

Title: Council policy - Recognition of professional qualifications outside the State POL002 V-4		Page: 1 of 4
Owner: PD	Approved by: Council	Approval Date: 31.01.2013

PURPOSE

The purpose of the document is to set out the manner in which the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (“the Council”) complies with its statutory duty to consider applications for the assessment and recognition of professional qualifications obtained outside Ireland. It is the policy of the Council in providing a quality service, to ensure that all such applications are managed effectively and equitably.

SCOPE

This policy applies to applicants who have obtained a professional pre-hospital emergency care qualification outside of Ireland and wish to have those qualifications assessed and recognised in order to obtain a National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology (NQEMT), the academic award required to register in Ireland. A pre-hospital emergency care practitioner is a person registered in the emergency medical technician, paramedic or advanced paramedic division of the Register maintained by the Council.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Extract from the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council’s Establishment Order SI No 109 of 2000, 575 of 2004 and S.I. No. 166 of 2008:
 “The functions of the Council shall be to:
 (d) upon request, assess the equivalence of professional qualifications in pre-hospital emergency care obtained from institutions other than recognised institutions, both within and outside the State, and award the N.Q.E.M.T. as appropriate at the level of competence determined by the Council. In this regard, the Council shall comply with its obligations as competent authority for emergency medical technicians, paramedics and advanced paramedics under the general system of recognition of professional qualifications provided in Part 2 of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 139 of 2008)”.
2. The title of EMT and Paramedic are known to have significantly different meanings internationally in terms of scope of practice and level of professional competence. For that reason, irrespective of the title used in the country where the applicant qualified, the Council will examine every application individually and compare it to the most appropriate equivalent Irish standard. Every application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
3. Applicants are required to complete an Application Form available from the website www.phecc.ie.

ASSESSMENT OF AN APPLICATION

4. Applications pursuant to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive

The Council will assess those applications which are entitled to be considered under the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC) and recognise the equivalence of professional qualifications in pre-hospital emergency care obtained by such applicants in the European Economic Area (EEA)¹, plus Switzerland, but not in the State, in accordance with the principles set out in the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC). These applications will be known as mutual recognition applications.

5. International Applications - Applications other than pursuant to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive

The Council will assess all other applications and recognise the equivalence of professional qualifications in pre-hospital emergency care obtained outside the State by taking into consideration all the diplomas/certificates, evidence of formal qualifications and relevant experience of the applicant. The Council will take into consideration all the diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications of the person concerned and his/her relevant experience, by comparing the specialised knowledge and abilities certified by those diplomas and that experience with the knowledge and qualifications required by the national rules. Such applications will be known as international applications.

6. When the application documents are received, they will be assessed by members of the qualification assessors panel (QAP). The QAP will make a recommendation for every applicant.

The QAP will assess and compare the applicant's professional qualification, education and training with corresponding education and training in Ireland.

7. During assessment, the applicant's knowledge, skills and competencies gained in the course of their professional experience and through lifelong learning made evident in their application will be considered by the QAP.

8. The Director will consider the recommendation of the QAP and will then decide whether to approve the application. The Council will note the decision of the Director.

¹ The countries of the EEA are as follows: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

APPLICATION OUTCOME

9. The decision is based on the individual merits of the application and one of the following will be decided:
- a) Applications pursuant to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive:
 - i) **Application successful.** The application meets the requirements for award of the National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology (NQEMT), at EMT, Paramedic or Advanced Paramedic level.
 - ii) **Application unsuccessful and compensation measure required.** If the application does not meet in full the requirements for award of the NQEMT, the QAP will identify the manner in which the applicant failed to meet the requirements for the award of the NQEMT. Mutual recognition applicants may choose between a period of adaptation or an aptitude test in order to address the deficit identified by the QAP.
 - b) International applications, not pursuant to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive
 - i) **Application successful.** The application meets the requirements for award of the National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology (NQEMT), at EMT, Paramedic or Advanced Paramedic level.
 - ii) **Application unsuccessful.** If the application does not meet in full the requirements for award of the NQEMT, the Director will identify the manner in which the applicant failed to meet the requirements for the award of the NQEMT. The Director may at his/her absolute discretion identify the additional steps the applicant needs to undertake before resubmitting an application.

APPLICATION OUTCOME - SUCCESSFUL

10. If the application is successful or the required compensation mechanism is successfully completed, the Council/Director will award a National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology (NQEMT) at the appropriate practitioner level. The three levels of the NQEMT are:
- NQEMT- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
 - NQEMT- Paramedic
 - NQEMT- Advanced Paramedic
11. Once in receipt of the NQEMT award, the applicant will be eligible to apply for registration at the appropriate division of the Council's Register.

APPLICATION OUTCOME - UNSUCCESSFUL

12. All unsuccessful applicants whether pursuant to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive or not have the right to appeal. Such appeals shall be brought within 28 days of the date upon which the decision concerned is communicated to the applicant. Council policy and procedures for appeals apply.
13. Applicants pursuant to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive have a further right of appeal to the High Court within 42 days from the date upon which the decision is communicated to the applicant concerned pursuant to S.I. 139 of 2008.

Version History

Version	Approval Date	Details
1	November 2004	New policy
2	December 2007	Policy amended
3	December 2010	Policy amended
4	January 2013	Policy amended following legal advices.