ADOPTED REGULATION OF THE
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

LCB File No. R053-13

Effective June 23, 2014

EXPLANATION – Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.


A REGULATION relating to guides; revising provisions relating to the issuance and renewal of a license as a master guide or subguide; permitting a master guide to use the services of another master guide or a subguide licensed under another master guide in certain circumstances; removing territorial limitations imposed by the State on the operation of master guides; revising the grounds for denying an application for a license or for revoking or suspending a license; extending the period within which a master guide must notify the Department of Wildlife after terminating the employment of a subguide; revising provisions governing the licensure of habitual violators and the submission of records relating to the clients of a master guide; expanding the circumstances under which a client must physically accompany the master guide or subguide during the entire pursuit and taking of an animal; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:
Existing law and regulations provide for the licensing of master guides and subguides by the Department of Wildlife. (NRS 504.390-504.398; NAC 504.590-504.711) Section 1 of this regulation revises the qualifications for licensing as a master guide and also changes the deadline, from August 31 to May 31, for submitting an application for the issuance or renewal of such a license. Section 1 also provides for certain penalties for the repeated submission of an untimely application for renewal. Finally, section 1 revises provisions governing the documents required to be submitted in connection with an application for a license.

Section 2 of this regulation revises provisions governing the examination of an applicant for licensing as a master guide or subguide. Section 2 changes the period during which such examinations are administered and provides, upon request, for the administration of examinations at a location other than those generally specified.
Section 3 of this regulation revises the period during which the Department will process an
application for the issuance or renewal of a license as a master guide, and also revises provisions
governing the submission of certain required documents.

Section 4 of this regulation changes, from 30 days to 60 days, the grace period within which
an applicant for a license as a subguide must submit certain required documents after being
notified by the Department of his or her failure to do so.

Existing regulations require that any request for an amendment of a license as a master guide
or subguide be submitted to the Department at least 10 working days before the amendment is to
become effective. (NAC 504.669) Section 5 of this regulation deletes this provision and also
permits a master guide, in an emergency and for a limited time, to use the services of another
currently licensed master guide or a subguide licensed under another master guide, conditioned
upon a requirement that the Division of Law Enforcement of the Department be notified of the
use.

Sections 6, 12 and 13 of this regulation amend or repeal existing references to territorial
limitations imposed by the State of Nevada on the operation of master guides. Section 6 also
revises provisions setting forth the grounds for denying, suspending or revoking the license of a
master guide or subguide. Section 13 also repeals the existing requirement that an applicant for a
license as a master guide must submit financial references and authorization for the Department
to obtain a credit report. (NAC 504.620)

Section 7 of this regulation revises the requirement that a master guide notify the Department
after terminating the employment of a subguide.

Existing regulations permit the Department, in perpetuity, to deny an application for a license
as a master guide or a subguide if the applicant has previously been convicted on three or more
occasions of a violation of any law or regulation relating to wildlife or watercraft. (NAC
504.681) Section 8 of this regulation revises those provisions to provide that any such violations
must occur within a 7-year period.

Existing regulations require licensed master guides and subguides to maintain and submit to
the Department certain records relating to the names and activities of their clients. (NAC
504.688) Section 9 of this regulation changes the deadline for the submission of those records,
specifies the manner in which they must be submitted and imposes penalties for the untimely
submission of the records.

Section 10 of this regulation requires a master guide or subguide, while in the company of a
client, to possess or have available, if applicable, the original or a legible copy of the annual
letter of authorization issued to the master guide by the federal land management agency having
jurisdiction over the area in which the guide is authorized by the agency to operate.
Existing regulations provide that a master guide who is hired to guide a hunt for a mountain lion must ensure that the client physically accompanies the master guide or his or her subguide during the pursuit and killing of the animal. (NAC 504.701) Section 11 of this regulation expands those requirements to include any hunt for a black bear or bobcat.

