

OWDC Issue Paper
Position Currency Review and Update

Date: March 9, 2011

Issue: There is confusion in the field regarding the interpretation of the definition of currency in the 310-1 (specifically, item 3 below). In addition, there is a difference between the currency rules identified in the PMS 310-1 and those established in the Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS). For many positions, the IQCS currency rules present a very liberal interpretation of the PMS 310-1 currency definition. For example, an Area Commander can provide currency for a Status/Check-in Recorder.

Currency Requirements

For the positions identified in this guide, the maximum time allowed for maintaining currency is three (3) years for air operations and dispatch positions and five (5) years for all others. Currency for a position can be maintained by meeting any of the following requirements:

- 1. By successful performance in the position qualified for within the given timeframe.*
- 2. By successful performance in a position identified in this guide as Other Position Assignments That Will Maintain Currency.*
- 3. By successful performance in a higher position(s) for which that position is a prerequisite, providing the individual was previously qualified in that position.*

Discussion or Background: The NWCG Wildland Fire Qualification System (PMS 310-1) is used by a very large, diverse audience. Every effort must be made to make this document as clear and concise as possible. The qualification rules must be simple enough for every user to understand, particularly those at the entry level. There are 68 positions affected in the PMS 310-1. It has been several years since a comprehensive review of the currency rules for each position in the PMS 310-1 has been conducted. The last comprehensive review was completed during migration to the Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS).

Effects: Changes to the currency rules are logical. Implementation of these changes will have the following effects:

1. The PMS 310-1 will be easier to understand regarding currency.
2. The IQCS will mirror the business rules of the PMS 310-1.
3. Some incident responders will lose currency for some positions where currency was previously maintained under existing business rules.
4. Currency rules identified in the State-used Incident Qualification System (IQS) will need to be updated to be in alignment with NWCG.
5. ROSS statistics regarding qualified incident responders versus identified UTF's (unable to fill) will be more realistic.

Actions Needed: The following changes will be made in the June 2011 310-1:

1. Revise the currency definition within the 310-1 to read:

Currency Requirements

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For the positions identified in this guide, the maximum time allowed for maintaining currency is three (3) years for air operations and dispatch positions and five (5) years for all others.

Currency for a position can be maintained by successful performance in the position qualified for within the given timeframe, or successful performance in positions identified in this guide.

2. Update currency rules for the 68 positions in the PMS 310-1 affected by this definition. Bring the IQCS into alignment with the 310-1.
3. Update all positions in the PMS 310-1 to reflect the following format related to defining position currency:

These positions maintain currency for XXXX:

XXXX maintains currency for these positions:

This format eliminates ambiguity related to the interpretation of currency for each position.