

Proposed ASRC Credentialing System

May 2015

Description

As ASRC enters its fifth decade of service to lost persons throughout the mid-Atlantic region, it is time for us to update our policy for certifying members of ASRC teams and issuing ASRC credentials. Work is underway to update the ASRC Bylaws, credentialing policy and companion position task books (PTBs) to implement a new credentialing system for the ASRC.

The proposed ASRC credentialing system follows best practices for third-party review and improved governance oversight by the ASRC Board of Directors, through an ASRC Credentialing Board. Figure 1 on the back of this document provides a flowchart summary of the proposed process.

The cornerstone of this credentialing system remain the ASRC Training Standards (currently v 7.1) describing what a candidate for certification must do. Group Training Officers will still provide the training and oversee primary evaluation of candidates for field certifications. This does not change. An obvious change is the addition of position task books (PTBs), PTBs give specific guidance on evaluation of candidates and provide documentation of a candidate's completed demonstration of various SAR skills.

Review by an ASRC Examiner eliminates a possible administrative concern about "self-certification," as does review and oversight by the ASRC Credentialing BOD.

Issues Yet to Define

What is the expiration period for skills check-offs in the PTBs?

How will recertification be managed? Based on what combination of experience and skills review?

How does a member become an ASRC Examiner?

Will we need to develop guidance for evaluators and examiners?

How is the ASRC Credentialing Board established and sustained?

If a candidate is not credentialed, how is critical feedback and remediation provided?

Definitions

Candidate: Person applying for an ASRC certification

Member: A member of an ASRC team

Group Training Officer: The GTO is responsible for developing the training program for an ASRC team.

Qualified Evaluator (QE) - A person holding an ASRC certification of FTM, FTL, or SM-I through SM-IV. By definition, every GTO is a qualified evaluator.

ASRC Credentialing Board: A group of senior ASRC members chosen by the ASRC Board of Directors to administer the ASRC credentialing system

ASRC Examiner: A senior ASRC member selected by the ASRC Credentialing Board to review candidates for field certification.

Position Task Book: A document to manage the evaluation of candidates for certification.

References

- ASRC Training Standards (v 7.1)
- ASRC Position Task Books (forthcoming)
- ASTM F3068-14
- FEMA Qualification System Guide and PTBs (available online via fema.gov)

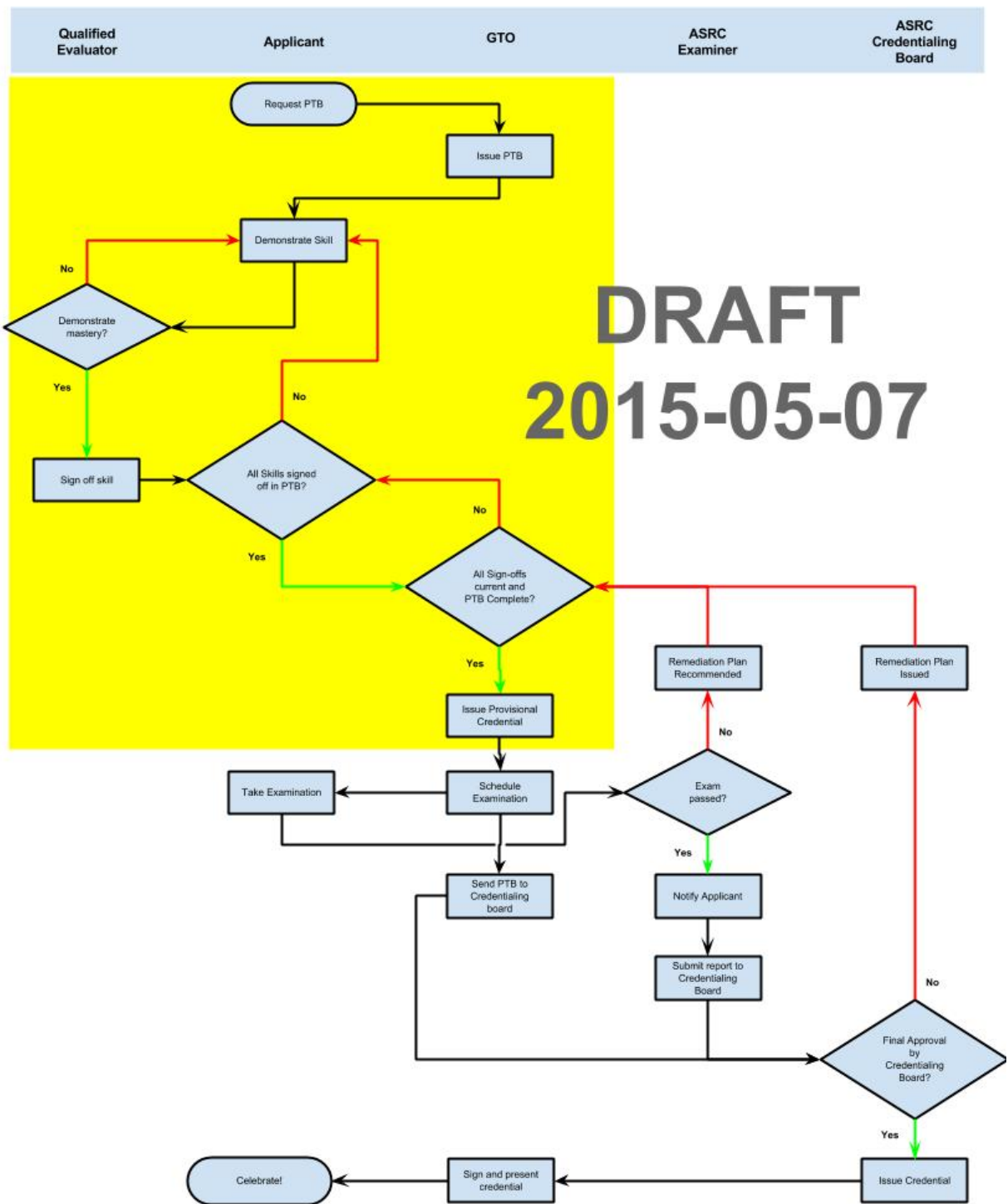


Figure 1. Flowchart depicting the system proposed for governance of ASRC credentials. The portion in yellow represents current policy and practice, with group checklists filling the role of PTBs.