10.100: The purpose of this policy is to detail the procedures and guidelines for certification for Hazardous Materials by the CMCB. The policy is intended to:

- ensure applicants are qualified by completing a certified program,
- outline the procedures necessary to successfully complete the certification process.

10.102: It is the intent of the Board that policies set forth herein meet the requirements of the *NFPA Standard 1000, Fire Service Professional Qualifications Accreditation and Certification Systems.*

10.103: The Hazardous Materials certification program is designed to meet the certification requirements of member departments of the Board.

10.104: This policy and all procedures contained within shall be established by the Board. The Chief Training Officers of each department are responsible for the policy locally.

10.105: This policy shall apply to all personnel pursuing CMCB certification for Hazardous Materials through programs sponsored by member departments.

10.106: The Board may grant a variance of this policy when such a variance meets the intent of the *NFPA Standard 1072* and its additions, and is in the best interest of the Board or member department. Any such request for variance must be submitted in writing to the Board through the appropriate chain of command.

10.107: This policy and its procedures shall meet or exceed any requirements for Hazardous Materials set forth in the current edition of the *NFPA Standard 1072,* and its additions as approved and adopted by the Board. The Board shall be considered the authority having
jurisdiction (AHJ) as specified in the standard.

10.108: It is the responsibility of the Hazardous Materials candidates to demonstrate they meet or exceed the requirements of this policy.

10.109: All appeals from the Hazardous Materials candidates shall be filed according to the appeals process specified in Chapter 1, section 1.500 of the Policies and Procedures Manual of the Colorado Metropolitan Certification Board.

SECTION 10.200: PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Back to Index

10.201: The Board shall develop an evaluation instrument, which meets the requirements of NFPA 1072 Standard and its additions.

10.202: The evaluation process shall be reviewed by the Board. The purpose of the Board in the review process is to ensure the evaluation processes have been validated.

10.203: The Board shall ensure that the evaluation process meets the following criteria:
   • the process evaluates the current body of knowledge in adult education, performance evaluation methods and fire service training,
   • the minimum passing scores on the evaluation process represent real job requirements,
   • each test item is valid,
   • test construct is appropriate,
   • all written and performance evaluation instruments are valid and objective.

10.204: The Board shall provide all materials necessary to conduct the evaluation set forth in Section 10.203.

10.205: The Board shall review the certification process annually. Even years will be a review of Administrative Policies. Odd years will be a Field Audit review on all certification levels.
10.301: The candidate shall make application for certification following the procedure set forth in Chapter 3, Section 3.100.

10.302: The candidate must submit documentation of successful completion of Hazardous Materials training program for entrance into the certification process. For certification at the HazMat Awareness/Operations Level, the candidate shall meet the general knowledge requirements in the NFPA 1072 standard, Chapter 4, 4.1; the core competencies for awareness level personnel defined in Sections 4.2 through 4.4, Chapter 5, 5.1; the core competencies defined in Sections 5.2 through 5.6; and Chapter 6, Section 6.2 Mission-Specific Competencies: Personal Protective Equipment and Section 6.6 Mission-Specific Competencies: Product Control.

In addition, the following mission-specific competencies are not required for the HazMat Operational certification, but may be obtained: Chapter 6, Section 6.3, Mass Decontamination; Section 6.4, Technical Decontamination; Section 6.5, Evidence Preservation and Sampling; Section 6.7, Detection Monitoring and Sampling; Section 6.8, Victim Rescue/Recovery; and 6.9, Response to Illicit Laboratory Incidents.

By signing the Application for Certification, the Training Chief verifies that every listed candidate for certification has successfully completed all objectives, which have practical competencies. The submittal will be reviewed and approval may be granted for certification testing.

10.303: The evaluation process for certification will include two written evaluations. The written evaluations shall consist of twenty (20) questions for HazMat Awareness and thirty (30) questions for HazMat Operations. All questions will come from a validated test bank. The performance evaluation for HazMat Operations shall consist of a four-part team based scenario. This scenario will include a randomly selected product and randomly selected performance evaluation sheets inclusive of the following HazMat Operation skills:

Note: Conditions may exist that would make team based scenario testing impractical. In that event, the Evaluator III may alter the test to comprise of

(4) two-person team based drill stations that include the following requirements:

- One (1) Operations Level skill sheet
- One (1) Awareness Level skill sheet
- One (1) MSR Personal Protective Equipment skill sheet
- One (1) MSR Product Control skill sheet
10.401: The candidate shall make application for certification following the procedure set forth in Chapter 3, Section 3.100.

