



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION
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**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
AES Certification Regulations Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2015
Woodland Fire Station 3
1550 Springlake Court
Woodland, CA 95776**

WORKGROUP GOAL

To create regulation for the implementation of a certification program for individuals who perform the installation and maintenance of fire suppression systems.

STAFF

Jeff Schwartz, Deputy State Fire Marshal
Wanda Albritten, Assistant Program Coordinator

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laura Blaul, OSFM Designated Chairperson
Robert Rowe, Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board
Steve Fox, Sprinkler Fitters Local 483
Tom McKinnon, America Fire Sprinkler Association
Robert Rowe, Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board
Darryl Hefley, Jorgensen & Co.
Wayne Weisz, Cen-Cal Fire Protection
James Carver, El Segundo Fire Department
Darryl Bolden, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Jose Colin, Woodland Fire Department
Bruce LeCair, National Fire Sprinkler Association
John Upshaw, California American Fire Sprinkler Association
Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Assoc. of CA Union
Randy Dysart, CALSAFE

MEMBERS ABSENT

Patrick Chew, Roseville Fire Department

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Dwight Green, Accredited Training Solutions
Todd Golden, UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 709
Stan Smith, UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 483
Peter Hulin, Superior Automatic Sprinkler
John Holmes, UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 709

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairperson Laura Blaul, called the meeting to order at 10:00 on March 26, 2015

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

In summary on March 25, 2015 via telephone conference, each AES Certification Regulations Workgroup presented four PowerPoint Presentations. The first was on Training Programs of Local 483, 669 and 709, presented by Steve Fox and guests on Union apprentice programs, Second, John Upshaw introduced the California American Fire Sprinkler Apprentice Programs. Third, Randy Roxson provided up-to-date insight to the other States Sprinkler Fitter Certification programs (16-18 have certification programs such as Alaska, Colorado Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Denver Colorado, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Rhode Island, Washington, West Virginia Wisconsin, Philadelphia to include Nevada among them.)

The workgroup discussed the long-term and short-term goals of the program. They also discussed the program would include a water-based and pre-engineered system which effective control fires, but would be excluding 13D systems. The workgroup went in depth regarding the short-term goals and agreed that the quality installation, effective maintenance and testing, skilled installers, skilled maintenance testing personnel and not have a negative effect on the industry.

Lastly, Tom McKinnon gave a 30 minute PowerPoint Presentation on the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) and his theory of what parts we can take in order not to start from scratch. Furthermore, NICET is the only recognized certification program organization for inspection and testing. The presentation comprised of the different certification levels. There are four levels of certification for a sprinkler system designer. Wayne Weisz asked the workgroup why are they looking into NICET and Bruce LeCair agreed that is a moot point. A Question was put to the group, "Which NICET had been previously approved by State and Federal government?" Moreover, Wayne Weisz and Bruce LeCair agreed that not taking portions from other programs would be the appropriate action to add to the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) regulation, and would be a waste of time to restart new regulations from what was previously established and currently being used.

Randy Dysart concluded that the history of the NICET, as he understands it, and the development of it were for building and facilities engineers, and to cultivate standards for inspection, testing and maintenance. In addition, NICET is an organization that was established in 1961 to create a recognized certification process for engineering technicians and technologists within the United States.

Randy Roxson concentrated on the three different certification programs in his report to the workgroup; the main focus was on the following states: Philadelphia, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Nevada. Jeff Schwartz consulted with the workgroup regarding his research on enforcement elements and suggested that the workgroup do their homework on the Georgia and encouraged the workgroup to work diligently on the enforcement

portion. In addition, some elements of the Georgia portion will assist the workgroup later on when they come to enforcement section of the regulations.

DISCUSSION

Bruce LeCair brought up the concern of meeting the needs of California's growth. This program is going to have to sustain in its growth and the journeymen and apprentices whom. After researching the numbers given from the presentations, he believed that minutes need amended. Local 483, over five years has a 68 percent pass rate through the journeyman program. Local 709 have 49 percent. The California AFSA Program has 27.67 percent, and Local 669 has a 34.76 percent pass rate. He recommended that the percentages used for journeyman versus apprenticeship graduation rate were incorrect. Bruce LeCair asked if the minutes for March 26, 2015 would reflect, the numbers be amended with the correct figures from a trustworthy website link. John Upshaw asked for clarification on the years. Darryll Bolden thought it would be 2015 but had been advised from a statement made by Bruce LeCair that it was in fact 2009-2013 and the figure came right off the website. Darryll Bolden also suggested that if we can all agree to what the minimum requirements of a journeyman versus apprenticeship perhaps the workgroup can put it to repose. Bruce LeCair thought it was vital especially if we are going to meet the needs of California's growth. Proposed action to make sure the minutes are amended and clarify the percentages for the journeyman and apprenticeship graduation rates.

