2.25 “Graduate Advanced Emergency Medical Technician” - An EMT certificate holder or licensee who has successfully completed a Department-recognized AEMT education course but has not yet successfully completed the AEMT certification requirements set forth in these rules.
- 2.26 “Graduate Paramedic” - An EMT, AEMT or EMT-I certificate holder or licensee who has successfully completed a Department-recognized Paramedic education course but has not yet successfully completed the Paramedic certification or licensure requirements set forth in these rules.
- 2.27 “Initial Course” - A course of study based on the Department-approved curriculum that meets the education requirements for issuance of a certificate, license, or registration for the first time.
- 2.28 “Initial Certification or Licensure” - First time application for and issuance by the Department of a certificate or license at any level as an EMS provider. This shall include applications received from persons holding any level of EMS certification or license issued by the Department who are applying for either a higher or lower level certificate or license.
- 2.29 “Initial Registration” - First time application for and issuance by the Department of a registration as an EMR. This shall include applications received from persons holding any level of EMS certification or license issued by the Department who are applying for registration.
- 2.30 “International Board of Specialty Certification (IBSC)” - A non-profit organization that develops and administers a national Community Paramedic certification exam.
- 2.31 “Letter of Admonition” - A form of disciplinary sanction that is placed in an EMS provider’s or EMR’s file and represents an adverse action against the certificate holder, registration holder, or licensee.
- 2.32 “License” - Designation as having met the requirements of Section 25-3.5-203(1)(b) and (b.5), C.R.S., and Section 5.4 issued to an individual by the Department.
- 2.33 “Licensee” - An individual who has been issued a license as defined in Section 2.32.
- 2.34 “Medical Director” - For the purposes of these rules, a physician licensed in good standing who authorizes and directs, through protocols and standing orders, the performance of students-in-training enrolled in Department-recognized EMS or EMR education programs and/or EMS certificate holders or licensees who perform medical acts, and who is specifically identified as being responsible to assure the performance competency of those EMS providers as described in the physician’s medical continuous quality improvement program.

- 2.35 “National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT)” - A national non-governmental organization that certifies entry-level and ongoing competency of EMS providers and EMRs.
- 2.36 “Paramedic” - An individual who has a current and valid Paramedic certificate or license issued by the Department and who is authorized to provide acts of advanced emergency medical care in accordance with the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight.
- 2.37 “Paramedic with Community Paramedic Endorsement (P-CP)” - An individual who has a current and valid Paramedic certificate or license issued by the Department and who has met the requirements in these rules to obtain a Community Paramedic endorsement from the Department and is authorized to provide acts in accordance with the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight relating to Community Integrated Health Care Services, as set forth in Sections 25-3.5-206, C.R.S and 25-3.5-1301, et seq. C.R.S.
- 2.38 “Paramedic with Critical Care Endorsement (P-CC)” - An individual who has a current and valid Paramedic certificate or license issued by the Department and who has met the requirements in these rules to obtain a Critical Care endorsement from the Department and is authorized to provide acts in accordance with the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight relating to Critical Care, as set forth in Section 25-3.5-206, C.R.S.
- 2.39 “Practical Skills Examination” - A skills test conducted at the end of an initial course and prior to application for national or state certification or licensure.
- 2.40 “Provisional Certification or Licensure” - A certification or license, valid for not more than 90 days, that may be issued by the Department to an EMS provider applicant seeking certification or licensure.
- 2.41 “Provisional Registration” - A registration, valid for not more than 90 days, that may be issued by the Department to an EMR applicant seeking registration.
- 2.42 “Refresher Course” - A course of study based on the Department-approved curriculum that contributes in part to the education requirements for renewal of a certificate, license or registration.
- 2.43 “Registered Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)” - An individual who has successfully completed the training and examination requirements for EMRs, who provides assistance to the injured or ill until more highly trained and qualified personnel arrive, and who is registered with the Department pursuant to Section 6 of these rules.
- 2.44 “Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight” - Rules adopted by the Executive Director or Chief Medical Officer of the Department upon the advice of the EMPAC that establish the responsibilities of medical directors and all authorized acts of EMS certificate holders or licensees, located at 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter Two.
- 2.45 “State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council (SEMTAC)” - A council created in the Department pursuant to Section 25-3.5-104, C.R.S., that advises the Department on all matters relating to emergency medical and trauma services.

Section 3 – State Recognition of Education Programs

- 3.1 Application for State Recognition as an Education Program
- 3.1.1 The Department may grant recognition for any of the following types of education programs:

- A) EMR education center
 - B) EMR education group
 - C) EMT education center
 - D) EMT education group
 - E) EMT-IV education group
 - F) AEMT education center
 - G) AEMT education group
 - H) EMT-I education center
 - I) EMT-I education group
 - J) Paramedic education center
 - K) Paramedic education group
- 3.1.2 An education program recognized as an education center at any level shall also be authorized to serve as an education group at the same level(s).
- 3.1.3 Any education provider seeking to prepare graduates for EMS certification or licensure or EMR registration shall apply for state recognition as described in Section 3.1.9.
- 3.1.4 Initial education program recognition shall be valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of the Department's written notice of recognition.
- 3.1.5 Education programs shall utilize personnel who meet the qualification requirements in the Department's EMS or EMR education program standards.
- 3.1.6 State-recognized EMS education programs are required to present the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight at 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter Two, including the current Colorado EMS scope of practice content as established in those rules, within every initial and refresher course.
- 3.1.7 EMS education centers that provide initial education at the Paramedic level shall obtain accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The EMS education center shall provide the Department with verification that an application for accreditation has been submitted to CAAHEP prior to the EMS education center initiating a second course.
- 3.1.8 EMS education centers that provide initial education at the Paramedic level shall maintain accreditation from CAAHEP.
- 3.1.9 Applicants for education program recognition shall submit the following documentation to the Department:
- A) Completed application form provided by the Department;
 - B) Personnel roster, to include a current resume for the program director and medical director;

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- C) Description of the facilities to be used for course didactic, lab, and clinical instruction and a listing of all education aids and medical equipment available to the program;
 - D) Policies and procedures, which at a minimum shall address:
 - 1) Admission requirements;
 - 2) Attendance requirements;
 - 3) Course schedule that lists as separate elements the didactic, lab, clinical, skills and written testing criteria of the education program;
 - 4) Discipline/counseling of students;
 - 5) Grievance procedures;
 - 6) Successful course completion requirements;
 - 7) Testing policies;
 - 8) Tuition policy statement;
 - 9) Infection control plan;
 - 10) Description of insurance coverage for students, both health and liability;
 - 11) Practical skills testing policies and procedures;
 - 12) A continuous quality improvement plan; and
 - 13) Recognition of continuing medical education provided by outside parties including, but not limited to, continuing medical education completed by members of the armed forces or reserves of the United States or the National Guard, military reserves or naval militia of any state.
- 3.1.10 After receipt of the application and other documentation required by these rules, the Department shall notify the applicant of recognition or denial as an education program, or shall specify a site review or modification of the materials submitted by the applicant.
- 3.1.11 If the Department requires a site visit, the applicant shall introduce staff, faculty, and medical director, and show all documentation, equipment, supplies and facilities.
- 3.1.12 Applications determined to be incomplete shall be returned to the applicant.
- 3.1.13 The Department shall provide written notice of education program recognition or denial of recognition to the applicant. The Department's determination shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following factors:
- A) Fulfillment of all application requirements;
 - B) Demonstration of ability to conduct education, at the requested level, in compliance with the Department's education program standards; and

- C) Demonstration of necessary professional staff, equipment and supplies to provide the education.

3.1.14 Denial of recognition shall be in accordance with Section 4 of these rules.

3.2 Education Program Recognition Renewal

3.2.1 Renewal of recognition shall be valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of the Department's notice of recognition renewal and shall be based upon satisfactory past performance and submission of an updated application form.

3.2.2 Additional information as specified in Section 3.1.9 may be required by the Department.

3.2.3 The Department may require a site review in conjunction with the renewal application.

Section 4 – Disciplinary Sanctions and Appeal Procedures for Education Program Recognition

4.1 The Department, in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24-4-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S., may initiate proceedings to deny, revoke, suspend, limit or modify education program recognition for, but not limited to, the following reasons:

4.1.1 The applicant fails to meet the application requirements specified in Section 3.1 of these rules.

4.1.2 The applicant does not possess the necessary qualifications to conduct an education program in compliance with the Department's education program standards.

4.1.3 The applicant fails to demonstrate access to adequate clinical or internship services as required by the Department's education program standards.

4.1.4 Fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in applying for or securing education program recognition.

4.1.5 Failing to conduct the education program in compliance with the Department's education program standards.

4.1.6 Failing to notify the Department of changes in the program director or medical director.

4.1.7 Providing false information to the Department with regard to successful completion of education or practical skill examination.

4.1.8 Failing to comply with the provisions in Section 3 of these rules.

4.1.9 Losing CAAHEP accreditation by an EMS education center.

4.2 If the Department initiates proceedings to deny, revoke, suspend, limit or modify an education program recognition, the Department shall provide notice of the action to the education program (or program applicant) and shall inform the program (or program applicant) of its right to appeal and the procedure for appealing. Appeals of Departmental actions shall be conducted in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24-4-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S.

Section 5 – Emergency Medical Services Provider Certification or Licensure

5.1 General Requirements

5.1.1 The Department may issue the following EMS provider certifications or licenses:

- A) EMT
- B) AEMT
- C) EMT-I
- D) Paramedic
- E) Provisional ninety (90)-day certification or license at the EMT, AEMT, EMT-I or Paramedic level.

5.1.2 An EMS provider may apply for certification or licensure. Application for dual certification and licensure shall not be permitted.

5.1.3 No person shall hold himself or herself out as a certificate holder or licensee or offer, whether or not for compensation, any services included in these rules, or authorized acts permitted by the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, unless that person holds a valid certificate or license.

5.1.4 Certificates or licenses shall be effective for a period of three (3) years after the date of issuance. The date of issuance shall be determined by the date the Department approves the application.

5.1.5 Multiple certificates or licenses within the levels of EMS provider shall not be permitted. Certification or licensure at a higher level indicates that the certificate holder or licensee may also provide medical care allowed at all lower levels of certification or licensure.

