



NASAR SARTECH RECERTIFICATION POLICY

Published October 2014

In May of 2013 the NASAR Board of Directors recognized that several factors were compelling them to develop a series of policies culminating in a recertification program for SARTECH skills. The factors compelling this action include:

- First, emergency management and emergency response professionals recognize that many skills are perishable and that best practice is to regularly recertify in those skills.
- Second, emergency management and emergency response professionals recognize that standards of care evolve over time and that best practice is to provide an environment where those changes can be regularly communicated and trained to.
- Third, emergency management in most other emergency response disciplines utilize recertification effectively and limit their liability and protect their responders through its application.
- Fourth, emerging trends in emergency management legislation will eventually make recertification a requirement for currency of credentials in many job descriptions including first responders and SAR responders.
- Fifth, ASTM requires agencies having jurisdiction over a certification to provide a recertification process.

The NASAR Board of Directors enacted the following recertification policy effective January 1st, 2016.

Certificate holders for SARTECH III, II, and I will recertify within 3 years of the anniversary of their most current and most advanced certificate date of the certificate that they wish to maintain.

SARTECH III Recertification

Recertify every 3 years by:

- Retesting and paying recertification fee.

Or

- Presenting 12 hours of CE class training or documented field experience, and paying recertification fee.

Member recertification fee: \$30

Nonmember recertification fee: \$65

SARTECH II Recertification

Recertify every 3 years by:

- Retesting written and field stations and paying recertification fee.

Or

- Attending 30 Hours of CE class training and paying recertification fee. CE training may include a combination of:
 - Successful completion of SAR related CE classroom courses
 - Up to 50 % field experience
 - Instructor/teaching for 1 hour counts as 2 hours of CE

Member recertification fee: \$30

Nonmember recertification fee: \$75

SARTECH I Recertification

Recertify every 3 years by:

- Retesting written field stations and paying recertification fee.

Or

- Attending 60 Hours of CE class training and paying recertification fee. CE training may include a combination of:
 - Successful completion of SAR related CE classroom courses
 - Up to 50% field experience
 - Instructor/teaching for 1 hour counts as 2 hours of CE

Member recertification fee: Free

Nonmember recertification fee: \$75

Documentation of field experience, CE class training, and instruction will be provided to NASAR on demand electronically (scanned and emailed). Do not send it unless requested (we are trying to make this easy on you and our paperwork process).

Process to Recertify

1. Determine which SARTECH you must recertify. You may hold multiple SARTECH certifications, but you only have to recertify at

- the highest level (i.e. SARTECH I is above SARTECH II, which is above SARTECH III) which you want to maintain currency in.
2. Complete the option for recertification of your choice
 3. Have your agency supervisor or a NASAR Instructor or Lead Evaluator review and sign off on your recertification paperwork. You can find a list of evaluators and lead evaluators on the NASAR website.
 4. Go to the NASAR bookstore and pick the appropriate recertification product. There are products for each SARTECH to choose from, and pay the fee. For NASAR members recertifying SARTECH I, email info@nasar.org and we will process your recertification for free.
 5. Keep your paperwork in case we need you to send us a copy (do not send a copy unless we ask for it)
 6. You will receive your new certificate via email within a few weeks (you may print it out for your records). If you would like a fancy certificate for framing then send a request to info@nasar.org and we will send you one for a \$10 processing fee.

Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the penalty for not maintaining currency or recertifying?
 - Your certificate will eventually expire, and you will have to retake the course/examination completely or challenge the examination (if allowed) and pay the current fee structure to get a current certificate.
- Is there a grace period if I miss my recertification date?
 - No, you have several years to prepare and plan to recertify during each recertification cycle. If you think you have an alibi please contact the Executive Director to discuss it.
- Do I get a new certificate to show currency in the discipline?
 - Yes, you will receive a new certificate via email to replace your expired certificate. SARTECH certificates without expiration dates will be deemed automatically expired as of the last day of January of 2017.

Definitions

Field Experience – includes but is not limited to:

- Participation in a search and rescue mission

- Participation in a mock search or search exercise
- Structured group level training where the skills to be recertified are utilized, exercised or practiced (this can include specialty training like Canine, Equestrian, ATV, etc. where SARTECH skills are utilized)

CE (Continuing Education) – includes but is not limited to:

- Attending class or teaching at a SAR conference
- Attending class or teaching related medical response courses (e.g. CPR, basic first aid, etc.)
- Attending class or teaching SAR related courses (this includes rescue, US&R, missing person investigation, Canine, Equestrian, ATV and other similar topics related to SAR).
- Participating in or setting up any SARTECH evaluation.

NOTE: Field Experience and CE do not include travel time to and from events. Only time directly participating in the activity is credited.