



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



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON RECERTIFICATION**

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**Question:** I've completed an NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor school, what do I need to do to become a "Certified" law enforcement firearm instructor?

**Answer:** If you are not already an NRA member, you must join the NRA and you must maintain your membership in order for your certification to remain valid. You must also complete an "*Application for Certification*" and submit it with a copy of your course completion certificate to the NRA's Law Enforcement Division within 6 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 attend another NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development school. Your NRA membership must remain active during this certification period so you may also need to submit a "*NRA Membership Renewal*" form as well. Life Members never have to worry about their certification lapsing due to an overlooked membership renewal notice.

**Question:** What is the "*Continuing Education*" process?

**Answer:** 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*.

"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 training designed to improve one's handling proficiency, marksmanship, tactics or other skills as they directly relate to the safe use of firearms.

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“Instructor Development” training would be defined as any type of *instruction, schooling or education* designed to 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. 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. Call 703-267-1640, or send your emailed requests to [LE@nrahq.org](mailto:LE@nrahq.org) or fax them to 703-267-3834.

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

**Answer:** Yes. There is a 12 month grace period in which to recertify 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.

Once your certification is expired for a period greater than 5 years, recertification is no longer an option and re-attending of the 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:** If you attain additional NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Certifications, all of your certifications will 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. If you’ve attended a collapsible baton Instructor, OC Instructor, or some other skills based instructor class recently, there probably wasn’t any actual MOI training. In this case we can not give you any credit towards your 24 hour continuing educational requirement. 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. Many firearm training courses from qualified and reputable trainers will be accepted with proper documentation of the class and its objectives. Classes related to Adult Learning Principals or other Instructional Methodologies do not need be related to law enforcement or firearms. There are many 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*”. Also, classes such as “*Multimedia in Instructional Design*” (How to use PowerPoint) would be acceptable. For college classes we 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?

**Answer:** Probably. Depending on the organization, and the training it is providing, we may accept all or part of it. We will accept training from the annual or regional training conferences of IALEFI (International Association of Law Enforcement Firearm Instructors), ILEETA (International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association), TTPOA (Texas Tactical Police Officers 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. Documentation of one’s attendance will be required.

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**Question:** Will any credit be given for attendance and participation at competitive shooting events?

**Answer:** Yes in some cases. 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](http://www.nrahq.org/law).

**Question:** Is armorer training considered acceptable for continuing education?

**Answer:** Yes. We will accept up to 8 hours for attendance and successful completion of an armorer school from a recognized law enforcement firearm manufacturer or contractor authorized by them to provide 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 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 as continuing education?

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

**Question:** We've recently purchased a firearm training simulator and the manufacturer provided us with training on its use. Will this count towards our 24 hours?

**Answer:** Yes. Manufacturer provided training on the use of their "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 course completion certificates, class rosters, or any other supporting documents verifying what the class was, when it was, where it

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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 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, as a student, will be considered.

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

**Answer:** Yes. Any distance learning including computer based training (CBT), correspondence courses, home study courses, on-line training, or watching training videos. (This doesn't apply to any training course that includes video or other multimedia used as a valid training aid in training that would otherwise qualify for CE credit.)

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

**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 agency is authorized to instruct a state specific training class we are required to attend in order to maintain our state law enforcement firearm instructor certifications. 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, even if your agency provides this.

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

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**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, offer instructor training classes that may have parts of their curriculum accepted for CE credit. There are also a very small number of agencies (having large numbers of instructors assigned to multiple sites), 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.

**Question:** I'm required to attend in-service training to maintain my sworn law enforcement status. Would this be accepted?

**Answer:** Maybe. Most in-service type training you attend in order to maintain your status as a law enforcement officer (public or private) generally will NOT be acceptable. *Exceptions to this* would be any "Use of Force" training or other training received on recent Supreme Court or other appeals courts rulings relevant to law enforcement firearm training.

**Question:** Can I apply 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. A TASER is not, 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:** Probably not. If this training included any instructor development or other MOI blocks of training in its course curriculum, we will accept those hours.

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**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. "*Incident Command System*" (ICS) and "*National Incident Management System*" (NIMS) training 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 include some form of firearms training or an element of instructor development as explained above.

**Question:** We only attend POST approved training. Will you consider accepting it?

**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](mailto:LE@nrahq.org).