5.1.6 If a certificate holder or licensee seeks a higher or lower level of certification or licensure, he or she shall satisfy the requirements for initial certification or licensure at the new level, except as described below.

- A) If the higher level certificate or license is valid and in good standing or within six months of the expiration date, the applicant for a lower level certificate or license shall not be required to submit current and valid certification from the NREMT at the lower level.

5.2 Initial Certification or licensure

5.2.1 Applicants for initial certification or licensure shall be no less than eighteen (18) years of age at the time of application.

5.2.2 Applicants for initial certification or licensure shall submit to the Department a completed application provided by the Department, including the applicant's signature in a form and manner as determined by the Department, that contains the following:

- A) Evidence of compliance with criminal history record check requirements:

- 1) The applicant must submit to a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint-based national criminal history record check from the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI).
 - 2) If the results of an applicant's fingerprint-based national criminal history record check reveal a record of arrest without a disposition, the applicant must submit to a name-based criminal history record check as defined in Section 22-2-119.3(6)(d), C.R.S.
 - 3) If an applicant has twice submitted to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check and the FBI or CBI has been unable to classify the fingerprints, then the Department may accept a CBI and/or FBI name-based criminal history report generated through the CBI.
- B) Evidence of current and valid certification from the NREMT at or above the EMS Provider level being applied for.
- C) Evidence of current and valid professional level Basic Cardiac Life Support (CPR) course completion from a national or local organization approved by the Department, except as provided for in Paragraph H) below.
- D) In addition to Paragraph C), above, Paramedic applicants shall submit evidence of current and valid Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course completion from a national or local organization approved by the Department, except as provided in Paragraph H) below.
- E) In addition to Paragraphs C) and D) above, a P-CC applicant shall submit evidence of current and valid Critical Care Paramedic or Flight Paramedic certification issued by the BCCTPC.
- F) In additional to Paragraphs C) and D) above, a P-CP applicant shall submit the following additional information:
- 1) Current and valid Community Paramedic certification issued by the IBSC.
 - 2) Proof of completion of a course in community paramedicine from one of the following institutions:
 - a) An accredited paramedic training program,
 - b) A college accredited by an educational accrediting body, or
 - c) A university accredited by an educational accrediting body.
- G) Evidence of lawful presence in the United States pursuant to Section 24-76.5-101, C.R.S.
- H) While stationed or residing within Colorado, all veterans, active military service members, and members of the National Guard and reserves that are separating from an active duty tour, or the spouse of a veteran or a member, may apply for certification or licensure to practice in Colorado. The veteran, member, or spouse is exempt from the requirements of Paragraphs C) and D).

- 1) The Department may require evidence of military status and appropriate orders in order to determine eligibility for this exemption.

5.3 Renewal of Certification or Licensure

5.3.1 General Requirements

- A) Upon the expiration date of a Department-issued certificate or license, the certificate or license is no longer valid and the individual shall not hold himself or herself out as a certificate or license holder, except under the circumstances specified below in Paragraph F).
- B) Persons who have permitted their certification or license to expire:
 - 1) Shall not, until such time as the Department has issued a new or renewed certification or license:
 - a) Hold themselves out as a certificate holder or licensee after the certification or licensure has expired, except as provided in Section 5.3.1.F,
 - b) Offer or perform, whether or not for compensation, any services included in these rules, or
 - c) Offer or perform, whether or not for compensation, any authorized acts permitted by the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight; and
 - 2) May renew their certification or license by complying with the provisions of Section 5.3 of these rules (Renewal of Certification or License) for a period not to exceed six (6) months from the expiration date; or
 - 3) Must, if certification or licensure has expired for a period of greater than six (6) months from the expiration date, comply with the provisions of Section 5.2 of these rules (Initial Certification or Licensure), unless exempted pursuant to Section 5.3.1.F below.
- C) All certificates or licenses renewed by the Department shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance.
- D) Date of issuance is the date of application approval by the Department, except, for applicants successfully completing the renewal of certification or licensure requirements during the last six (6) months prior to their certificate or license expiration date, the date of issuance shall be the expiration date of the current valid certificate or license being renewed.
- E) If a certificate holder or licensee has made timely and sufficient application for certification or license renewal and the Department fails to take action on the application prior to the certificate's or license's expiration date, the existing certification or license shall not expire until the Department acts upon the application. The Department, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether the application was timely and sufficient.

F) Certificate holders or licensees who have been called to federally funded active duty for more than 120 days to serve in a war, emergency or contingency, shall be exempt from the requirements of Sections 5.3.2.B.2 and 5.3.2.B.3 and 5.3.2.C below, provided the holder's certificate or license expired:

- 1) During the service, or
- 2) During the six months after the completion of service.

The Department may require appropriate documentation of service to determine eligibility for this exemption.