Section 1. NAC 504.600 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.600 1. An applicant for a license as a master guide must:

(a) Be a competent person of good moral character.

(b) Be 21 years of age or older.

(c) Demonstrate knowledge of the wildlife laws and regulations of the State relevant to the license for which the applicant is applying by passing the examination required pursuant to NAC 504.608.

(d) Submit proof with his or her application of current certification in:

(1) An American Red Cross course in standard first aid;

(2) An American Heart Association course in standard first aid; or

(3) An equivalent course in standard first aid. The applicant must submit proof with his or her application that this course meets or exceeds the requirements of the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.

(e) Provide proof of his or her United States Coast Guard license, if applicable. If a boat will be used to provide a service to a client and a United States Coast Guard license is not required, the applicant must provide proof that he or she has obtained a minimum score of 80 percent on the boating safety examination in Boat Nevada, a booklet which may be obtained free of charge from the Department of Wildlife, 1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada 89512.
(f) If applying for a license for hunting services, provide proof that the applicant has successfully completed a course in the responsibilities of hunters approved by the Department.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 17.6, in addition to the requirements of subsection 1, an applicant for a license as a master guide for hunting services or hunting and fishing services:

(a) Must submit:

(1) Proof that he or she:

—— (I) Possessed a valid subguide license, or held an equivalent position, in another state, Canadian province or foreign country for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application; and

—— (II) Successfully completed a licensed training program for hunting guides within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application;

—— (2) Four letters of recommendation written by clients whom the applicant personally guided during the period described in sub-subparagraph (I) of subparagraph (1); and

—— (3) Either:

—— (I) A letter of recommendation written by the master guide, registered guide, professional guide or outfitter who employed the applicant as a subguide, or an equivalent position, during the period described in sub-subparagraph (I) of subparagraph (1); or

—— (II) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, proof that he or she spent a minimum of 15 days guiding clients in the field during the period described in sub-subparagraph (I) of subparagraph (1);

(b) Must submit:
(1) Proof that he or she possessed a valid subguide license in Nevada, or held an equivalent position in another state, Canadian province or foreign country, for at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application;

(2) Four letters of recommendation written by clients whom the applicant personally guided during the period described in subparagraph (1); and

(3) Either:
   (I) A letter of recommendation written by the master guide, registered guide, professional guide or outfitter who employed the applicant as a subguide, or an equivalent position, during the period described in subparagraph (1); or
   (II) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, proof that he or she spent a minimum of 15 days guiding clients in the field during the period described in subparagraph (1); or

   (b) Must submit proof that he or she held the position of, or was licensed in another state, Canadian province or foreign country as, a master guide, registered guide, professional guide or outfitter and has at least 20 days of guiding experience for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application.

3. An applicant for a license as a master guide who:
   — (a) Applies on or before December 1, 2004;
   — (b) Possessed a valid subguide license issued by the Department between July 1, 2001, and November 30, 2004, and who is in good standing; and
   — (c) Otherwise meets the other requirements of subsection 2.
will receive 5 days of credit toward the requirements of sub-subparagraph (II) of subparagraph (3) of paragraph (a) of subsection 2 or sub-subparagraph (II) of subparagraph (3) of paragraph (b) of subsection 2 for each fiscal year that he or she was licensed.

4. An\[ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an\] application for the issuance or renewal of a master guide license must be received by the Department after August on or before May 31 of the current calendar year. An application for renewal received after May 31 but before July 1 will be processed and a warning letter will be issued for the first occurrence within 3 years. Any subsequent late application for renewal submitted within 3 years after the receipt of a late application will be denied. An application for renewal received on or after July 1 will not be processed, and all fees will be returned.

The denial of or refusal to process an application for the issuance or renewal of a master guide license pursuant to this subsection does not preclude the submission of a timely application for the issuance or renewal of such a license in the next ensuing license year.

4. An applicant for a license as a subguide must:

(a) Satisfy the requirements outlined in paragraphs (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of subsection 1; and

(b) Be 18 years of age or older.

