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# NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

## Briefing Paper

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Date: 18 November 2015

TO: Dan Smith, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

FROM: Mark Jones, Chair, Operations and Training Committee (OTC)

SUBJECT: Report out on NWCG's Endorsements Tasking (TM-14-04, Attached)

Purpose: This briefing paper reports out on work done by the OTC to develop a framework for establishing an Endorsement process for wildland fire. Key elements from the Endorsements Process Tasking are listed below in bold, followed by OTC's outcome and plan to move forward.

Issue/Desired Outcome: FEMA's National Integration Center (NIC) is developing a National Qualification System (NQS) that will list the requirements of "discipline neutral" incident management position qualifications and corresponding Position Task Books (PTBs). NWCG is proactively developing an Endorsement Process specific to wildland fire with the goal of integrating with the National Qualification System.

### **Task 1: Ensure compliance with the FEMA requirement for each emergency responder discipline to have an endorsement process tied to the National Qualification System (NQS)**

#### **OTC Outcomes**

- When FEMA releases the final NQS, the OTC will review the NWCG PMS 310-1 and confirm it is in compliance. Contents will be re-formatted to clearly define experience, training and statutory requirements.
- The OTC's initial review of PMS 310-1 positions against the proposed NQS indicate the following positions may require WF endorsements:

SPUL	STPS	ACAC
ORDM	DIVS	AOBD
RCDM	TFLD	ASGS
OSC1	STLD (ALL)	ATGS
OSC2	CREP	HLCO
OPBD	SRB (ALL)	ATCO
OSPS3	FFT1 /FFT2	HEB1
HEB2		

**Task 2: Establish business processes to develop and integrate wildland fire discipline specific qualifications when performance requirements exceed the minimum, discipline neutral, qualifications requirements.**

### **OTC Outcomes**

This part of the tasking is not complete, as an endorsement group it was decided it is premature to develop business rules when we do not yet know what the basic NIMS qualifications will be in the NQS.

We recommend a group come back together when the NQS is released to help develop the business rules. Below are a few business issues the task group came up with that will need to be revisited when the NQS is released.

- Wildland fire agency budget offices will need to establish agreements which will allow them to dispatch and pay non-NWCG associated personnel with WF Endorsements on wildland fires.
- Conversation with dispatch to develop standards and procedures for ordering and filling WF endorsed resources.
- NWCG needs to educate incident management teams, agency administrators, and dispatchers about the differences in ordering procedures when it comes to ordering non WF endorsed positions to help support wildfire incidents.
- Non-Federal agencies must use IQS as the system of record.
- Ownership of Position Task Books (PTBs) will probably convert to FEMA and NWCG would only “own” the wildland fire section.

**Task 3: Ensure that the framework provides for efficient integration into existing business systems (e.g. IQCS, IQS, ROSS).**

### **OTC Outcomes**

A contract to design a new version of ROSS is in the works. The Endorsements Task Group discussed the requirements of endorsements with ROSS developers in hopes of avoiding additional expense and redesign issues when FEMA releases the NQS. The developers were optimistic that the future ROSS will accommodate an endorsement process. Below are some needs for all business systems.

Applications must:

- Use the NIMS Job Title to define the position.
- Accommodate one or more endorsement designations for any given position for each individual
- Validate an individual has the required qualifications before he/she is assigned to an incident