NIMS *Guide*

NATIONAL CREDENTIALING DEFINITION AND CRITERIA

This NIMS *Guide* expands upon DHS-FEMA NIMS #501, Chapter 4, Resource Management – dated March 24, 2006.

Purpose of the Guide and Overview:

The purpose of this NIMS *Guide* is to establish a standard definition and criteria for credentialing requirements as they relate to personnel ordered as single resources or personnel assigned to teams, and crew assigned to equipment, listed within the "Tier One" NIMS national resource typing definitions as posted by the NIMS Integration Center. This NIMS *Guide* augments the DHS-FEMA NIMS #501, Chapter 4, Resource Management - dated March 24, 2006. This document is also intended as an accompaniment to the NIMS *Guide* (NG 0001) titled "National Resource Typing Criteria" dated March 27, 2007.

NIMS-Credentialing:

Is the administrative process for validating the qualifications of personnel and assessing their background, for authorization and permitting/granting access to an incident, involving mutual aid between states (interstate).

The Accepted Credentialing Process:

The credentialing process as accepted by a Federal, state, tribal, or local jurisdictions as well as private agencies, is an objective evaluation and documentation of a person's current licensure or degree; training or experience; competence or certification, and the ability to meet a nationally accepted minimum standard; to provide particular services; and/or functions or perform particular procedures during an incident.

The following is the NIMS credentialing criteria for the NIMS national resource typing definitions:

1. The credentialing process is voluntary [1] (i.e. reflecting only the voluntary participation of a/the first responder(s) who are willing to be deployed under interstate mutual aid agreements or compacts);

2. Relates only to personnel and teams, either as a single resource or part of a response team, as defined in existing and deployable interstate response resources or first responder assets;

3. The NIMS credentialing requirements focus on required minimum qualifications in order to define and ensure the competency of the stated resource capability being requested;

4. States must establish a program administered by the State Director (or other Official designated by the Governor) to grant authority to agencies, organizations or other entities to issue Qualification Cards for persons to be deployed for interstate mutual aid.

5. Is based on verifiable accreditation and certification issued by the appropriate professional regulatory agencies, professional associations or licensing authorities;

6. Needs to be sufficiently standardized and definable to promote the exchange and regulation through interstate mutual aid agreements or compacts;

7. Credentialing needs to facilitate resources and assets capability for the purpose of inventory and tracking to determine availability status for response operations;

8. Issuance of any credentialing certifications remains with the jurisdiction having authority; and

9. Will need to be able to comply with evolving technological and information standards to permit:

   a. Verification of identity;

   b. Verification of qualifications; and

   c. Verification of deployment authorization.

Authorized Access/Entry Privileges:

For an individual/team to be granted access to an incident site by the proper authorizing agent(s), the following three requirements must be presented:

1. Two forms of photo identification to verify identity, of which at least one of which must be issued by a governmental authority (i.e. see examples below);

2. Proof of qualifications/certification, issued by the proper authority as authorized by the State; and

3. Authorization for deployment (i.e. which includes, but is not limited to, the examples below).

Once this information has been provided and approved/accepted, the individual/team may be issued further credentials for site/incident access privileges by the jurisdiction having authority.

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EXAMPLES OF ID AND CREDENTIALS (*two from Identity and one from the other columns***)**
_____

Identity	Qualification	Invitation
Drivers license/Government issue ID	NWCG Redcard	Letter of Invitation
Passport	NIMS Qualification Card (TBD)	EMAC Verification
ID - Immigration	Red Cross Card	Deployment Orders
ID - Indian Affairs	Medical Corps ID Card	
ID - Company-Employer	Company Qualification Card	
ID - Military		
ID - Law Enforcement		
ID - Fire/EMS		
ID - Public Works		
ID - Hospital		

> NWCG = National Wildfire Coordinating Group
> NIMS = National Incident Management System
> EMAC = Emergency Management Assistance Compact

All of the examples must be signed by the agent authorized by the State Director (or the Governor's designated official).
[1] While acknowledging that the NIMS credentialing is voluntary, this is not to imply that NIMS credentialing allows for circumventing any licensures and/or other professional accreditation requirements.

NIMS – CREDENTIALING BUSINESS RULES

Department/Agency Decides to Participate → **NO** → End of Process

↓ **YES**

Department/Agency Determines Which Members Participate → **NO** → End of Process

↓ **YES**

Department/Agency Submits Individual's Application to an Authorized Credentialing Agency

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QUALIFIED?

- **NO** → **NO** Reapply When Qualified
- **YES** → Credentialing Organization Acts
  - → Periodic Review of Credentialing Organization by Third-Party Reviewer
  - → Department/Agency Notified
  - → Record Created & Database Updated
  - → Card/ID Issued Periodically Reissued
  - → Information Uploaded to Management Infrastructure