10.402: The candidate must submit documentation of successful completion of Hazardous Materials Technician training program for entrance into the certification process.

For certification at the HazMat Technician Level, the candidate shall meet the general knowledge requirements in the NFPA 1072 standard, Chapter 4 Awareness Level; Chapter 5 Operations Level (all core competencies); and all competencies of Chapter 7.

In addition, the HM tech candidate must be a certified Hazardous Material Operations Level Responder. Certification must be from an International Fire Service Accreditation Congress or National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications accredited program or a CMCB Certificate of Compliance.

By signing the Application for Certification, the Training Chief verifies that every listed candidate for certification has successfully completed all objectives, which have practical competencies. The submittal will be reviewed and approval may be granted for certification testing.

10.403: The evaluation process for certification will include a written evaluation. The written evaluation shall consist of one hundred (100) questions from a validated test bank. The performance evaluation for HazMat Technician shall consist of a team based scenario. This scenario will be based on the Colorado Metropolitan Certification Board approved HazMat Technician performance evaluation sheets.

Note: Conditions may exist that would make team based scenario testing impractical. In that event, the Evaluator III may alter the test to comprise of (4) two-person team based drill stations. Each performance test station is tested as a whole unit, requiring candidates to successfully complete all elements of that particular performance test station. Failure of the first attempt at a test station, leads to the allowance of one additional attempt at that test station, "a retake". If a second attempt is unsuccessful, the candidate fails the performance evaluation and must retest the entire performance evaluation. Failure of more than two (2) performance test stations on the first attempt constitutes a failure of the entire performance evaluation. The candidate must retest the entire performance evaluation.

10.404: The intention of the scenario is for a team of eight (8) to twelve (12) HM Technician Candidates to successfully complete the randomly selected performance evaluation sheets. The following two paragraphs will further define the failure criteria of the scenario.
Candidate Failure: A candidate can fail an individual JPR within the scenario without failing the team.

i. Failure of up to two JPRs leads to the allowance of one additional attempt at each of the failed JPRs after the scenario is completed. If the second attempt at either of the JPRs is unsuccessful, the candidate fails the performance evaluation and must retest the entire performance evaluation in accordance with Section 10.300 and Section 3.216.

ii. Failure of more than two (2) JPRs on the first attempt constitutes a failure of the entire performance evaluation. The candidate must retest the entire performance evaluation in accordance with Section 10.300 and Section 3.216.

Team Failure: Team failures are defined and managed as follows:

i. Failure (as a team) of critical JPRs and/or predetermined tasks, as defined by each scenario, will constitute a team failure of the entire scenario. Team failures are to be used where a failure cannot be attributed to a certain individual or team of two. Every team member must have had the opportunity to speak up and make corrective actions. Every attempt must be made to attribute a failure to an individual. Team failures should be limited to times when you can no longer adequately test individuals due to gross failures of the team. Ex: everyone agrees to inadequate PPE selection.

ii. In the event of a team failure, the Evaluators will determine if a full repeat of the scenario is needed, or if it is appropriate to repeat the part of the scenario that was failed.

iii. If the team fails the first attempt at the scenario then individual JPR failures are waived and the team must retake the scenario. All candidates are thus considered to have “one” JPR failure. All candidates may then only fail one JPR during the retake of the scenario. Additional failures would then be considered as greater than two JPR failures.

10.405: Refer to Chapter 3 regarding testing process.

SECTION 10.500: TERM OF CERTIFICATION

10.500: The certifications issued by Colorado Metropolitan Certification Board will remain valid as long as the person is an employee in good standing with one of the member departments. In cases of termination of employment and/or retirement, the certification would be valid for up to one year from the date of termination or retirement.
Reference for Written Test Questions

(See Reading List for CMCB Written Certification Tests)