

NWCG Endorsement Analysis Process

As per the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Guideline for National Qualification System a position endorsement is defined as “Documentation validating specific knowledge, skills, and abilities that an AHJ establishes beyond the minimum qualifications for a given position.”

The NWCG Endorsement Analysis Process provides a structured framework for the analysis required to determine if identified FEMA National Qualifications System (NQS) positions need a wildland fire endorsement or drive a change to an NWCG position standard. The intent of wildland fire endorsements is to build capacity by utilizing NQS All-Hazards qualified resources on wildland fire incidents. Note: this analysis is not designed to review specific NWCG positions for use in all-hazard incidents.

This process is facilitated by the NIMS Integration Committee (NIMSIC) at the direction of the NWCG Executive Board. Preparation of briefings and presentation of recommendations and decisions made during the analysis process will be the responsibility of the NIMSIC in coordination with the position steward, Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC), NWCG Training Program and NWCG Coordinator. The NWCG Coordinator will function as a project manager with the responsibility of moving the team thru this process.

Step 1 – Gather information on position requirements (NWCG position qualifications [PMS 310-1] and NQS position qualifications [509s]). (NWCG Coordinator, NIMSIC assigned representative, NWCG Training)

- Compile information for comparison – NWCG Staff (NWCG Coordinator & Admin Assistant)

Step 2 – Conduct position analysis and make recommendation (NIMSIC assigned representative, Position Steward assigned SME(s), NWCG Training Program, NWCG Coordinator)

- Conduct an in-depth analysis of the position by comparing education, training, experience (including position task book), physical fitness, currency, professional and technical licenses and certifications. Propose one of the following recommendations:
 - Change NWCG position standard to either meet NQS standards or differentiate NWCG from NQS (e.g., qualifications, training, position name/code)
 - Establish a wildland fire endorsement (additional experience, training and/or fitness above the NWCG baseline qualifications)
 - No change (NWCG and NQS positions are equivalent)
 - No endorsement recommended. Due to knowledge and/or experience requirements the position is inherently wildland fire.
- The following assumptions should be considered during analysis:

- E/G/L 0191 Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface is required for all NQS positions but is not necessary in wildland fire due to minimal interaction with EOCs. No further analysis of this requirement is necessary.
- Fitness level: Wildland fire fitness levels of light, moderate and arduous will typically dictate an endorsement.
- Experience: Review NWCG PTBs. Codes (W, RX) typically dictate an endorsement.
- "Experience in emergency management in a leadership position" is required for all NQS positions. NWCG considers this requirement to be met in wildland fire thru prior experience and/or NWCGs expectations to meet the leadership levels as outlined in the incident position descriptions. Therefore, this can be disregarded. No further analysis of this requirement is necessary.
- Currency: NQS exceeds NWCG timelines for currency (2 or 3 years for NQS vs. 3 or 5 years for most NWCG positions). No further analysis of this requirement is necessary.

Step 3 – Review/Approve/Brief

- Position Steward (and parent committee if steward is a subgroup) will review recommendation and submit to NIMSIC and IPSC for approval.
 - Ensure all agencies support the recommendation or suggest changes or further review/analysis (repeat Step 2)
- After approval by NIMSIC and IPSC, brief Executive Board (NWCG Coordinator)

Step 4 – Implementation

- Provide outcome of endorsement recommendation to the NWCG Webmaster for inclusion on endorsement page and position qualification page.