



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON RECERTIFICATION

Question: I've just successfully completed my first NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development class and have a "*Course Completion*" certificate. Does this mean I am now a "Certified" NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor?

Answer: No. This certificate simply documents your successful completion of the course.

Question: Now that I've completed the school, what do I need to do in order to become a "Certified" law enforcement firearm instructor?

Answer: First of all, if you are not already an NRA member, you must join the NRA. Like any other professional organization that certifies individuals based on their training, membership is required to certify, and you must maintain your membership in order for your certification to remain valid. Second, you must complete an "*Application for Certification*" and submit it, along with a copy of your course completion certificate, to the NRA's Law Enforcement Division within 12 months of completing your school.

Question: How long is my certification good for?

Answer: NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor certification is valid for 3 years.

Question: My NRA certification is about to expire. What do I need to actually do in order to recertify?

Answer: You can do one of two things. You can submit an "*Application for Recertification*" along with documentation of having obtained 24 hours of continuing education, OR you may simply attend another NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development school anytime during your 3-year certification period. Remember, your NRA membership must remain active during this certification period for your certification to remain valid. You may also need to submit a "*NRA Membership Renewal*" form as well. Upgrading to a Life Member status can alleviate this worry as you will never have to worry about your certification lapsing due to an overlooked membership renewal notice.

Question: What, exactly, is this "*Continuing Education*" process?

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Answer: In an effort to maintain the value, integrity and significance of the *NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Certification*, in 2004 the NRA Law Enforcement Division adopted and implemented a mandatory 24 hour Continuing Education requirement.

Now, in order to “**RECERTIFY**” as an NRA Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor, you must submit proof of having obtained a minimum of 24 hours of **CONTINUING EDUCATION** related to either “**Firearms**” training or “**Instructor Development**” training. This continuing education must be training you have attend in person and as a student.

Question: What do you consider to be “*Firearms*” or *Instructor Development*” training?

Answer: “**Firearms**” training is defined as “*hands-on*”, “*practical*” or “*skills based*” training actually involving the use and/or shooting of firearms. This would typically be indicative of training designed to improving ones handling proficiency, marksmanship ability, tactics or other skills as they directly relate to the safe use of firearms.

“**Instructor Development**” training would be defined as any type of *instruction, schooling* or *education* one has obtained designed to enhance, augment and/or improve one’s presentation, teaching or public speaking capabilities.

Question: My certification has expired and I haven’t obtained all my continuing education yet. What should I do?

Answer: A one-time, six-month extension may be available to you depending on your circumstances. Your membership must be current for the entire extension period, and the six month extension will only be valid from the original date of expiration. No more than **ONE** extension per certification cycle will be granted, and all certification extension requests must be made in writing, (email and/or faxed requests are fine.) Please send your emailed requests to LE@nrahq.org or fax them to 703-267-3834.

Question: Once my certification lapses, is there a grace period in which to recertify?

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Answer: Yes. There is a 12 month grace period, (from the date of the original certification expiration), in which to recertify your NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor credentials by means of our “Continuing Education” process.

If recertification hasn’t been completed within 12 months of the original expiration date of your certification by submitting approved “*Continuing Education*”, then the only way one may recertify is by attending and successfully completing another 5-day NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor school. It need not be the same school you already attended. For instance, if you were certified as a NRA Law Enforcement *Handgun/Shotgun* Instructor and you then attended and successfully completed the NRA Law Enforcement *Patrol Rifle* Instructor School, you would then become certified as an NRA Law Enforcement *Patrol Rifle* Instructor, AND your original HG/SG certification would become active again.

***For Example:** Let’s assume your NRA Law Enforcement Handgun/Shotgun Instructor certification expired in December 2006. You would have had till December of 2010 to recertify by completing and submitting documentation of 24 hours of continuing education, yet this didn’t happen. So, in January of 2011, you now attend and successfully complete an NRA Law Enforcement Patrol Rifle Instructor School. Once your “Application for Certification” in the Patrol Rifle discipline is received and entered into our database, your original “Handgun/Shotgun” certification will now renew and you would be issued a new NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Certification Card designating your being certified as both a Handgun/Shotgun AND a Patrol Rifle instructor, with certifications for both disciplines now set to expire in January of 2014.*

Once your certification remains expired for a period greater than 5 years, recertification is no longer an option and re-attending of the entire original 5-day class will be required to certify in that discipline again.