5.3.2 Application for Renewal of Certification or Licensure

An applicant for renewal of a certification or license shall:

- A) Submit to the Department a completed application form provided by the Department, including the applicant's signature in a form and manner as determined by the Department;
- B) Submit to the Department with a completed application form all of the following:
 - 1) Evidence of compliance with criminal history record check requirements:
 - a) The applicant is not required to submit to a subsequent fingerprint-based criminal history record check if the applicant has lived in Colorado for more than three (3) years at the time of renewal application and the applicant has submitted to a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint-based national criminal history record check at the time of initial certification or licensure or at the time of a previous renewal of certification or licensure.
 - b) If the applicant has lived in Colorado for three (3) years or less at the time of renewal application and submitted to an FBI fingerprint-based criminal history record check at the time of initial certification or licensure or a previous renewal of certification or licensure, the applicant shall submit to another FBI fingerprint-based national criminal history record check from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
 - c) If, in accordance with Subparagraph b) above, an applicant has twice submitted to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check and the FBI or CBI has been unable to classify the fingerprints, then the Department may accept a CBI and/or FBI name-based criminal history report generated through the CBI.
 - d) If the results of the applicant's fingerprint-based national criminal history record check reveal a record of arrest without a disposition, the applicant must submit to a name-based criminal history record check as defined in Section 22-2-119.3(6)(d), C.R.S.
 - 2) Evidence of current and valid professional level Basic Cardiac Life Support (CPR) course completion from a national or local organization approved by the Department.

- 3) In addition to Paragraph 2) above, EMT-I and Paramedic applicants shall submit evidence of current and valid Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course completion from a national or local organization approved by the Department.
 - 4) In addition to Paragraphs 2) and 3) above, an applicant for P-CC shall submit evidence of current and valid Critical Care Paramedic or Flight Paramedic Certification issued by the BCCTPC.
 - 5) In addition to Paragraphs 2) and 3) above, applicants for P-CP shall submit evidence of current and valid Community Paramedic Certification issued by the IBSC.
 - 6) Evidence of lawful presence in the United States pursuant to Section 24-76.5-101, C.R.S.
- C) Complete one of the following:
- 1) Except for an EMT-I, current and valid NREMT certification at or above the EMS provider level being renewed. The Department will continue to accept education hours consistent with Section 5.3.3 for renewal of EMT-I providers in the State of Colorado notwithstanding the discontinuance of the EMT-I exam by the NREMT.
 - 2) Appropriate level refresher course as described in Section 5.3.3 conducted or approved through signature of a Department-recognized EMS education program representative and skill competency as attested to by signature of medical director or Department-recognized EMS education program representative.
 - 3) The minimum number of education hours as described in Section 5.3.3 completed or approved through signature of a Department-recognized EMS education program representative and skill competency as attested to by signature of medical director or Department-recognized EMS education program representative.

5.3.3 Education Requirements to Renew a Certificate or License Without the Use of a Current and Valid NREMT Certification

- A) For renewal of a certificate or license without the use of a current and valid NREMT certification, the following education is required:
- 1) Education required for the renewal of an EMT or AEMT certificate or license shall be no less than thirty-six (36) hours and shall be completed through one of the following:
 - a) A refresher course at the EMT or AEMT level conducted or approved by a Department-recognized EMS education program plus additional continuing education topics such that the total education hours is no less than thirty-six (36) hours; or

- b) Continuing education topics consisting of no less than thirty-six (36) hours of education that is conducted or approved through a Department-recognized EMS education program consisting of the following minimum content requirements on the EMT or AEMT level:
 - i) One (1) hour of preparatory content that may include scene safety, quality improvement, health and safety of EMS providers, or medical legal concepts.
 - ii) Two (2) hours of obstetric patient assessment and treatment.
 - iii) Two (2) hours of pediatric patient assessment and treatment.
 - iv) Six (6) hours of trauma patient assessment and treatment.
 - v) Five (5) hours of patient assessment.
 - vi) Three (3) hours of airway assessment and management.
 - vii) Six (6) hours of medical/behavioral emergency patient assessment and management.
 - viii) Eleven (11) hours of elective content that is relevant to the practice of emergency medicine.

- 2) Education required for the renewal of an EMT-I or Paramedic certificate or license shall be no less than fifty (50) hours and shall be completed through one of the following methods:
 - a) A refresher course at the EMT-I or Paramedic level conducted or approved by a Department-recognized EMS education program plus additional continuing education topics such that the total education hours is no less than fifty (50) hours.
 - b) Continuing education topics consisting of no less than fifty (50) hours of education that is conducted or approved through a Department-recognized EMS education program consisting of the following minimum content requirements at the EMT-I or Paramedic level:

No less than twenty-five (25) hours as described below:

- i) Eight (8) hours of airway, breathing, and cardiology assessment and treatment.
- ii) Four (4) hours of medical patient assessment and treatment.
- iii) Three (3) hours of trauma patient assessment and treatment.

- iv) Four (4) hours of obstetric patient assessment and treatment.
 - v) Four (4) hours of pediatric patient assessment and treatment.
 - vi) Two (2) hours of operational tasks and no less than twenty-five (25) hours of elective content that is relevant to the practice of emergency medicine.
- 3) Education cannot be used in lieu of a valid and current BCCTPC Critical Care or Flight Paramedic Certification to maintain the Critical Care endorsement.
 - 4) Education cannot be used in lieu of current and valid Community Paramedic certification issued by the IBSC.
- 5.3.4 In satisfaction of the requirements of Section 5.3.3 above, the Department may accept continuing medical education, training, or service completed by a member of the armed forces or reserves of the United States or the National Guard, military reserves or naval militia of any state, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence by the applicant for renewal of certification or licensure.
- A) Satisfactory evidence may include but is not limited to the content of the education, method of delivery, length of program, qualifications of the instructor and method(s) used to evaluate the education provided.

