

Greetings,

I hope each of you had a great summer and enjoyed your vacations. Please take the time to read the following carefully because there are some changes that effect us all.

There was a change to re-certification in January of this year. The Certification Board voted to allow the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to establish and maintain the re-certification requirements for their fire and rescue personnel. This would cover all certification programs with the exception of Fire Arson Investigator and Instructor.

If you obtained your original certification in any of the following you will remain certified:

Firefighter
EVD
Driver Operator
Emergency Rescue Technician
Hazardous Materials
Fire and Life Safety Educator
Airport Firefighter
Fire Officer

There are no requirements to maintain your certification at the standard you were certified to. For example, if you were certified to the Nation Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001, 1997 edition, you will always hold this level certification. However, should you desire to become certified to the current standard, or your department requires you become certified to the current standard you must adhere to any changes in the standard. NFPA standards are revised every five years, in order to accomplish this, personnel must successfully complete and test on new subject material. The Fire and Rescue Commission will no longer process re-certifications. Original certification completion dates will be maintained at the Fire and Rescue Commission office.

Certified Fire Arson Investigator will continue submitting their application and supporting documentation for re-certification to the Arson Review Board every five years. This is to insure they are staying abreast of all changes they may encounter during courtroom testimony.

The requirements for the Fire and Rescue Instructor were changed at the July 2003, Fire and Rescue Commission meeting. Instructors who have been certified as a **General Level II** must complete 6 (six) hours of approved Educational Methodology upgrade during the 5 (five) year certification period. Each **Qualified** Instructor must teach a minimum of 100 hours per 5 (five)-year period to maintain his/her instructor qualification The 24 hour General Upgrade and 6 hour educational methodology upgrade is no longer required for **Qualified Instructors**.

If an instructor is qualified in subject areas accredited by IFSAC they must re-qualify every 5 (five) years or as the standard they are qualified is revised, this requalification will meet the educational methodology upgrade requirement. They currently are:

Firefighter
EVD
Driver Operator
Emergency Rescue Technician
Hazardous Materials
Fire and Life Safety Educator

Also, all new instructors must attend **100%** of the qualification class and pass the written exam with a 70% passing grade or higher.

Instructors qualified to instruct in subject areas **not** accredited by IFSAC must re-qualify in that subject every 5 (five) years. This is necessary to keep the instructor abreast of innovations and changes in technology and procedures. Re-qualification can be accomplished by several methods. They are as follows:

- 1) Teach 100 hours in the subject area during the 5 (five) year period.
- 2) Maintain a minimum of 15 (fifteen) hours of upgrade in the subject area during the five year period.
- 3) Submit a portfolio of independent research, college credit, seminars, etc. to the Certification Board or its appointed representatives for approval
- 4) Take or retake an approved instructor training session on the subject matter.

If you should have any questions concerning the changes, please contact Ken Briscoe at 1-800-634-7854 ext. 328 or contact your Regional Certification Specialist

Mike Edwards

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