

State of Illinois
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Administration
Policy



Release Date: 10/24/2022

Subject: Fire Sprinkler Inspector Certifications


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RESCINDS:	REVISED: FP-ADM-005-19 updated, revised, reindexed, retitled and new Policy posted 10/24/2022.
RELATED DOCUMENTS:	RELATED STANDARDS: NFPA Standards 13, 13R, 13D, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, 24, 25; Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act (225 ILCS 317); Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Rules (41 Ill. Admin. Code Part 109).

[Policy](#) [Procedure](#) [Directive](#)

I. PURPOSE:

To recognize NFPA WBITM as a program that is equivalent to the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems (ITWBS) Level III certification for the purpose of routine inspection and testing of water-based fire protection (sprinkler) systems in Illinois in accordance with Section 17 of the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act (225 ILCS 317/17).

II. GENERAL:

Section 17(b) of the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act (225 ILCS 317/17(b)) provides that: *Any individual who performs routine inspection or testing of any fire sprinkler system under this Act shall possess proof of: (1) current certification by a nationally recognized certification organization, such as NICET certification in Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems, at an appropriate level, or the equivalent; On or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General assembly through December 31, 2022, an appropriate level in NICET certification in Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems shall be level II; On and after January 1, 2023, an appropriate level in NICET certification in Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems shall be level III (See: 225 ILCS 317/17(b)).*

For more than 100 years, NFPA has been developing and updating codes and standards concerning all areas of fire safety. An international, non-profit, membership organization, NFPA's mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. While NFPA is involved with extensive fire research and produces numerous fire safety educational programs and materials, its lifeblood is its codes- and

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standards-making system. Currently, there are some 300 NFPA codes and standards used throughout the world.

III. POLICY:

NFPA Water Based Inspection, Testing and Maintenance (WBITM) Certification. OSFM has determined that NFPA WBITM certification is equivalent to NICET ITWBS Level III certification. NFPA WBITM certification demonstrates competency to provide routine inspection and testing of water-based fire protection (sprinkler) systems and is an acceptable qualification for licensure as a Fire Sprinkler Inspector.

1. NFPA WBITM certification applies to qualified individuals who provide inspection, testing and maintenance for water-based fire protection systems in compliance with installation, inspection, testing and maintenance standards. To qualify, an individual must have a minimum of five years of documented practical experience relating to inspection, testing and maintenance in the fire sprinkler industry.
2. The certification process includes a written exam related to NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 14, NFPA 15, NFPA 20, NFPA 22, NFPA 24, NFPA 25, NFPA 70E, NFPA 72 and other aspects of fire protection systems.

-End of Policy-