5.4 Licensure

- 5.4.1 On or after January 1, 2021, an individual applying for an initial license or an individual who currently holds a valid Colorado Emergency Medical Service provider certificate who wishes to convert the certificate to a license shall:
- A) Submit one transcript establishing that the applicant has:
 - 1) Completed a four-year bachelor's degree program from an accredited college or university in a field related to the health sciences; or
 - 2) Completed a four-year bachelor's degree program from an accredited college or university in an equivalent field as set forth in Section 5.4.2.
 - B) An applicant seeking initial licensure from the department as an EMS provider must also satisfy all requirements set forth in Section 5.2 of these rules.
 - C) An applicant seeking to convert certification to licensure, or who subsequently seeks renewal of licensure from the Department as an EMS provider, shall satisfy all requirements set forth in Section 5.3 of these rules.
- 5.4.2 A licensure applicant who seeks to establish that a four-year bachelor's degree program is in a field equivalent to the health sciences, as defined in Section 2.23, shall demonstrate the following:
- A) The successful completion of a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; and

- B) Successful completion of a minimum of forty (40) semester credit hours from one or more of the following content areas, as contained in a single transcript:
 - 1) Chemistry;
 - 2) Biology;
 - 3) Physics;
 - 4) Mathematics;
 - 5) Sociology;
 - 6) Psychology;
 - 7) Public health;
 - 8) Anthropology;
 - 9) Exercise science;
 - 10) Philosophy;
 - 11) Education;
 - 12) Emergency medical services;
 - 13) Fire science;
 - 14) Public safety;
 - 15) Business/finance; or
 - 16) Communications.

5.5 Provisional Certification or Licensure

5.5.1 General Requirements

- A) The Department may issue a provisional certification or license to an applicant whose fingerprint-based criminal history record check has not been received by the Department at the time of application for certification or licensure.
- B) To be eligible for a provisional certification or license, the applicant shall, at the time of application, have satisfied all requirements in these rules for initial or renewal certification or licensure.
- C) A provisional certification or license shall be valid for not more than ninety (90) days.
- D) The Department may impose disciplinary sanctions pursuant to these rules if the Department finds that a certificate or license holder who has received a provisional certification or license has violated any of the certification or license requirements or any of these rules.

- E) Once a provisional certification or license becomes invalid, an applicant may not practice or act as a certificate or license holder unless an initial or renewal certification or license has been issued by the Department to the applicant.

5.5.2 Application for Provisional Certification or Licensure

An applicant for a provisional certification or license shall:

- A) Submit to the Department a completed provisional certification or licensure application.
- B) Submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check as provided in Sections 5.2.2 and 5.3.2 of these rules. At the time of application, the applicant shall have already submitted the required materials to the CBI to initiate the fingerprint-based criminal history record check.
- C) Submit to the Department with a completed application form all of the following:
 - 1) A fee in the amount of \$23.00.
 - 2) A name-based criminal history record check.
 - a) If the applicant has lived in Colorado for more than three (3) years at the time of application, a name-based criminal history report conducted by the CBI, including any internet-based system on CBI's website, or other name-based report as determined by the Department.
 - b) If the applicant has lived in Colorado for three (3) years or less at the time of application, a name-based criminal history report for each state in which the applicant has lived for the past three (3) years, conducted by the respective states' bureaus of investigation or equivalent state-level law enforcement agency, or other name-based report as determined by the Department.
 - c) Any name-based criminal history report provided to the Department for purposes of this Paragraph c) shall have been obtained by the applicant not more than ninety (90) days prior to the Department's receipt of a completed application.

Section 6 – Emergency Medical Responder Registration

6.1 General Requirements

- 6.1.1 An EMR may register with the Department on a voluntary basis by meeting registration requirements included in this Section.
 - A) Registration is not required to perform as an EMR.
 - B) Registration provides recognition that an EMR has successfully completed the training from a recognized education program, passed the NREMT EMR examination, and undergone a fingerprint-based criminal history record check by the Department.

- 6.1.2 No person shall hold himself or herself out as a registered EMR unless that person has registered with the Department in accordance with this Section.
- 6.1.3 Registrations shall be effective for a period of three (3) years after the registration date. The registration date is the date the Department approves the application.
- 6.2 Initial Registration
 - 6.2.1 Applicants for initial registration shall be no less than sixteen (16) years of age at the time of application.
 - 6.2.2 Applicants for initial registration shall submit to the Department a completed application provided by the Department, including the applicant's signature in a form and manner as determined by the Department, which contains the following:
 - A) Evidence of compliance with criminal history record check requirements:
 - 1) If the applicant has lived in Colorado for more than three (3) years at the time of application, the applicant is required to submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check generated by the CBI.
 - 2) If the applicant has lived in Colorado for three (3) years or less at the time of application, the applicant shall submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check generated by the FBI and processed through the CBI.
 - 3) If, in accordance with Subparagraphs 1) or 2) above, an applicant has twice submitted to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check and the FBI or CBI has been unable to classify the fingerprints, then the Department may accept a CBI and/or FBI name-based criminal history report generated through the CBI.
 - 4) If the results of the applicant's fingerprint-based national criminal history record check reveal a record of arrest without a disposition, the applicant must submit to a name-based criminal history record check as defined in Section 22-2-119.3(6)(d), C.R.S.
 - B) Proof of adequate training and education with a current and valid certification from the NREMT at the EMR level.
 - C) Evidence of current and valid professional level basic CPR course completion from a national or local organization approved by the Department.
 - D) Evidence of lawful presence in the United States pursuant to Section 24-76.5-101, C.R.S.
- 6.3 Renewal of Registration
 - 6.3.1 General Requirements
 - A) Upon the expiration of an EMR registration, the registration is no longer valid and the individual shall not hold him or herself out as a registered EMR.
 - B) Persons who have permitted their registration to expire:

- 1) May renew their registration by complying with the provisions of Section 6.3 of these rules (renewal of registration) for a period not to exceed six (6) months from the expiration date; or
 - 2) Must, if the registration has expired for a period of greater than six (6) months from the expiration date, comply with the provisions of Section 6.2 of these rules (Initial Registration).
- C) All registrations renewed by the Department shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of registration.
- D) Registration date is the date of renewal application approval by the Department, except, for applicants successfully completing the renewal of registration requirements during the last six (6) months prior to their registration expiration date, the registration date shall be the expiration date of the current valid registration being renewed.
- E) If a registered EMR has made timely and sufficient application for registration renewal and the Department fails to take action on the application prior to the registration's expiration date, the existing registration shall not expire until the Department acts upon the application. The Department, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether the application was timely and sufficient.

6.3.2 Application for Renewal of Registration

An Applicant For Registration Renewal Shall:

- A) Submit to the Department a completed application form provided by the Department, including the applicant's signature in a form and manner as determined by the Department;
- B) Submit to the Department with a completed application form all of the following:
 - 1) Evidence of compliance with criminal history record check requirements:
 - a) The applicant is not required to submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check if the applicant has lived in Colorado for more than three (3) years at the time of application and the applicant has submitted to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check through the CBI for a previous Colorado EMR registration application.
 - b) If the applicant has lived in Colorado for more than three (3) years at the time of application and has not submitted to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check as described in Subparagraph a) above, the applicant shall submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check generated by the CBI.
 - c) If the applicant has lived in Colorado for three (3) years or less at the time of application, the applicant shall submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check generated by the FBI through the CBI.

- d) If, in accordance with Subparagraphs b) or c) above, an applicant has twice submitted to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check and the FBI or CBI has been unable to classify the fingerprints, then the Department may accept a CBI and/or FBI name-based criminal history report generated through the CBI.
 - e) If the results of the applicant's fingerprint-based national criminal history record check reveal a record of arrest without a disposition, the applicant must submit to a name-based criminal history record check as defined in Section 22-2-119.3(6)(d), C.R.S.
- 2) Evidence of current and valid professional level basic CPR course completion from a national or local organization approved by the Department.
 - 3) Evidence of lawful presence in the United States pursuant to Section 24-76.5-101, C.R.S.
- C) Complete one of the following training requirements:
- 1) Current and valid NREMT certification at the EMR level.
 - 2) Appropriate level refresher course as described in Section 6.3.3 conducted or approved through signature of a Department-recognized EMR education program representative and skill competency as attested to by signature of medical director or Department-recognized EMR education program representative.
 - 3) The minimum number of education hours as described in Section 6.3.3 completed or approved through signature of a Department-recognized EMR education program representative and skill competency as attested to by signature of medical director or Department-recognized EMR education program representative.

6.3.3 Education Requirement to Renew a Registration without the Use of a Current and Valid NREMT Certification

- A) For renewal of a registration without the use of a current and valid NREMT EMR certification, the following education is required:
- 1) Education required for the renewal of an EMR registration shall be no less than twelve (12) hours and shall be completed through one of the following:
 - a) A refresher course at the EMR level conducted or approved by a Department-recognized EMR education program plus additional continuing education topics such that the total education hours is no less than twelve (12) hours.
 - b) Continuing education topics consisting of no less than twelve (12) hours of education that is conducted or approved through a Department-recognized EMR education program consisting of the following minimum content requirements:

- i) One (1) hour of preparatory content that may include scene safety, quality improvement, health and safety of EMRs, or medical legal concepts
- ii) Two (2) hours of airway assessment and management
- iii) Two (2) hours of patient assessment
- iv) Three (3) hours of circulation topics
- v) Three (3) hours of illness and injury topics
- vi) One (1) hour of childbirth and pediatric topics

6.4 Provisional Registration

6.4.1 General Requirements

- A) The Department may issue a provisional registration to an applicant whose fingerprint-based criminal history record check has not been received by the Department at the time of application for registration.
- B) To be eligible for a provisional registration, the applicant shall, at the time of application, have satisfied all requirements in these rules for initial or renewal registration.
- C) A provisional registration shall be valid for not more than ninety (90) days.
- D) The Department may impose disciplinary sanctions pursuant to these rules if the Department finds that an EMR who has received a provisional registration has violated any requirements for registration or any of these rules.
- E) Once a provisional registration becomes invalid, an applicant may not hold him or herself out as a registered EMR unless an initial or renewal registration has been issued by the Department to the applicant.

