Agency Having SAR Jurisdiction (AHSARJ) Instructor / Lead Evaluator Equivalency Policy

NASAR instructors and lead evaluators are not located in all geographic regions that NASAR is asked to serve.

To develop a diverse and more localized instructor and lead evaluator cadre where demanded, NASAR is implementing a policy whereby individuals with commensurate experience can gain instructor and lead evaluator status quickly for their Agency Having SAR Jurisdiction (AHSARJ) while bypassing the normal NASAR process.

This category of Instructor/lead evaluator is referred to as the “AHSARJ Instructor / Lead Evaluator” designation.

This policy currently only applies to the following:

- Courses – ISAR, FUNSAR, ADSAR, MLPI
- Examinations – SARTECH III, SARTECH II, SARTECH I, SARTECH CREWLEADER III, SARTECH CREWLEADER II, RESCUE TECH II, Tracking

This policy is available to Government Agencies having SAR jurisdiction. In jurisdictions where there is no clear government legislated agency having SAR responsibility it will be assumed to be the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction for missing person investigations. 501C3 or other volunteer organizations do not qualify for this category of instructor/lead evaluator.

AHSARJ Instructors and Lead Evaluators may only teach within their AHSARJ, or at the direction of their AHSARJ for neighboring agencies or at the direction of their AHSARJ at conferences.

If an AHSARJ instructor leaves their AHSARJ they lose their instructor/lead evaluator credential immediately and may regain their credential by:

- Having their new AHSARJ endorse them (and regain their instructor/lead evaluator status)
- Going through the normal NASAR process to become an instructor/lead evaluator (and regain their instructor/lead evaluator status)
- The NASAR Executive Director, may at their discretion, allow the applicant to challenge the qualifications for instructor/lead evaluator
credential, or may grandfather the instructor/lead evaluator status to the applicant.

Note: All current Instructors/Lead Evaluators approved through the previous equivalency process (pre 6/2015) are grandfathered as regular NASAR instructors/lead evaluators and not bound by this policy.

PROCESS
The preferred process may be handled entirely electronically using scanned documents and applications.

- Applicant fills out the appropriate Instructor and/or Lead Evaluator Application
- Applicant provides copies of appropriate certificates
- Applicant provides professional resume
- Applicant provides the name, description, and curriculum of equivalent course/evaluation performed. Applicant provides the dates and agencies that they provided instruction/certification to over past 36 months (including contact information for host agency). For a course/certification to be considered as an equivalent, it must be conducted by an AHSARJ.
- AHSARJ provides letter of endorsement on agency letterhead (using sample provided) signed by a legally authorized representative (an individual or judicial body who are authorized by law to act as a representative of the AHSARJ).
- AHSARJ provides equivalent background verification to NASAR process (using sample provided)
- AHSARJ signs Instructor/lead evaluator agreement (contract)
- AHSARJ Instructor/lead evaluator signs contract
- NASAR reviews the materials and either:
  - Approves and provides appropriate certificates and access to instructional and credentialing materials
  - Rejects the application and provides the applicant with a written explanation and remediation steps. The applicant may appeal the rejection in writing to the Executive Director within 10 business days of receiving the rejection. The appeal will be presented to the Certification, Education and Professional Standards Directors for review.

Note: ALL NASAR Instructors/Lead Evaluators that are Individual members receive coverage from NASARs’ $2M General Liability insurance policy when teaching or evaluating NASAR material.