Manual Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures		Policy Number 133 Page 1 of 3
Subject	Paramedic Accreditation	
References	California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9 Division 2.5 of the California Health and Safety Code	Effective 04/15/86

I. POLICY

A Paramedic currently licensed in California may be accredited to practice as a Paramedic in Fresno, Kings, Madera, or Tulare County upon successfully completing the accreditation process.

II. PROCEDURE

A. In order to be eligible for accreditation, an individual shall:

1. Possess a valid California State Paramedic licensure card which is current. The individual shall present a copy of the licensure card upon application to the Central California EMS Agency.

2. Apply to the Central California EMS Agency for accreditation.

3. Complete a statement that the individual is not precluded from accreditation to practice as a Paramedic for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.

4. Pay the established non-refundable fee.

5. Demonstrate proof of present employment or a written commitment for employment by a Fresno, Kings, Madera, or Tulare County designated ALS provider agency.

6. Successfully complete an orientation of the Fresno/Kings/Madera/Tulare EMS system as prescribed by the Central California EMS Agency. The orientation shall not exceed eight (8) classroom hours. Sections of the orientation session may be waived for current or past Fresno, Kings, Madera, or Tulare County accredited paramedics.

7. Successfully complete written and/or skills testing on local policies and treatment protocols provided in the orientation. This test will also review optional scope of practice procedures. This requirement may be waived for those skills where the individual can document prior training and testing.

8. Successfully complete a supervised pre-accreditation field evaluation to consist of a minimum of five (5) satisfactory ALS responses and no more than ten (10) ALS responses. This field evaluation must be continuously supervised by an EMS Training Officer approved by the Central California EMS Agency. The field evaluation may be conducted during the last week of the

30-day interim period. An ALS response includes a patient contact involving the use of one or more ALS skills excluding cardiac monitoring, basic CPR, and finger stick for blood glucose testing. Additional education or evaluation may be prescribed by the EMS Agency in the event of an unsatisfactory evaluation.

B. Upon completion of sections II-A-1 through II-A-5 of this policy, the individual shall be authorized to function as an Paramedic at the basic scope of practice (as defined in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations) while working with a partner who is fully accredited as an Paramedic in Fresno, Kings, Madera, or Tulare County for one (1) year. This "interim" accreditation shall be maintained for a minimum of 30 days and 20 patient contacts, and until the individual has successfully completed a local orientation session (Section II-A-6), any required training and testing in skills within the basic scope of practice (Section II-A-7), and the pre-accreditation field evaluation (Section II-D). The "Interim" accreditation will be granted for a 60-day period.

C. The individual may begin to work at the complete local scope of practice without a paramedic partner upon written notification from Central California EMS Agency of successful completion of the accreditation process.

D. The EMS Agency shall notify individuals applying for accreditation of the decision to accredit within thirty (30) days of application.

If an individual fails to satisfactorily complete all requirements for accreditation outlined in this policy within 30 days, the Central California EMS Agency will notify the individual and their provider agency of a denial of accreditation. The EMS Agency may grant the individual an additional 30 days to complete the accreditation process (total of 90 days).

If an individual fails to satisfactorily complete all requirements for accreditation outlined in this policy within 90 days (the initial 60 plus a 30-day extension), Central California EMS Agency will notify the individual, their provider agency, and the State EMS Authority of a denial of accreditation. Extensions of the accreditation process will be based upon the following:

1. For situations where the individual has not performed satisfactorily during the pre-accreditation field evaluation:

   a. If the individual's performance does not meet the standards for Paramedic licensure, the Central California EMS Agency will initiate a formal investigation and initiate the certification review process (Policy #704).

   b. If the individual's performance does not meet the standards for accreditation, the Central California EMS Agency will establish specific objectives for the individuals and extend the accreditation period for an additional 30 days (total of 90 days) and repeat the field evaluations.

      If the individual's performance remains unsatisfactory after 90 days (the initial 60 plus 30 days extension), the Central California EMS Agency will notify the individual, their provider agency, and the EMS Authority that their accreditation has been denied. If the individual desires to reattempt the accreditation process, the individual will be required to complete the entire accreditation process.

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2. For situations where the individual fails required written and/or skills testing (Sections II-A) through II-B-2 of this policy) and a single retest, the individual will be assigned a special project on the topics which resulted in failure. The accreditation period will be extended for 30 days (the initial 60 plus 30 days extension) to allow completion of the special educational project and retesting.

   Failure to satisfactorily complete the special project or retesting will result in the individual being denied accreditation.

3. Failure to attend the orientation session, initiate testing, or attempt evaluations within 60 days of initiate application will result in termination of interim status until an orientation session is attended, testing process is initiated, or evaluations are completed.

E. Failure to meet on-going accreditation requirements, except as outlined in Policy #134 will result in discontinuation of local accreditation to practice.

F. Paramedics, who have been previously accredited in Fresno, Kings, Madera, or Tulare Counties, may have previously completed portions of the accreditation process waived.

G. Paramedics who are currently accredited in Fresno, King, Madera, or Tulare Counties, and apply for accreditation for another county in this region, will be issued accreditation once an application and proof of employment with an ALS Provider in that county is submitted to the EMS Agency. No additional testing, interim certification field evaluations, or fee will be required prior to accreditation.

H. Requests for exception to policy will be made in writing to the Central California EMS Agency.

I. The EMS Agency shall issue a wallet-sized certificate to eligible individuals. The certificate shall contain the following:

1. The name of the individual certified;

2. The date the certificate was issued;

3. The date of expiration;

4. The name and location of the Central California EMS Agency;

5. The name and signature of the EMS Medical Director or facsimile of same;

6. A statement that the individual named on the card has fulfilled the requirements for certification as a Paramedic in the State of California.