Laura Blaul addressed the workgroup about not picking a part program that is already out there and functioning. Furthermore, the workgroup needed clarification and guidance to stay on track. She advised the workgroup that there are numerous conversations going back and forth regarding NICET certification for a sprinkler fitter; however, what we are doing here is going here is to also including inspection testing and maintenance,

Insight from presentation may vary similarity between the programs is the minimum requirements 7,000 hours and for the OSFM was seeking the minimum to complete our regulation package.

REGULATORY SCOPE/ OBJECTIVES

Tom McKinnon made the motion to have the minimum qualifications for a journeyman of water-based systems to meet the Grandfather Clause, "*five years' verified experience and 7,000 hours*". Steve Fox seconded the motion. VOTE: All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Steve Fox made the motion to define what a sprinkler fitter as, "*The installation, alteration, maintenance and repairs of all fire protection and fire control systems including the unloading, handling by hand or with power equipment and installation of all piping or tubing, appurtenances and equipment pertaining thereto, including both overhead and underground water mains, fire hydrant and hydrant mains, standpipes and hose connections to sprinkler systems, including common risers which feed both hose cabinets and sprinkler systems, sprinkler tank heaters, air lines and thermal systems use in connection with sprinkler and alarm systems, also all tank, pumps connected there to CO2 and dry chemical for fire protection and halon, and all work associated with Mist Systems,*

all Clean Agent Systems, all Early Detection Systems and/or Air Sampling Systems it is agreed and understood that the above is to apply to piping of such applicable systems only.” Bruce Lecair seconded the motion. VOTE: All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Randy Roxson mentioned 13D category for installation, and a separate category or we eliminated 13D systems. James Carver requested it placed in the scope of this chapter.

Long-term (ten years) and short-term (five years or less) of the certification implementation was discussed. One of the specific changes would include the separation of water-based and pre-engineered systems and its effectiveness of controlling the fires as well as excluding 13D systems. The workgroup went in depth regarding the short-term and agreed quality installation, effective maintenance, and testing, skilled installers, skilled and maintenance testing personnel and no negative impact on the industry.

Tom McKinnon made a motion for the minimum qualifications for certification for residential 13R certification of water-based systems to meet the Grandfather Clause, *“two years’ verified experience and 3,500 hours”*. Steve Fox seconded the motion. VOTE: All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

James Carver made a motion for the minimum qualifications for new certifications, not legacy, *“five years’ verified experience and 7,000 hours for commercial, two years verified experience and 3,500 hours for 13R multifamily”*. Steve Fox seconded the motion. VOTE: All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Jeff Schwartz deliberate with the workgroup concerns that Chief Hoover’s first comment where when she said she was going to move forward is, were not going to put a stop to the construction industry. She wants to make sure that we continue that.

ACTION ITEMS

The workgroup needs to look at the language for the following states: Philadelphia, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Nevada to see if we can use any of their language for regulations.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Wednesday April 29, 2015 at El Segundo FD Station 2, El Segundo, California from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM (Pacific Standard Time).

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned by Chair Laura Blaul at 2:05 PM.

OSFM Advisory Committee XXXXXXXXXXXXX

DAY, DATE

March 26, 2015

ROLL CALL

MEMBER	CONFIRMED Prior to Mtg	TIME:		TIME (Joined/left)	TIME:		TIME (Joined/left)	-Minutes	VOTE - ACTION ITEMS								
		PRESENT	PH		PRESENT	PH			1	2	3	4	5				
1. Beow Blawie		X															
2. Jeff Summers		X															
3. Steve Fox		X															
4. Tom Wickman		X															
5. Robert Rowe		X															
6. Darryl Hickey		X															
7. Wayne W. 157		X															
8. Bruce Crover		X															
9. Jose Collins		X															
10. Patrick O'Leary		X															
11. Bruce Lewis		X															
12. John O'Shea		X															
13. Randy Roston		X															
14. Randy Dystert		X															
15. Darryl Ballman		X															
16. _____		X															
17. _____																	
TOTAL																	
QUORUM (9)																	

Community
Grandfather

Section 130
Adopted

of New
Spencer Center
father

certify qualifications

AES Certification Regulations Workgroup
3/25/15 at 0900

What: Four Presentations → objective overviews of existing programs

Purpose:

- Common understanding of current programs
- Common language
- Determine how they are useful to achieving current goal?

