

Current legal framework for the professional development of emergency medical responders from ambulance attendants to paramedics in Spain (2)

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Introduction

The current economic situation requires implementing measures to increase productivity and competitiveness. Among the medium-term measures is the need for a firm commitment to professional training (PT), which improves specific human resources and increases efficiency.

Enterprises must adapt ever faster to stay competitive. Human capital is a key factor in this process, which makes PT a strategic business objective. Finally, workers face greater mobility within and outside the company, as well as the need to maintain and constantly improve their qualifications, so PT is also an essential goal in improving their adaptation to the labor market and for personal and professional advancement.

The creation of a National Qualifications System to promote PT, to increase efficiency and effectiveness, and now consolidated as an instrument for employability and for the creation of more and better jobs, implies the responsibility of developing new skills in response to the needs of the productive system and the labor market, as well as the changing needs of the population for new services. It is necessary to identify the skills required in the workplace, whether traditional or emerging, as well as in PT to enable their acquisition, in the context of lifelong learning, which involves adaptation, updating and integration.

In the Organic Law 2 / 2006 of 3 May, Education, Article 39.6 provides that the Government, in consultation with the Autonomous Communities, establish qualifications for PT and the core aspects of the curriculum for each one of them¹. The Organic Law 5/2002 of 19 June, Qualifica-

tions and Vocational Training, established in article 10.1 that the General State Administration, in accordance with article 149.1.30. and article 7 of the Constitution, and after consulting the General Council of PT, will determine the nature of professional titles and certificates, which will constitute the basis of training courses on offer referred to the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications (CNCP in Spanish)². The Royal Decree 1538/2006 of 15 December established the general order of PT in the educational system, and Article 6 defined the structure of professional qualifications, based on the CNCP, with European Union guidelines and other aspects of social interest. Article 7 sets out the professional profile of these titles, which includes general scope of competence, the professional, personal and social skills, the qualifications and, where appropriate, the CNCP units of competence included in the titles. Thus each title will include at least one complete professional qualification to ensure that, indeed, the titles of PT meet the demands of the productive system and those of society and the individual to promote democratic citizenship³.

In Spain the possibility of professional recognition of the skills acquired through work experience is especially important, since most of the productive capacity of the Spanish working population is not acquired through formal educational processes but through working experience⁴.

Royal Decree 1224/2009 of 17 July, on the recognition of professional skills acquired by experience, sets out the procedure and requirements for assessment and accreditation of skills acquired through work experience or non-formal training, and determines the single procedure, both for ed-

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ucation and work, for the evaluation and accreditation of professional skills acquired through work experience or through non-formal training dealt with in Article 8.2 of the Organic Law 5/2002. It outlines the objective, concept and purpose of the procedure laid down, the phases involved as well as its structure and organization, the nature and characteristics of the evaluation process and certification, access requirements and conditions to be met by candidates who opt to have their professional skills evaluated⁴.

This group includes those currently working in the field of public health emergencies, in accordance with the principles underlying the evaluation procedure, recognition, accreditation and registration of professional qualifications (INCUAL March 2004).

The Royal Decree 295/2004 of 20 February established certain qualifications included in the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications and their corresponding training modules that incorporate the modular catalogue of PT. Annex 25 refers to the professional qualification: "Health transport technician (TTS); professional family" health "; Level 2, code SAN025_2 and establishes the units of competency (UCO) 069, 070, 071 and 0725. Royal Decree 1087/2005 of 16 September re-establishes new professional qualifications included in the CNCP and the corresponding training modules that are incorporated into the modular catalog of PT, and updated the specific professional qualifications established by Royal Decree 295/2004 of 20 February. UCO Includes

360, 361, 362 and 072 relating to health care of multiple and disaster victims; code SAN122_26.