5. An application for the renewal of a license as a master guide or subguide must include proof of current certification in standard first aid, as described in paragraph (d) of subsection 1.

6. An applicant for a license as a master guide is not required to comply with the provisions of subsection 2 if: \{he or she\}
(a) He or she is applying only to provide fishing services; or and

(b) Submitted his or her application on or before December 1, 2004, and the applicant:

——(1) Possessed a valid subguide license for hunting services issued by the Department during the previous 3 years; and

——(2) Did not have his or her license as a subguide or an equivalent position, as applicable, is not currently suspended or revoked.

7. As used in subsection 2, “proof” means:

—(a) Copies of records a copy of an official record maintained by a state agency or board that issues a license to act as a guide or outfitter.

(b) Reports:

——(1) Required by a federal land management agency that issues special use permits; and

——(2) Signed by the master guide, registered guide, professional guide or outfitter who employed the applicant during the period described in sub-subparagraph (I) of subparagraph (1) of paragraph (a) of subsection 2 or subparagraph (1) of paragraph (b) of subsection 2; or

——(c) An affidavit verifying the applicant’s guiding experience submitted by the master guide, registered guide, professional guide or outfitter who employed the applicant.

Sec. 2. NAC 504.608 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.608 1. Before submitting an application for the issuance of an initial license as a master guide or subguide for:

(a) Any hunting service, a person must pass an examination related to hunting established by the Department with a minimum score of 80 percent.
(b) Any fishing service, a person must pass an examination related to fishing established by the Department with a minimum score of 80 percent.

(c) Hunting and fishing services, a person must pass the examinations described in paragraphs (a) and (b) with minimum scores of 80 percent.

2. A master guide licensed by the Department who desires to add a fishing or hunting service to his or her license must pass an examination established by the Department with a minimum score of 80 percent.

3. A person who fails to renew his or her master guide or subguide license for 3 consecutive years must pass the applicable examination required pursuant to subsection 1 before the Department will reissue the license.

---4. The Department shall administer the examinations required by this section by appointment at its regional offices located in Las Vegas, Reno and Elko from:

—(a) January 1 to December 31 of each year for:

—(1) Applicants for the issuance or reissuance of a master guide license; or

—(2) A master guide who wishes to add a fishing or hunting service to his or her license; and

—(b) January 1 to December 31 of each year for applicants for the issuance or reissuance of a subguide license.

—5. A person may only take the examinations required by this section twice in a calendar year.
5. A person may, by prior arrangement with the Department, take any examination required by this section at a location other than those specified in subsection 3.

Sec. 3. NAC 504.661 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.661 1. The Department will make such additional investigation of an applicant for a license as a master guide and his or her qualifications as it deems necessary. A preliminary decision of the Department:

(a) Upon an application for renewal of an existing license, will be made not later than 60 days after the date of receipt of the complete application; and

(b) Upon an initial application for a license, will be made not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the complete application.

A licensee who is in good standing and whose application for renewal is received on or before [August] May 31 is entitled to a new license for the next ensuing license year upon complying with the provisions of NAC 504.590 to 504.711, inclusive. If a licensee submits his or her application for renewal on or before [August] May 31, the current license issued by the Department will remain in effect until the Department issues a new license or notifies the licensee in writing that it has denied the application for renewal.

2. If an applicant fails to include proof of certification in first aid or proof of the successful completion of a course in the responsibilities of hunters with his or her application as required in NAC 504.600, [or has failed to submit timely client reports pursuant to NAC 504.688.] the Department will notify the applicant, in writing or electronically, of the deficiency. The applicant must submit the required documents to the Department [within 30 days after he or she receives the notification] before the Department will process the application. If the Department does not
receive the requisite documentation within the 30-day period, on or before July 31, the
Department will consider the application to be incomplete, return the application to the
applicant and take no further action on the application.