Question: How will attending another NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor School affect my current certification?

Answer: As you continue your education by attaining additional NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Certifications, all of your certifications will continue to expire 3-years from the date of completion of your most recent NRA school.

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Question: Will you give credit for other “instructor level” schools we’ve attended?

Answer: Maybe. If there was any training meeting our “*firearms*” or “*instructor development*” training definitions, you can apply those hours towards your continuing educational requirement. Many “instructor schools” though don’t actually contain any “*Method Of Instruction*” (MOI), training in them whatsoever. If you’ve attended a collapsible baton Instructor, OC Instructor, or some other skills based instructor class recently, you may recall there probably wasn’t any actual MOI training included as part of the course curriculum. If this is the case, then unfortunately we can not give you any credit towards your 24 hour continuing educational requirement. While we cannot speak to specific manufacturers or other company’s training classes, you should always keep a copy of the course syllabus and/or daily schedule as documentation of the course curriculum actually taught should you believe there is applicable training credit there.

Question: Can training obtained from sources other than law enforcement sources be used to meet your continuing educational requirement?

Answer: Yes. Most firearm training course, assuming they are from a qualified and reputable trainer, will be approved with proper documentation of the class and its objectives. Classes related to educating one’s self in Adult Learning Principals or other Instructional Methodologies do not need be related to law enforcement or even firearms. There are many technical schools, community colleges, and universities providing acceptable accredited classes on topics such as “*Public speaking*”, “*Principles of Communication*”, “*Instructional Technology*” and/or “*Teaching and Course Development*” to name but a few. Additionally, skills based computer classes such as “*Multimedia in Instructional Design*” (How to use PowerPoint) would be very acceptable. For college classes we would count actual “in-classroom” hours, not credit hours.

Question: Can I satisfy the continuing education requirement by attending training provided by national or state professional training associations I may belong to?

Answer: Probably. Depending on the organization, and the training it is providing, we may accept all or part of it. We will accept training that was received at the annual or regional training conferences of IALEFI (International Association of Law Enforcement Fieram Instructors), ILEETA (International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association), TTPOA (Texas Tactical Police Officers

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Association), and NTOA (National Tactical Officers Association) to name but a few. All national or state organizations will be looked at on a case by case basis. “Attendance Certificates” or other documentation as to one’s attendance will be required.

Question: Will any credit be given to the attendance and participation at competitive shooting events?

Answer: Yes. Law Enforcement specific competitive shooting is considered an extension of training. As such, we will provide **up to 8 hours** of continuing educational credit for participation at the NRA’s *National Police Shooting Championships*, or for participation at any NRA *Tactical Police Shooting Competition*. More information about the NPSC or TPC can be found at www.nrahq.org/law.

Question: Is armorer training considered acceptable for continuing education?

Answer: Yes. We will provide **up to 8 hours** of continuing educational credit for attendance and successful completion of a recognized armorer school. The training and certification must have been provided by a recognized law enforcement firearm manufacturer or contractor authorized by them to provide factory training and certification. Regardless of the number of hours of armorer training or how many armorer training classes have been attended, only a maximum of **8 hours total** may be applied toward the 24 hour continuing education requirement.

Question: Our agency qualifies twice a year on a state mandated qualification course. Can I count the hours spent at the range qualifying towards my continuing education requirement?

Answer: No. The courts have held for years now that “qualification” is considered “testing”, not “training”. Therefore, it does not meet our continuing education requirements.

Question: Is the “*Calibre Press Street Survival Seminar*” acceptable continuing education for my certification?

Answer: Yes. With the appropriate documentation, the entire course will be accepted.

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Question: We've recently purchased a firearm training simulator and the company we purchased it from provided us with three days of training on its use. Will any of this count towards our 24 hours?

Answer: Yes. Manufacturer provided training on the use of their respective "firearm training" or "use of force" simulators, such as "Lasershot", "FATS", "AIS-Prism", etc, will be acceptable with the appropriate documentation.

Question: What kind of documentation specifically are you looking for me to provide?

Answer: Documentation may include, but not be limited to, course completion certificates, class rosters, or any other supporting documents verifying what the class was, where it took place, the number of hours of training, and that you were actually in attendance during that training.

Question: My full-time job is as a trainer. Can I receive credit for classes I've been teaching?

