



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

Standards & Certification Program

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DATE: March 3, 2016
TO: Agency Heads & Agency HR Directors/Departments
FROM: The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST)
RE: Proposed changes to OAR 259-008-0011 & Medical Examination Form (F-2T)
(Open for public comment from March 1, 2016, through March 21, 2016)

This memo affects applicants for: Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Dispatcher.

Dear Agency Heads / Agency HR Departments:

DPSST recently contracted with an occupational physician for the purposes of reviewing the minimum medical standards that are required to be met prior to an individual being employed as a Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Dispatcher in this state. The Board on Public Safety Standards and Training approved the filing of a proposed Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) implementing these recommendations. A summary of the proposed changes are listed on the back of this letter. These proposed changes are open for public comment until close of business on March 21, 2016. Please note; the proposed changes will become permanent on April 1, 2016, if no substantive comment(s) is/are submitted during the public comment period.

Additionally, the process in which Medical Examination Forms (Form F-2T) are submitted to DPSST is also changing. Rather than submitting sensitive medical information on each applicant, DPSST is requiring only the last page of the Form F-2T (titled F-2TA) be submitted. The F-2TA portion of the form must be signed by a licensed health professional attesting that the individual being examined did or did not meet DPSST's minimum physical standards. Please note, all of the physical standards required by DPSST are found on the F-2TA. These are the only state-mandated standards. Agencies are free to choose if they want the other portions of the F-2T (Laboratory, Medical History, etc.) completed by the examining health professional.

**If no applicable public comment is received, these proposed changes will be effective:
April 1, 2016.**

In an effort to foster a smooth transition and minimize confusion, the new Form F-2T/F-2TA will be posted to the DPSST Criminal Justice Forms website and available for printing on Thursday, March 24, 2016.

IMPORTANT: Regardless of hire date, individuals being examined by a licensed health professional on or after April 1, 2016, will be subject to the new standards and an F-2TA will be required. Submission of an incorrect F-2TA may require the applicant be reexamined by a licensed health professional and may delay admission into the next available basic course held at the Academy.

If your agency uses a vendor to administer pre-employment examinations, please notify them of these changes to ensure they are aware of and adhere to the new requirements.

Should you have questions or need additional information regarding these medical examination requirements please contact, Mona Riesterer, acting Scheduling & Certification Specialist, at: (503) 378-2353 or me at: (503) 373-0389.

Sincerely,

Monica J. Walker, Criminal Justice Certification Supervisor
Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training
Standards & Certification Program

Summary of Proposed Changes

Current Standard: Visual Acuity	Proposed Standard: Visual Acuity
Corrected vision must be at least 20/30 (Snellen) when tested using both eyes together.	No change
Current Standard: Color Vision	Proposed Standard: Color Vision
<p>Red or green deficiencies may be acceptable, providing the applicant can read at least nine (9) of the first thirteen (13) plates of the Ishihara Test (24 Plate Edition). Applicants who fail the Ishihara test can meet the color vision standard by demonstrating that they can correctly discriminate colors via a field test conducted by the employer and approved by DPSST. The results of the field test and the methods for testing must be maintained by the employing agency.</p> <p>Any employing agency that conducts a field test to meet the color vision standard must also complete a Department approved affidavit attesting that the applicant can either correctly discriminate colors or is able to successfully perform the required tasks of a Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher, notwithstanding the applicant's inability to correctly discriminate colors.</p>	<p>Telecommunicators, emergency medical dispatchers or applicants must be able to distinguish red, green, blue, and yellow, as determined by the HRR Test, 4th Edition.</p> <p>Red or green deficiencies may be acceptable, providing the applicant can read at least nine of the first 13 plates of the Ishihara Test.</p> <p>Telecommunicators, emergency medical dispatchers or applicants who fail to meet the color vision standard may meet the standard by demonstrating that they can correctly discriminate colors via a field test conducted by the employer as approved by the examining licensed health professional.</p>
Current Standard: Peripheral Vision	Proposed Standard: Peripheral Vision
Visual Field Performance must be 120 degrees in the horizontal meridian combined.	Remove
Current Standard: Hearing	Proposed Standard: Hearing
<p>Applicants for the position of Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher must have sufficient hearing in both ears to perform essential tasks without posing a direct threat to themselves or others.</p> <p>The applicant must meet National Emergency Number Association (NENA) hearing standard 54-002 (June 10, 2006)</p> <p>If the applicant cannot meet the identified hearing standard without correction, the applicant may utilize hearing amplification devices to meet the hearing standard. The Department may require an applicant to have another examination by a licensed audiologist or otorhinolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat) designated by the Department to verify that the applicant's corrected hearing meets the Board's minimum hearing standard.</p>	<p>Telecommunicators, emergency medical dispatchers or applicants must meet National Emergency Number Association (NENA) hearing standard NENA-STA-007.2-2014 (June 14, 2014).</p> <p>Telecommunicators, emergency medical dispatchers or applicants who fail to meet the hearing standard must be examined by a licensed audiologist or otorhinolaryngologist to determine if an amplification device will allow them to meet the hearing standard.</p> <p>An amplification device may be used to meet the hearing standard, if a licensed audiologist or otorhinolaryngologist determines an amplification device will allow the telecommunicator, emergency medical dispatcher or applicant to meet the hearing standard.</p>
Current Standard: Speaking Ability	Proposed Standard: Speaking Ability
Applicants for the position of Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher must be able to use vocal cords and exhibit normal speech patterns, sufficient to perform speaking-related essential tasks.	Remove
Current Standard: Medications	Proposed Standard: Medications
None.	The side effects of any prescribed medication must not interfere with the telecommunicator's, emergency medical dispatchers or applicant's ability to perform the essential functions and tasks of the job.