3. If an application is denied for a reason listed in NAC 504.671, the Department will notify
the applicant, in writing or electronically, of the reasons for denial. The applicant may appeal
such a denial to the Commission.

4. Except as otherwise provided in NAC 504.600, the Department will only accept
applications for licenses an application for the issuance or renewal of a license as a master
guide beginning on April 1 and ending on May 31 of each year.

Sec. 4. NAC 504.666 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.666 1. The Department will make such additional investigation of an applicant for a
license as a subguide and his or her qualifications as the Department deems necessary. The final
decision of the Department:

(a) Upon an application for renewal of an existing license, will be made not later than 60 days
after the date of receipt of the completed application; and

(b) Upon an initial application for a license, will be made not later than 90 days after the date
of receipt of the completed application.

A licensee who is in good standing and whose application for renewal is received on or before
December 1 is entitled to a new license for the next ensuing license year upon complying with
the provisions of NAC 504.590 to 504.711, inclusive. If a licensee submits his or her application
for renewal on or before December 1, the current license issued by the Department will remain in
effect until the Department issues a new license or notifies the licensee in writing that it has denied the application for renewal.

2. If an applicant fails to include proof of certification in first aid or proof that he or she completed successfully a course in the responsibilities of hunters with his or her application as required by NAC 504.600, the Department will notify the applicant, in writing or electronically, of the omission. The applicant must submit the required documentation to the Department within 30 days after he or she receives the formal notification from the Department of the omission. If the Department does not receive the documentation within the 30-day period, the Department will consider the application to be incomplete and will take no further action on the application.

3. If an application is denied for reasons set forth in NAC 504.671, the Department will notify the applicant, in writing or electronically, of the reasons for denial. The applicant may appeal such a denial to the Commission.

4. The Department will deny the application for a license as a subguide if:
   — (a) The applicant holds a current restricted nonresident deer tag.
   — (b) The master guide who will employ the applicant as a subguide is not authorized by the Department to guide in the area that the applicant lists in his or her application.

Sec. 5. NAC 504.669 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.669 The Department shall not amend any master guide or subguide license unless the licensee submits his or her request for an amendment at least 10 working days before the licensee intends for the amendment to become effective. In an emergency, a master guide may use the services of:
1. Another currently licensed master guide; or

2. A subguide licensed under another master guide, for a period not to exceed 10 consecutive days. A master guide who uses the services of a master guide or subguide as described in this section shall give notice of the use to the Division of Law Enforcement of the Department by telephone before beginning or within 24 hours after beginning the use, and electronically or in writing within 10 days after beginning the use.

Sec. 6. NAC 504.671 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.671 The Department may deny an application for or revoke or suspend a guide’s license for any of the following:

1. Fraud or deception in procuring a license.

2. Fraudulent, untruthful or misleading advertising.

3. A conviction of any:

   (a) Felony; or

   (b) Crime involving physical violence, theft or fraud.

4. A conviction of having violated a regulation of a federal land management agency.

5. Immoral, unethical or dishonorable conduct in the licensee’s relation to his or her guest, client, patron or a member of the public while providing guide services.

6. A conviction of having violated a provision of:

   (a) Chapter 488 or title 45 of NRS, or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto, or for a conviction of having violated an equivalent provision in the law or regulations of any other state or the Federal Government; or
(b) NRS 444.630 or 445A.465, or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto, relating to the
court of the guide while providing guide services.

For the purposes of this subsection, the term “conviction” means a final conviction. A
forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure a defendant’s appearance or a plea of nolo
contendere is equivalent to a conviction.

7. A guide’s substantial breach of any contract with any person utilizing the guide’s
services, as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

8. Operation by a guide in an area other than that for which the guide is licensed or
specifically authorized by the Department or the federal land management agency having
jurisdiction.