6.4.2 Application for Provisional Registration

An applicant for a provisional registration shall:

- A) Submit to the Department a completed provisional registration application.
- B) Submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check as provided in Sections 6.2.2 and 6.3.2 of these rules. At the time of application, the applicant shall have already submitted the required materials to the CBI to initiate the fingerprint-based criminal history record check.
- C) Submit to the Department with a completed application form, a fee in the amount of \$23.00 and either:
 - 1) A name-based criminal history report conducted by the CBI, including a criminal history report from an internet-based system on CBI's website, or other name-based report as determined by the Department if the applicant has lived in Colorado for more than three (3) years at the time of application; or

- 2) A name-based criminal history report for each state in which the applicant has lived for the past three (3) years, conducted by the respective states' bureaus of investigation or equivalent state-level law enforcement agency, or other name-based report as determined by the Department if the applicant has lived in Colorado for three (3) years or less at the time of application.
- D) Ensure the name-based criminal history report provided to the Department shall have been obtained by the applicant not more than ninety (90) days prior to the Department's receipt of a completed application.

Section 7 – Disciplinary Sanctions and Appeal Procedures for EMS Provider Certification, EMS Provider Licensure, or EMR Registration

- 7.1 For good cause, the Department may deny, revoke, suspend, limit, modify, or refuse to renew an EMS provider certificate or license or EMR registration, may impose probation on an EMS provider certificate holder, licensee, or registration holder, or may issue a letter of admonition in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24-4-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S.
- 7.2 Good cause for disciplinary sanctions listed above shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 7.2.1 Failing to meet the requirements of these rules pertaining to issuance and renewal of certification, licensure, or registration.
 - 7.2.2 Engaging in fraud, misrepresentation, or deception when applying for or securing certification, licensure, or registration.
 - 7.2.3 Aiding and abetting in the procurement of certification, licensure, or registration for any person not eligible for certification, licensure, or registration.
 - 7.2.4 Utilizing NREMT certification that has been illegally obtained, suspended or revoked, to obtain a state certification, licensure, or registration.
 - 7.2.5 Unlawfully using, possessing, dispensing, administering, or distributing controlled substances.
 - 7.2.6 Driving an emergency vehicle in a reckless manner, or while under the influence of alcohol or other performance altering substances.
 - 7.2.7 Responding to or providing patient care while under the influence of alcohol or other performance altering substances.
 - 7.2.8 Demonstrating a pattern of alcohol or other substance abuse.
 - 7.2.9 Materially altering any Department certificate, license, or registration, or using and/or possessing any such altered certificate, license, or registration.
 - 7.2.10 Having any certificate, license, or registration related to patient care suspended or revoked in Colorado or in another state or country.
 - 7.2.11 Unlawfully discriminating in the provision of services.
 - 7.2.12 Representing qualifications at any level other than the person's current EMS provider certification or licensure level.

- 7.2.13 Representing oneself to others as a certificate or license holder or providing medical care without possessing a current and valid certificate or license issued by the Department.
- 7.2.14 Representing oneself to others as a registered EMR without being currently registered with the Department.
- 7.2.15 Failing to follow accepted standards of care in the management of a patient, or in response to a medical emergency.
- 7.2.16 Failing to administer medications or treatment in a responsible manner in accordance with the medical director's orders or protocols.
- 7.2.17 Failing to maintain confidentiality of patient information.
- 7.2.18 Failing to provide the Department with the current place of residence or failing to promptly notify the Department of a change in current place of residence or change of name.
- 7.2.19 Engaging in a pattern of behavior that demonstrates routine response to medical emergencies without being under the policies and procedures of a designated emergency medical response agency and/or providing patient care without medical direction when required.
- 7.2.20 Performing medical acts not authorized by the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight and in the absence of other lawful authorization to perform such medical acts.
- 7.2.21 Performing medical acts requiring an EMS provider certification or license while holding only a valid EMR registration.
- 7.2.22 Failing to provide care or discontinuing care when a duty to provide care has been established.
- 7.2.23 Appropriating or possessing without authorization medications, supplies, equipment, or personal items of a patient or employer.
- 7.2.24 Falsifying entries or failing to make essential entries in a patient care report, EMS or EMR education document, or medical record.
- 7.2.25 Falsifying or failing to comply with any collection or reporting required by the state.
- 7.2.26 Failing to comply with the terms of any agreement or stipulation regarding certification, licensure, or registration entered into with the Department.
- 7.2.27 Violating any state or federal statute or regulation, the violation of which would jeopardize the health or safety of a patient or the public.
- 7.2.28 Engaging in unprofessional conduct at the scene of an emergency that hinders, delays, eliminates, or deters the provision of medical care to the patient or endangers the safety of the public.
- 7.2.29 Failure by a certificate or license holder or registered EMR to report to the Department any violation by another certificate or license holder or registered EMR of the good cause provisions of this Section when the certificate or license holder knows or reasonably believes a violation has occurred.

