


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Date: September 1, 2011
To: All EMS Care Providers
From: Leonard H. Guercia, Jr., BS, EMT-P 
Operations Branch Chief
Re: EMS Photographic Identification Badges

Effective October 1, 2011 Connecticut Public Act 11-32 requires that every emergency medical service (EMS) provider "who provides direct patient care shall wear in plain view during such provider's working hours a photographic identification badge issued by" their EMS organization. This act requires that the identification badge (ID) include:

- The provider's photograph – Sufficient size so that facial features are easily recognizable
- The individual provider's name – This may be full, first or last name
- Certification or licensure level - EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic
- EMS organization name

The required elements should be on the displayed side of the ID and in a contrasting font large enough to be easily read. The intent is for the patient receiving care to easily determine the identity and qualifications of any professional providing medical care to them. It is recommended that providers display the certification or licensure level that they are authorized to function at with their EMS organization. For example, a paramedic working for a basic level service would display "EMT".

It is anticipated that there will be circumstances in which it is unsafe to wear an identification badge. Services should develop policies / procedures (in consultation with the Connecticut Department of Public Health) regarding the format and wearing of these IDs that incorporate specific safety exemptions. We have identified the following exemptions from the requirement to display IDs that may be incorporated into your policies immediately:

- While wearing body substance isolation equipment that completely covers the upper torso
- While wearing fire-retardant clothing in an environment that poses a risk of flame exposure
- While wearing a level A, B or C hazmat suit

For services that do not presently issue compliant IDs to their personnel, we suggest that you consider adopting the "Salamander" ID badge system. This is a well recognized identification system that also has the ability to store information in a 2D bar code on the ID. Contact your regional emergency planning team (REPT) for assistance in implementing this option. Most regions are administering this system through their ESF-4 groups. This system has been funded through State Homeland Security grant programs over the past several years.

Uniformed services are considered to be in compliance with CT PA 11-32 provided personnel who provide direct patient care wear uniforms clearly displaying the healthcare provider's name, EMS certification or licensure level and the name of their EMS organization.

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