

The United States EMS Compact

Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice

About

The Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (“REPLICA”), also known as the **EMS Compact**, has been adopted into law by 26 participating states. The EMS Compact standardizes the licensure requirements for EMS personnel, reduces barriers and expands EMS clinician mobility across state jurisdictions, and enhances public protection.

History

Over a decade ago, the need for standardization and to address the challenge of EMS personnel operating across state lines led the Department of Homeland Security and the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) to collaborate on a solution. The REPLICA model legislation was introduced in 2014, with two states enacting it by 2015. By 2017, ten states had enacted the Compact, meeting the activation threshold. Activated on March 15, 2020, the Compact has since been instrumental in expanding EMS clinician mobility and access to Emergency Medical Services. Since its activation, EMS personnel with the Privilege to Practice have supplemented critical staffing in rural areas, addressed urgent staffing needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, and aided the rapid mobilization of EMS teams for wildland fire incidents. The Compact simplifies the movement of qualified EMS professionals, strengthens the authority of State EMS Offices, and underscores the essential contributions of local EMS agencies.

Key Features

- **Enhanced State Cooperation:** The EMS Compact promotes interstate cooperation with unified legislation, allowing qualified EMS personnel to operate in multiple states with minimal bureaucracy.
- **Privilege to Practice:** Through the EMS Compact, over 400,000 EMS personnel immediately have a Privilege to Practice valid in 26 participating states. This privilege is extended to eligible EMS clinicians at no cost.
- **Governance:** Overseen by the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, a governmental body instituted by state law, the EMS Compact emphasizes transparency, stakeholder engagement, effective coordination, and consistent implementation across participating states.
- **National EMS Coordinated Database:** Serving as the primary source database, the National EMS Coordinated Database eliminates duplicate licensing data, providing an authoritative list of licensed EMS clinicians nationwide.

EMS Compact Facts

The 26 participating states have legislatively unified:

- EMS personnel licensure standards
- Background checks
- Public protection and investigation standards

Over 400,000 EMS personnel have access to a Privilege to Practice valid in 26 participating states, provided at **no cost** to all eligible EMS clinicians.

The EMS Compact is governed by the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, a governmental body formed by state law. The National EMS Coordinated Database is the only primary source database that has de-duplicated licensed EMS clinicians in the United States.

State EMS Offices gain legislative authority to regulate all EMS clinicians working in their jurisdiction. The Privilege to Practice is only extended to individual EMS clinicians who:

- Have an unrestricted EMS license issued by a participating state
- Are properly affiliated with an EMS agency
- Have a physician medical director

- Operate in accordance with the EMS Compact regulations

Participating State Requirements

- Use the National Registry (NREMT) examination for all new EMT and Paramedic licenses issued by the State EMS Office.
- Require an FBI background check for initial licensure.
- Notify the Commission of adverse action (license discipline).

EMS Clinician Discipline

- All discipline cases are reported to the National EMS Coordinated Database within two business days of being imposed.
- State discipline cases are also reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

Other State Laws and Rules

- EMS clinicians must know and abide by all applicable statutes, rules, and regulations for the jurisdiction(s) in which they are operating, many of which may alter the clinician's scope of practice.

EMS ID Number

- EMS ID numbers are issued for all EMS clinicians in the United States at no charge.
- Use the EMS ID number to view and validate a Privilege to Practice at www.EMSCompact.gov

The Seven Legislative Declarations of the EMS Compact

The legislative purpose of the EMS Compact is to enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of emergency medical services personnel across state lines. The purposes of the EMS Compact, as defined in legislation, include:

1. Increase public access to EMS personnel.
2. Enhance the state's ability to protect the public's health and safety, especially patient safety.
3. Encourage the cooperation of participating states in the areas of EMS personnel licensure and regulation.
4. Support licensing of military members who are separating from an active-duty tour, and their spouses.
5. Facilitate the exchange of information between participating states regarding EMS personnel licensure, adverse action, and significant investigatory information.
6. Promote compliance with the laws governing EMS personnel practice in each participating state.
7. Invest all participating states with the authority to hold EMS personnel accountable through the mutual recognition of participating-state licenses.

Privilege to Practice (PTP) Requirements

- Have a current unrestricted license as an EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic (or a state-recognized and licensed level with a scope of practice and authority between EMT and Paramedic) issued by a participating state.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Practice under the supervision of a physician (MD/DO) medical director.
- Be affiliated with an EMS agency authorized in the remote state.
- No time limitations are imposed on the Privilege to Practice under the Compact legislation.
- If an EMS clinician meets the criteria for the Privilege to Practice, the Compact requires a participating state to recognize the privilege for qualified purposes.

Scope of Practice

- The scope of practice of an EMS clinician operating under the Privilege to Practice defaults to the clinician's Home State.
- Remote states may modify a clinician's scope of practice under a Compact Privilege to Practice.

EMS Agency / Employer

- EMS agencies must comply with all rules and regulations established by the jurisdiction where they are operating.
- The EMS Compact applies to EMS personnel but does not apply to EMS agencies or employers.

www.EMSCompact.gov