Royal Decree 1397/2007 of 29 October, with official effect and validity for the entire national territory, the title of Health Emergency Technician (TES in Spanish) and set out the minimum teaching requirements⁷. The general competence of this title is to transfer patients to a health center, providing basic medical and psychological support in the pre-hospital setting, carry out activities of tele-operation and tele-health care, and collaborate in the organization and development of emergency plans, foreseeable health risks and logistics in the event of individual, group or disaster emergency situations⁷.

The qualifications and CNCP competency units included in the title are contained in Article 6 and specified in the Royal Decree 295/004, 20 February, regarding medical transportation, and 1087/2005, 16 September, regarding healthcare of multiple victims and disasters^{5,6}. The decree includes 13 professional modules. Table 1 shows the correspondence between the units of competency already accredited under the provisions of Article 8 of Organic Law 5/2002, 19 June, with the professional modules specified in this Royal Decree for their validation.

In this highly encouraging context, autonomous communities are and will be responsible for the legal aspects involved in the full and uniform training of this vital and numerous professional group now known as Health Emergency Technicians, who perform an important function and form part of our scientific society.

Table 1. Correspondence between competency units accredited under the provisions of Article 8 of Organic Law 5 / 2002 of 19 June, and the professional modules for validation

Accredited units of competency	Professional modules to be validated
UC0069_1 Preventive maintenance of the ambulance and material.	0052. Preventive mechanical maintenance of vehicle. 0054. Healthcare equipment.
UC0070_2 Provide basic life support to patients and assist in advanced life support.	0055. Initial care in emergency situations. 0056. Special care in emergency situations.
UC0071_2 Transfer the patient to the appropriate medical center.	0057. Evacuation and transfer of patients.
UC0072_2 Apply techniques of psychological and social support to patients and their families.	0058. Psychosocial support in emergency situations.
UC0360_2 Collaborate in the organization and development of healthcare logistics in scenarios with multiple victims and disasters, ensuring the supply and management of resources and supporting the work of coordination in crisis situations.	0053. Healthcare logistics in emergencies.
UC0361_2 Provide initial care to multiple victims.	0055. Initial medical care in emergency situations.
UC0362_2 Assist in the preparation and implementation of emergency plans and devices for foreseeable risk situations.	0059. Emergency plans and devices for foreseeable risk situations.

References

- 1 Ley orgánica 2/2006, de 3 de mayo, de Educación. Madrid: BOE; 2006.
- 2 Ley Orgánica 5/2002, de 19 de junio, de las Cualificaciones y de la Formación Profesional. Madrid: BOE; 2002.
- 3 Real Decreto 1538/2006, de 15 de diciembre, por el que se establece la ordenación general de la formación profesional del sistema educativo. Madrid: BOE; 2006.
- 4 Real Decreto 1224/2009, de 17 de julio, de reconocimiento de las competencias profesionales adquiridas por experiencia laboral. Madrid: BOE; 2009.
- 5 Real Decreto 295/2004, de 20 de febrero, por el que se establecen determinadas cualificaciones profesionales que se incluyen en el Catálogo nacional de cualificaciones profesionales, así como sus correspondientes módulos formativos que se incorporan al Catálogo modular de formación profesional. Anexo 25. Cualificación Profesional: Transporte sanitario (TTS). Familia Profesional: Sanidad. Nivel 2. Código SAN025_2. Madrid: BOE; 2004.
- 6 Real Decreto 1087/2005, de 16 de septiembre, por el que se establecen nuevas cualificaciones profesionales, que se incluyen en el Catálogo nacional de cualificaciones profesionales, así como sus correspondientes módulos formativos, que se incorporan al Catálogo modular de formación profesional, y se actualizan determinadas cualificaciones profesionales de las establecidas por el Real decreto 295/2004, de 20 de febrero. Madrid: BOE; 2005.
- 7 Real Decreto 1397/2007, de 29 de octubre, por el que se establece el título de técnico en Emergencias Sanitarias y se fijan sus enseñanzas mínimas. Madrid: BOE; 2007.