

OUTFITTERS & GUIDES LICENSING BOARD POLICY MANUAL	POLICY NUMBER: 2011	PAGE NUMBER: 1 of 2
	SUBJECT: <i>AMGA/IFMGA Certification Fast tracking Technical Mountaineering and ski guide applications</i>	Drafted: 11/12/11 Adopted: 2/7/12 Revised: Reformatted: 10/26/15

1.00.00 POLICY OF THE AGENCY

It is the policy of the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board that the Agency complies with applicable state statutes regarding the licensing of applicants as Outfitters & Guides.

2.00.00 PURPOSE

The Board has determined that their obligation to safeguard the health, safety, welfare, and freedom from injury or danger of those persons utilizing the services of outfitters and guides, and for the conservation of wildlife and range resources requires a careful consideration of allocating Board financial and personnel resources when reviewing Ski Guide/Technical Mountaineering applications and as well as when to involve its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members recognizing when their expertise is needed as well as their personal availability as volunteers.

The Board believes it has a responsibility to the industry to expeditiously issue ski guide/mountaineering licenses when those applications received meet standards and requirements established in existing rules as clarified below. They believe the process must be clear and easy for all the Outfitters and the Staff to follow. Therefore, the intent of this policy is to provide the Executive Director and his staff guidance in order to ensure compliance with the intentions of the Board.

3.00.00 CONSIDERATION

The TAC is in existence because the IOGLB office needed assistance in the realm of Ski Guiding and Technical Mountaineering qualifications/review. It is incumbent for everyone to recognize what an IFMGA and AMGA certification represents, ie, holders of these certificates or license are highly trained guides, so there should "NEVER" be a concern as to the applicants experience to professionally guide for an outfitter who is licensed for Skiing or Technical Mountaineering within their operating area.

The criteria for IFMGA or the AMGA to issue a certification for their Certified Alpine Guide, Certified Ski Mountaineering Ski Guide, Certified Rock Guide and International Federation of Mountain Guides Association (IFMGA) License (this license is for all three certifications). These certifications far exceed the Licensing Board requirements. These credentials are grounds for fast-tracking the application which should not be bogged down in TAC Review.

4.00.00 PROCEDURE

In the case when the IOGLB office staff receives a license application from an AMGA/IFMGA Certified Guide for the activities of Level 2 Skiing or Technical Mountaineering the office staff can process the application without approval from the TAC by checking that the OG-4 form is complete which includes a copy of their IFMGA or AMGA certificate for the activity they are applying for, a copy of the applicant's first aid certification and resume.

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The office staff will compare the certificate to examples that they have on file. If the applicant has applied for Level 2 Skiing, they need to include a copy of their "Certified Ski Mountaineering Guide" certificate or a copy of their IFMGA license. If the applicant has applied for Technical Mountaineering then they need to include a copy of one of the following:

"Certified Rock Guide," "Certified Alpine Guide," or "Certified Rock Instructor" certificates, or a copy of their IFMGA license.

When it comes time for IOGLB office staff to check an applicant's certificate, they can simply refer to examples on file, which I'm confident the AMGA office can provide. Again, the file of example certificates will only contain 5 pieces of paper, one each for Rock, Alpine, Ski Mountaineering, Rock Instructor, and IFMGA license.

However, a cover letter from the employing outfitter or Field Supervisor will still be required to complete the issuance of a license, the point being, what is being issued to a certified guide is an Idaho Guide License where affiliation with a particular outfitter is still required.

This insures that the guide is working with the appropriate permits and restrictions that all Idaho licensed guides are in compliance with.

Cover letters from an outfitter or Field Supervisor can be in the form of an email to the IOGLB office, though a document where possible would be preferred.

FAST-TRACKING (WHERE THE TAC REVIEW/APPROVAL IS NOT REQUIRED)

The certified guide would submit:

a guide license application signed by the outfitter or DA
(and the boxes checked only for the specialties for which they are certified) along
with payment.

A copy of the specific AMGA or IFMGA certification. (Note AMGA single pitch
Instructor certifications are not accepted for fast-tracking.)

A copy of the First Aid Certification

The Field Supervisor for the outfit or DA has submitted the intent to
hire/endorsement letter for the applicant.