9. The employment or use of an unlicensed subguide by a master guide.

10. Two or more convictions of any provision of chapters 484A to 484E, inclusive, or
chapter 488 of NRS or an equivalent provision of law of any other state or the Federal
Government relating to driving a motor vehicle or operating a boat while under the influence of
an intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance within the 7 years immediately preceding the
application for a license to be a guide.

11. A conviction of any provision of chapter 453 of NRS or an equivalent provision of law
of any other state or the Federal Government relating to controlled substances within the 5 years
immediately preceding the application for a license to be a guide.

12. Failing to report to the Division of Law Enforcement of the Department, without undue
delay, any violation of the wildlife laws or regulations pertaining to the unlawful killing,
possession or waste of any wildlife of which the guide has personal knowledge.

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13. Shooting, killing or taking a client’s wildlife.

14. Failing to comply with any provision of NAC 504.663, 504.685 or 504.688.

15. Providing guide services relating to hunting or fishing on public land or public waters without having the necessary special use permit issued by the federal land management agency having jurisdiction within the wildlife management area or unit.

16. Providing guide services relating to hunting or fishing on private land in violation of NRS 503.240.

17. Intimidating, threatening or intentionally interfering with a person who is lawfully hunting, or fishing or trapping, or who is attempting to do so.

18. Revocation of a hunting, or fishing or trapping license of the guide in any state for the current hunting, fishing or trapping season.

19. An outstanding warrant for the arrest of the applicant or guide issued in any state.

Sec. 7. NAC 504.676 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.676  1. A master guide shall notify the Department electronically or in writing within 10 days after terminating the employment of a subguide.

2. Upon receipt of the notification required pursuant to subsection 1, the Department shall:

(a) If the subguide is licensed under only one master guide, immediately suspend the license of the subguide; or

(b) If the subguide is licensed under more than one master guide, suspend the portion of the subguide license that pertains to the master guide described in subsection 1.

Sec. 8. NAC 504.681 is hereby amended to read as follows:
504.681 1. An application for a license as a master guide or a subguide may be permanently denied if the applicant is a habitual violator.

2. For the purposes of this section, “habitual violator” means a person who has been previously convicted of three or more violations, or combination of violations, of title 45 or chapter 488 of NRS, including regulations adopted pursuant thereto, or the equivalent provisions of the law of any other state or federal law within any 7-year period.

Sec. 9. NAC 504.688 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.688 1. Licensed master guides and subguides shall keep and have available complete, current and accurate records regarding their clients.

2. Records regarding clients must be written on forms furnished by the Department to all licensed master guides. These forms will include spaces for:

(a) The client’s name.

(b) The client’s hunting or fishing license number, whichever is applicable.

(c) The client’s tag or permit number, if a tag or permit is required by the Department.

(d) The dates, specifying the days, months and years, on which the client was guided.

(e) The date, specifying the day, month and year, on which each species of wildlife was harvested, the species harvested and the number of the species harvested.

(f) The point class of the animal harvested if the animal is a deer or elk.

(g) The management unit where each animal was harvested.

(h) The name of each of the guides who guided the client.

3. A guide shall:
(a) Make the initial entry in the records that are required pursuant to subsection 2 on the first
day that he or she provides guide services to the client; and

(b) Make the final entry in the records required pursuant to subsection 2 on the final day
guide services are provided to the client.

4. The master guide shall submit to the Department all original record forms for his or her
clients [December 31] for the immediately preceding license year, including the record forms of any
subguides employed by the master guide, [not by certified mail, return receipt requested, not]
later than [December 31] the last day of May of the year for which the guide is currently
licensed. If:

(a) No clients were guided during the immediately preceding license year, the master guide
shall submit one page from his or her client record book and one page from the client record
book of each subguide employed by the master guide, with the notation “no clients” written on
the page.

(b) A master guide fails to submit the record forms for his or her clients on or before the
last day of May, the Department will give the master guide electronic or written notice of that
fact. If the master guide fails to submit the required forms on or before June 30, the
Department may deny the master guide’s application for renewal for the next ensuing license
year.

