

# Professional Standard: Certified Strategic Commander Requirements

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## Authority

This standard was endorsed by the EMPS Panel on 15 March 2019.

## Context

The Emergency Management Professionalisation Scheme (the Scheme) is a program to recognise the skills, abilities and experience of emergency management practitioners.

Established by AFAC, the national council and peak body for fire, land management and emergency service agencies in Australia and New Zealand, the Scheme is an initiative designed to promote emergency management as a profession.

The Scheme is open to career and volunteer personnel of AFAC member agencies, as well as individuals from other approved organisations.

## Scope of application

This standard applies to applicants seeking recognition in the role of Certified Strategic Commander.

Hazard specific expertise will be evaluated as part of the credentialing process, but credentials are not awarded by hazard class.

Applicants may be career staff or volunteers of AFAC member agencies or personnel from approved commercial, not-for-profit or government entities.

## Credential

The Certified Strategic Commander credential is awarded to an individual who has successfully fulfilled all eligibility requirements. Individuals will be recognised as an expert in Strategic Command, with substantial experience in managing high impact, high consequence and complex emergencies at the State/National level.

## Eligibility

An applicant must be able to provide evidence to demonstrate that he or she:

- Has signed and committed to the EMPS Code of Ethics.
- Has the equivalent of three years' or more applicable experience and has successfully fulfilled the role of Strategic Commander at complex, high impact, high consequence emergency events at the State/National level.
- Is in compliance with the *Professional Standard: Continuing Professional Development*.
- Is supported by their home agency or jurisdiction.
- Has written documentation that demonstrates compliance to all relevant standards.

The EMPS Panel may award this credential by invitation to individuals whom it determines, by reference to their experience and standing in the industry, should be recognised as Certified Strategic Commanders.

## Education requirements for Certified Strategic Commander

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

1. Successful completion of any one or more of the education components specified in Table 1;
2. Capabilities as described in the Professional Standard: Certified Strategic Commander Capabilities; and
3. Written documentation as evidence of meeting the requirements of this standard.

Table 1:

Course or Program
A Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degree in Emergency Management or a related discipline awarded by a higher education institution recognised in its country of incorporation as having power to award degrees
Any Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degree awarded by a higher education institution recognised in its country of incorporation as having power to award degrees, combined with professional experience which in the view of the Panel has provided the Applicant with sufficient exposure to theoretical concepts of emergency management to support operation at the Strategic Command level
Completion of the Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management awarded by the Australian Institute of Police Management
Attendance on the Strategic Command Program offered by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
Attendance on the USA National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program
Attendance on the UK Fire Services College Executive Leadership Program
Attendance on a professional development course for executive leaders in emergency management which in the view of the Panel provides an equivalent level of professional development to the courses named above

## Definitions

<b><i>A high impact, high consequence, complex event:</i></b>	Is an incident determined by the Panel to have required a level of active strategic management and oversight beyond that provided by the incident management team/s involved.
<b><i>Equivalent three years' applicable experience:</i></b>	Is the performance of Strategic Command roles during periods of above-normal activity over at least a three-year time span, which is sufficiently recent to demonstrate current competency, as determined by the Panel.

## Review

This standard will commence 1 April 2019. The Panel will review this standard after five years or as required.

## Related professional standards

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- Certified Strategic Commander (Capabilities) (2019)
- Code of Ethics (2017)
- Professional Standard: Continuing Professional Development (2018)
- AFAC Doctrine: The Role of the Chief