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- 7.2.30 Committing or permitting, aiding or abetting the commission of an unlawful act that substantially relates to performance of a certificate or license holder or registered EMR's duties and responsibilities as determined by the Department.
 - 7.2.31 Committing patient abuse including the willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment, with resulting physical harm, pain, or mental anguish, or patient neglect, including the failure to provide goods and services necessary to attain and maintain physical and mental well-being.
 - 7.2.32 With respect to EMS certificate holders and licensees, failing to attend or complete a peer health assistance program as provided in Section 25-3.5-208(9), C.R.S.
 - 7.2.33 Holding oneself out as a certificate holder or licensee after certification or licensure has expired, except as provided in Section 5.3.1.A, including offering or performing, whether or not for compensation, either any services included in these rules or any authorized acts permitted by the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight.
- 7.3 Good cause for disciplinary sanctions also includes conviction of, or a plea of guilty, or of no contest, to a felony or misdemeanor that relates to the duties and responsibilities of a certificate, license or registration holder, including patient care and public safety. For purposes of this Paragraph, "conviction" includes the imposition of a deferred sentence.
- 7.3.1 The following crimes set forth in the Colorado Criminal Code (Title 18, C.R.S.) are considered to relate to the duties and responsibilities of a certificate or license holder:
 - A) Offenses under Article 3 - offenses against a person.
 - B) Offenses under Article 4 - offenses against property.
 - C) Offenses under Article 5 - offenses involving fraud.
 - D) Offenses under Article 6 - offenses involving the family relations.
 - E) Offenses under Article 6.5 - wrongs to at-risk adults.
 - F) Offenses under Article 7 - offenses related to morals.
 - G) Offenses under Article 8 - offenses - governmental operations.
 - H) Offenses under Article 9 - offenses against public peace, order and decency.
 - I) Offenses under Article 17 - Colorado Organized Crime Control Act.
 - J) Offenses under Article 18 - Uniform Controlled Substances Act of 2013.
 - 7.3.2 The offenses listed above are not exclusive. The Department may consider other pleas or criminal convictions, including those from other state, federal, foreign or military jurisdictions.
 - 7.3.3 In determining whether to impose disciplinary sanctions based on a plea or on a felony or misdemeanor conviction, the Department may consider, but is not limited to, the following information:
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- A) The nature and seriousness of the crime including but not limited to whether the crime involved violence to or abuse of another person and whether the crime involved a minor or a person of diminished capacity;
- B) The relationship of the crime to the purposes of requiring a certificate, license, or registration;
- C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity or fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of a certified or licensed EMS provider or registered EMR; and
- D) The time frame in which the crime was committed.

7.4 Appeals

- 7.4.1 If the Department denies certification, licensure, or registration, the Department shall provide the applicant with notice of the grounds for denial and shall inform the applicant of the applicant's right to request a hearing.
 - A) A request for a hearing shall be submitted to the Department in writing within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the notice.
 - B) If a request for a hearing is made, the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24-4-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S.
 - C) If the applicant does not request a hearing in writing within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the notice, the applicant is deemed to have waived the opportunity for a hearing.
- 7.4.2 If the Department proposes disciplinary sanctions as provided in this Section, the Department shall notify the certificate, license, or registration holder by first class mail to the last address furnished to the Department by the certificate, license, or registration holder. The notice shall state the alleged facts and/or conduct warranting the proposed action and state that the certificate, license, or registration holder may request a hearing.
 - A) The certificate, license, or registration holder shall file a written answer within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of mailing of the notice.
 - B) A request for a hearing shall be submitted to the Department in writing within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of mailing of the notice.
 - C) If a request for a hearing is made, the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24-4-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S.
 - D) If the certificate, license, or registration holder does not request a hearing in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of mailing of the notice, the certificate, license, or registration holder is deemed to have waived the opportunity for a hearing.

- 7.4.3 If the Department summarily suspends a certificate, license, or registration, the Department shall provide the certificate, license, or registration holder notice of such in writing, which shall be sent by first class mail to the last address furnished to the Department by the certificate, license, or registration holder. The notice shall state that the certificate, license, or registration holder is entitled to a prompt hearing on the matter. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24-4-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S.
- 7.4.4 If the Department summarily suspends the certification or license of any EMS provider pursuant to Section 25-3.5-208(9), C.R.S., and Section 7.2.32 of these rules, the EMS provider may submit a written request to the Department for a formal hearing. The written request must be submitted within two (2) days after receiving notice of the suspension. The certificate or license holder shall have the burden of proving that the certificate or license holder's certification or licensure should not be suspended. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Section 24-4-105, C.R.S.

Section 8 – Incorporation by Reference

- 8.1 These rules incorporate by reference:
- 8.1.1 The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in the Emergency Medical Services Professions as revised in 2015; and
- 8.1.2 United States Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center For Education Statistics, Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP-2020).
- 8.2 Such incorporation does not include later amendments to or editions of the referenced material. The Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division of the Department maintains copies of the incorporated material for public inspection during regular business hours, and shall provide certified copies of any non-copyrighted material to the public at cost upon request. Information regarding how the incorporated material may be obtained or examined is available from the Division by contacting:
- EMTS Branch Chief
Health Facilities and EMS Division
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246-1530
- 8.3 The incorporated material may be obtained at no cost from the websites of:
- 8.3.1 The Committee on Accreditation of Education Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions at <https://coaemsp.org/caahep-standards-and-guidelines#1>; and
- 8.3.2 United States Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP-2020) at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/cipdetail.aspx?y=55&cipid=88742>