

## Position Currency - Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who is responsible for managing the PMS 310-1?

The Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC) is chartered by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) to maintain the training and qualification system (PMS 310-1) that we use. OWDC updates the PMS 310-1 annually and posts the updated publication, along with an errata sheet indicating what changes were made, to NWCG's web site every June. OWDC accepts recommendations for changes to the PMS 310-1 from the field at any time. For more information on the services OWDC provides, please visit the NWCG web site.

### 2. What is the current status of the changes to position currency in the PMS 310-1?

The changes related to currency have not yet been incorporated in the PMS 310-1. OWDC is providing an extended review and comment period ending in September. OWDC has approved the change to the currency rule and has support from NWCG on implementation. Implementation of this change will occur in the September, 2011 version of the PMS 310-1.

### 3. How this change will affect my qualifications?

For the vast majority of incident responders, this change is transparent, having no impact to qualifications. However, for responders in upper level positions who have not performed in lower level positions in many years, they may lose currency and drop to trainee status in these lower positions.

If it is anticipated that a responder will lose currency in a position, they have an opportunity this fire season to perform in that position, thereby refreshing currency. After the September implementation date, responders will need to gain incident experience in that position pursuant to agency recertification policy. Therefore, it is important that responders become familiar with how this change will affect them, as soon as possible, and plan accordingly.

### 4. I'm a volunteer firefighter in Texas and my qualifications are tracked by the Texas Forest Service in their Incident Qualification System (IQS). My highest fire qual is Engine Boss (ENGB) and I am an Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4) trainee. How will this change affect me?

This change will have no impact to your qualifications.

*Note: For state sponsored incident responders whose qualifications may be impacted, implementation will lag behind the federal agencies due to the distributive nature of state-managed IQS systems.*

### 5. I am a Type1 Incident Commander. This is the only position I have performed in the last 5 or more years. Under the new rules it appears I will lose currency for TFLD, which is the lead instructor prerequisite for teaching this course pursuant to the Field Manager's Course Guide. How can I retain the ability to serve as a lead instructor for this class if I lose TFLD currency?

OWDC recognizes that this change will affect instructor qualifications for a very small percentage of incident responders and is considering alternatives to address this. All instructor qualifications for 100

and 200 level courses will be revisited in relation to the changes to position currency. The easiest way to mitigate this is to simply perform as a TFLD (or any other position that will maintain currency for TFLD). It is the desire of OWDC that all NWCG course instructors maintain proficiency in the subject matter they are teaching and feel current performance is vital. This is philosophically aligned with the intent of the business rules presented in the Field Manager's Course Guide.

**6. How does this change relate to the Incident Management Organization Succession Planning (IMOSP) initiative that NWCG is working on?**

Implementation of this currency change will allow NWCG to react more efficiently to PMS 310-1 changes as they occur in the future following changes that may occur when the new incident management organization is implemented.

**7. I am qualified as a Type2 IC and on my home unit sometimes respond to initial attack fires simply as a firefighter, will this maintain my lower level qualifications?**

Yes, provided you are documenting this firefighter experience and entering it in IQCS or IQS. Many incident responders who have high level qualifications fail to document lower level experience for many reasons.

**8. My highest operations qualification is DIVS which I have performed annually for the last several years. I heard that this change will eliminate my ability to deliver low level training such as S-130 and S-190. Is this true?**

No. DIVS maintains currency for lower level operations positions down to the FFT2 level. However, if you are qualified as an OSC2 and have only gone out in that capacity for the last 5 years, while it maintains the qualification for DIVS, it does not maintain qualifications for positions below that.

**9. I have looked at the draft September, 2011 PMS 310-1 and noticed something that doesn't make sense about currency for one of my qualifications. Who do I report this to?**

You have a couple options: 1) notify your Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR); contact information is available at [http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/geographic\\_area\\_information.html](http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/geographic_area_information.html), or 2) submit questions/comments to your agency's OWDC representative (contact information is available at <http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/owdc/roster.htm>) through your normal chain of command.