

Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board

EMALB 2016-05 First Responder (EMA FR) Initial, Renewal and Reinstatement Licensing Requirements Responsible Branch: Emergency Medical Assistants (EMA) Licensing Branch Contact: firstres@gov.bc.ca	Reference Information (Manual, page number, chapter): N/A
	Replaces former policy: N/A
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1. Policy Rationale & Purpose:

An EMA First Responder (EMA FR) licence is valid for 3 years and the EMA FR is required to complete the exams approved by the board every three years in order to renew their licence. This policy clarifies the initial/renewal exam and licensing requirements for EMA FRs.

Historically, EMA FRs were required to complete a greater number of exams than those applying for licensure at higher levels. By this policy, the EMA FR initial licence exam/licensing requirements have been modelled to be equivalent to the requirements for the higher licence levels and the EMA FR licence renewal exam/licensing requirements have been modelled to be equivalent to the continuing competence exam requirements for higher licence levels.

The EMA FR reinstatement process has been modelled to be equivalent to the EMA FR initial or renewal requirements, depending on how long the EMA FR licence has been expired.

The [National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedics \(NOCPs\)](#) contains a set of four integrated competency profiles that define the competencies of paramedic and emergency medical responders within Canada. While EMA FRs are not specifically listed within the NOCPs, the relationship can be drawn from the current legislation, regulation and policies to link EMA FR services and endorsements to the NOCPs.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all applicants seeking an initial EMA FR licence, all existing licensed EMA FRs seeking licence renewal and all former EMA FRs seeking to have their licence reinstated.

3. Policy Statement:

Written Examination

The written examination will assess a candidate's knowledge, abilities, skills attitudes and judgements specific to the National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedics (NOCPs) that guide EMA practice in Canada. The allocation of examination questions by topic area (the exam "blueprint" are defined in Table 1 (Initial) and Table 2 (Renewal) below.

Table 1 (Initial)

EMA FR Initial Licensing Written Exam Blueprint		
Topic Area	# of Questions	% of Exam
NOCP 1 – Professional Responsibilities	25 questions	31%
NOCP 2 – Communication	6 questions	8%
NOCP 3 – Health and Safety	6 questions	8%
NOCP 4 – Assessment and Diagnostics	17 question	21%
NOCP 5 - Therapeutics	15 question	19%
NOCP 6 - Integration	11 questions	14%
Total	80 questions	100%

Table 2 (Renewal)

EMA FR Licence Renewal Written Exam Blueprint		
Topic Area	# of Questions	% of Exam
NOCP 1 – Professional Responsibilities	25 questions	25%
NOCP 2 – Communication	6 questions	6%
NOCP 3 – Health and Safety	6 questions	6%
NOCP 4 – Assessment and Diagnostics	25 question	25%
NOCP 5 - Therapeutics	20 question	20%
NOCP 6 - Integration	18 questions	18%
Total	100 questions	100%

Practical Examination

EMA licensing practical examinations assess candidates' proficiency for a category of licence, that is, candidates must demonstrate that they possess sufficient skills, knowledge and judgement to enter practice safely in the licence category they apply for using the guidelines developed to guide paramedic practice in BC. EMA Licensing practical examinations are based on the Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation [Schedule 1](#) and [Schedule 2](#) and follow the [BCAS Treatment Guidelines](#) that define EMA practice in BC.

In instances where BCAS treatment guidelines are silent on specific criteria required for licensing examinations, the EMA Licensing Branch will work with BCEHS and branch representatives to develop an EMA Licensing Board approved policy. Board approved policy

to address specific gaps in examination criteria will be posted to the EMA Licensing Branch website.

Candidates are required to successfully complete two practical scenarios, which consist of one medical and one trauma call. All candidates have three attempts to successfully pass the practical examination.

When a candidate is unsuccessful in a practical scenario, **only one** remedial exam will be assigned as follows:

When a candidate fails...	The candidate is assigned...
1. a practical medical scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ another medical scenario if the candidate fails a critical component of the scenario (note: the scenario will not be of the same nature as the previous exam) <li style="text-align: center;">or ➤ a skill test if the candidate only fails to demonstrate competency in a skill (note: the remedial skill test will address only the skill competency that was not demonstrated in the previous exam)
2. a practical trauma scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ another trauma scenario if the candidate fails a critical component of the scenario (note: the scenario will not be of the same nature as the previous exam) <li style="text-align: center;">or ➤ a skill test if the candidate only fails to demonstrate competency in a skill (note: the remedial skill test will address only the skill competency that was not demonstrated in the previous exam)
3. a skill test	➤ another skill test of the same nature

EMA FR Initial Licensing

In order to become eligible for an initial EMA FR licence, a candidate is required to:

1. Successfully complete an EMALB recognized EMA FR program.
2. Successfully complete the EMA Licensing Board exams, consisting of 2 practical scenarios and a written exam. A candidate has 3 attempts at both the practical and written exam, if he/she is unsuccessful after the third attempt, the candidate must retake the EMA FR program in order to be eligible for the exam and licensure processes.
3. Complete and submit an application for licence form.

EMA FR Licence Renewal

1. Successfully complete an EMA Licensing Board written exam. A licensee has 3 attempts at the written exam, if he/she is unsuccessful after the third attempt,

the candidate must complete the EMA FR initial licensing process in order to qualify for licence renewal.

2. Complete and submit an application for licence form

EMA FR Licence Reinstatement

Expired up to one year

If an EMA FRs licence has been expired up to and including one year, in order to have his/her licence reinstated, the EMA FR Licence Renewal requirements must be completed.

Expired Greater than one year

If an EMA FRs licence has been expired for greater than one year, in order to have his/her licence reinstated, the EMA FR Initial Licensing requirements must be completed.

4. Legal Authority:

[Emergency Health Service Act Section 6\(5\)\(a\)](#)

[Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation Section 2\(ii\)](#)

[Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation Section 9.1](#)

[Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation Section 9.2\(b\)](#)

5. Key Stakeholders:

- Potential and current EMA FR licence holders.
- Fire departments
- Training providers with recognized EMA FR programs
- Third party sub-contractors providing recognized programs
- EMA FR instructors and evaluators

Reviewed by the EMA Licensing Board on: December 17, 2015

Approved: Richard Simpson



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