(c) A master guide fails to submit the record forms for his or her clients on or before the
last day of May two or more times within a 3-year period, the Department may deny the master
guide’s application for renewal for the next ensuing license year.
5. The master guide and subguide shall present his or her clients’ records for inspection at any reasonable hour or place to any agent of the Department authorized to enforce the provisions of NAC 504.590 to 504.711, inclusive.

Sec. 10. NAC 504.693 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.693 At all times while transporting, providing a service to or otherwise in the company of a client, a master guide or subguide shall carry on his or her person or otherwise have readily available:

1. His or her valid master guide or subguide license issued by the Department or a legible, unaltered copy of the license; and

2. If applicable, the valid original or a legible, unaltered copy of the portion of the special use permit and annual letter of authorization issued to the master guide by the federal land management agency having jurisdiction within the wildlife management area or unit that contains the:

   (a) Name of the master guide or the name of his or her guiding business; and

   (b) Description of the wildlife management area or unit, or other geographic area where the master guide is authorized to guide pursuant to the special use permit.

Sec. 11. NAC 504.701 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.701 A master guide who is hired to guide a hunt for a mountain lion, black bear or bobcat shall ensure that his or her client physically accompanies the master guide or his or her subguide within close proximity during the entire pursuit and taking of the mountain lion, black bear or bobcat.

Sec. 12. NAC 504.711 is hereby amended to read as follows:
A master guide licensed by the Department shall not:

(a) 1. Enter into a contract to provide a service for a species of wildlife or in a wildlife management area or unit for which the guide does not possess a valid license issued by the Department; and

(2) If applicable, special use permit, if applicable, issued by the federal land management agency having jurisdiction within the wildlife management area or unit.

(b) 2. Sign or submit an application for a restricted nonresident deer tag pursuant to NAC 502.4231 related to a wildlife management area or unit, or for a hunter choice number representing a wildlife management area or unit, for which the master guide does not possess a valid special use permit required by the federal land management agency having jurisdiction within the wildlife management area or unit.

(c) Apply for a license as a subguide to operate in a wildlife management area or unit that requires a special use permit from a federal land management agency if the master guide:

(1) Does not possess the special use permit from a federal land management agency; and

(2) Is applying for the purpose of circumventing the requirement that a master guide possess a special use permit from a federal land management agency having jurisdiction within the wildlife management area or unit for which he or she is applying.

2. A person shall not advertise that he or she provides guide services in the State unless the person possesses a valid master guide license issued by the Department.

Sec. 13. NAC 504.620, 504.641 and 504.651 are hereby repealed.
TEXT OF REPEALED SECTIONS

504.620  Master guides: Submission of financial references and credit report; confidentiality of information. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 504.390)

  1. An applicant for a license as a master guide must provide to the Department:
     (a) Financial references; and
     (b) Authorization for the Department to obtain the applicant’s credit report from a credit reporting agency.

  2. Information obtained by the Department pursuant to subsection 1 is confidential.

504.641  Area of operation: Description in application; authority of Department. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 504.390)

  1. An applicant for a license as a guide must describe in his or her application the geographic area, as prescribed by the Department, within which the applicant intends to operate.

  2. The Department may authorize a master guide to provide services for big game mammals, fur-bearing mammals, unprotected mammals and all species of game fish, unprotected fish and game birds on a statewide basis.

504.651  License for big game guiding: Territorial limits; restrictions on use. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 504.390)
1. If a license is issued for big game guiding, it must specify in terms of a wildlife management area or unit, or other geographic area as prescribed by the Department, the exact territorial limits of the guide’s big game operations.

2. Only one person may act as a master guide under one license.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a licensee may operate only in the big game hunting area indicated on his or her license.

4. The Department may adjust the territorial limits within which a master guide may operate for reasons of game harvest, to resolve territorial conflicts between master guides or for the safety of persons who utilize the services of the guide.