

Directive 2022-02: Commonwealth of PA Emergency Management Certification Directive
Summary of Changes

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is pleased to share the updated Certification Directive with you, our stakeholders. This was a collaborative effort, with feedback and input provided from more than 40 stakeholders both internal and external to the Commonwealth. The intent with the substantive changes to this Directive is to help create a common baseline of information for all emergency management practitioners in the Commonwealth, whether they be municipal, county, state, private sector, student, or NGO. In adding a recertification aspect to the certification program, we are also moving our program in line with what other states are doing in their certification programs, helping our emergency management peers work towards additional certifications or recertifications (such as the International Association of Emergency Managers [IAEM]), and working towards professionalizing the field of emergency management within the Commonwealth. A summary of the major changes is outlined below:

- ✓ Includes a third track to certification for emergency management practitioners instead of just limiting the program to municipal and county emergency management coordinators and staff. The Practitioner certification program is optional for these partners and is being provided as a means of professional development for them. This will allow stakeholders within the Commonwealth (ie: PEMA staff and Agency Reps), school and hospital emergency management staff, students, NGO partners, and private sector partners to attain certification and the same base level of knowledge that municipal and county partners attain.
- ✓ Instead of Basic, Advanced, and Professional certification levels, the new program moves to align with program certification levels from other states and the IAEM certification. The two new certification levels are Associate and Professional.
- ✓ Certifications will be valid for a period of five (5) years, after which the individual will need to recertify following set criteria should they wish to maintain their certification. A recertification application packet has been developed using criteria from IAEM and will help the candidates work towards their IAEM certification/recertifications as well.
- ✓ There will be a one year grace period for those who have already started certifying under D2017-02's criteria to complete their in-progress certification.
- ✓ There is the inclusion of expanded opportunities for recognition of prior experience and waivers, including use of IAEM's training allocation table as a reference for course equivalencies, use of emergency management degree programs towards coursework (with approval), and real world experience being used in lieu of County EMC certification exercises.
- ✓ Additional buildout (ongoing) of virtual offerings of P-courses for certification that will be available through TrainPA, including Initial Damage Reporting, Duties & Responsibilities, and Resource Request Process trainings.