Answer: No. Classes you have taught or classes where you have been part of the instructor cadre, (whether you were teaching a specific block of instruction or sitting in the back watching your partner), **ARE NOT** considered "*Continuing Education*" for our purposes. Only those classes you have physically attended, in person, and signed in, as a student, on the class roster will be considered.

Question: Are there any other specific types of training you will not consider?

Answer: Yes. Examples of other training NOT considered acceptable for CE credit include, but are not limited to, computer based training (CBT), correspondence courses, home study courses, on-line training and/or the simple watching of training videos . (This **shall not** apply to any training course where there is video, or other multimedia, being used as a valid training aid in the furtherance of specific learning objectives in a formal lesson plan, that would otherwise normally qualify for CE credit.)

Question: There are several of us at my agency who are certified instructors. Can we provide each other training that would count towards our Continuing Educational Requirements?

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Answer: No. As a general rule, training **cannot come from within your own agency**, or from another instructor within your agency. This includes business associates, part time employers and co-workers.

Question: Our state has a state specific training class we are required to attend in order to maintain our state law enforcement firearm instructor certifications. Additionally, our agency is authorized to instruct this class. Will you accept this?

Answer: Yes. Any training that is approved and/or mandated by your State POST, (this would include the federal government), for purposes of maintaining your state or federal law enforcement **firearm instructor** certification will be accepted. In these instances, if your agency is permitted to provide this training, we will accept it so long as you were not part of the instructional staff.

Question: Can we use training that is being offered by neighboring jurisdictions?

Answer: Yes. Training from other law enforcement agencies or regional police academies is acceptable so long as it meets our continuing educational requirements of acceptable training.

Question: Where else may I find training you might consider acceptable for your continuing educational requirement?

Answer: Some organizations, such as the American Heart Association, also offer instructor training classes that may have parts of their curriculum accepted for CE credit. There are also a very small number of geographically diverse agencies and organizations, (these would be agencies or organizations having large numbers of instructors assigned to multiple sites, geographically located all across the country), that have submitted agency specific firearm instructor recertification training programs for approval to be used for CE credit. These specific programs have been reviewed and approved in advance by the Law Enforcement Division Training Manager. If you work for one of those agencies, you will know who you are. These instances are rare, and usually involve one or two specific individuals within the agency who is charged with the responsibility of travelling to each remote site and providing the training to the entire agency in a consistent manner.

Question: I'm required to attend mandatory continuing education just to maintain my sworn law enforcement status. Would this training be considered?

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Answer: Maybe. Most in-service type training you attend in order to maintain your status as a sworn law enforcement officer generally will NOT be acceptable. This includes training mandated for your continued certification as a private armed security officer. *Exceptions to this* would be any “*Use of Force*”, “*Legal Update*” training or other training received on the affects of recent Supreme Court or other appeals courts rulings relevant to law enforcement firearm training.

Question: Can I apply any supervisory training towards my continuing education?

Answer: No. Supervisory training is not instructor training and is generally not acceptable.

Question: I’ve recently been certified to carry the TASER. Can this training be used?

Answer: No. Regrettably, the TASER is not considered, by definition, a firearm. As such, TASER training is not acceptable for CE credit.

Question: How about the TASER Instructor school I just attended?

Answer: Maybe. Again if this training included any instructor development or other MOI blocks of training in its course curriculum, we will accept those hours.

Question: I’ve recently attended the ICS and NIMS training classes conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. Will any of them count?

Answer: No. The “*Incident Command System*” (ICS) and “*National Incident Management System*” (NIMS) training classes as provided by FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute (EMI) do not meet our qualifications as acceptable CE.

Question: How about EOD or other demolition related training?

Answer: No. Classes related to terrorism or explosives are generally not acceptable, unless they happen to include some form of firearms training or an element of instructor development as explained in sections 5, 6 & 7 above.

Question: We only attend POST approved training. Since it’s POST approved, will you consider accepting it?

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Answer: Maybe. Just because a training course is approved by POST in your state does not necessarily mean that we will accept it for CE credit. It must meet these guidelines in order to qualify.

If you still have questions about what is acceptable or wish to verify the potential suitability of some particular training event, you may contact any of the Staff Firearm Instructors at NRA headquarters. Names and contact information can be found on our website at <http://www.nrahq.org/law/training/leadstaff.asp>. You may also send any inquiries by email to LE@nrahq.org.