Include:

- Scope
- Requirement highlights
- Success/effectiveness measure (if available)

Length: 20 minutes each

Specifications: Go-to-Meeting: Provide electronic versions

Presenters:

- Steve Fox and guests: Union apprentice progs
- John: AFSA apprentice progs
- Tom: NICET
- Randy: Other States (16 have cert programs)

AES Certification Program Regulations Workgroup Outline

DRAFT 2-25-15

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Enforcement avenue, not convoluted</i>• <i>Ease of enforcement like fire extinguishing as model</i>• <i>Fair, direct enforcement regiment not orchestrated by one side; under control of SFM (AHJ enforcement only)</i>• <i>Simple and clean with enforcement by AHJ – AHJ sees card and no one else asks for card (e.g. Union)</i>• <i>Stop work clause in enforcement for non-compliance with cert (Carver agrees)</i>• <i>Administrative requirements</i> | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

ACTIVITIES:

- Develop regulatory scope and objectives
- Research current programs
- Verify effectiveness
- Draft regs
- Submit to ??
-

RESOURCES:

- AB 433 (Gordon, 2013)
- T19
- Other programs (other States, CA apprenticeship programs, etc.)
- NICET, UST inspector/installer (Water Board)
- CA apprentice progs – AFSA, Locals 483, 669, 709, (Federal Prog)
- Successful training progs (research)
- Participant commitment (time & effort)
- SFM guidance
- SFM support
- Monthly meeting locations

ASSUMPTIONS:

- All stakeholders at table – start running list of impact on other areas (for awareness)
- Participants represent interest group and are authorized to make decisions
- Stakeholders are willing to compromise
- Successful programs currently exist
- SFM committed to program/process
- AES Advisory Committee has no specific expectations
- Budget change approved

FROM SFM:

- Scope: Develop Regs
- Stakeholder Participation
- Transparent & Enforceable Program
- Phased in (does not slow down construction)
- Report regulation recommendation to SFM AES Advisory Committee

Timeline:

- Regs effective January 1, 2016 (Feb 2016)
- Reg package submitted June/July 2015

AES Certification Program Regulations Workgroup Outline

DRAFT 2-25-15

3

IMPACT: Reduced loss of life and property from fires in occupancies protected by AES in CA

RESULTS:

Long: Water-based and pre-engineered systems are effective at controlling fires (%)

Short:

- Quality installations (see FS survey)
- Effective maintenance & testing (see contractor survey); *not* inspections
- Skilled installers
- Skilled maintenance and testing personnel
- No negative impact on construction pace

OUTPUTS:

- Enforcement Program
- Continuing Education Program
- **Draft Regulations for T19 (5.5): Phase I: Installation; Phase II: Testing & Maintenance**
- Certification Program
Can be difficult to enforce multiple, the fewer the better; consider types rather than tiers within a type
- Qualifications
 - Training
 - Experience
- Legacy clause (grandfather)

Output details from group:

Must include/be:	Can't include/be:
<i>Fair program for all, regardless of business model; not one specific program</i>	<i>No permissive language: "may"; Needs to be "AHJ shall"</i>
<i>Clean, easy and doable</i>	<i>No single license/cert per job (not effective)</i>
<i>Break down into tiers to simplify</i>	<i>Weak qualification requirements</i>
<i>Allow specialty contractors – specialty breakdown</i>	
<i>Define min qualifications for levels</i>	<i>3rd party Board of Examiners (use SFM employees)</i>
<i>Cert for installation; separate cert for testing & maintenance</i>	<i>No public domain info on web (AHJ only) – could be used for recruitment</i>
<i>Reciprocal program with other States</i>	<i>Terms journeyman and apprentice can't be in regs Can be used</i>
<i>Test integrity (monitored and controlled through SFM)</i>	
<i>CEU program</i>	
<i>Define who can/will provide CEUs (approved providers)</i>	
<i>Legacy – grandfather in</i>	
<i>Certification for installation; separate cert for testing and maintenance; education for both</i>	
<i>Min training hours for journeyman status (from apprentice to journeyman)</i>	
<i>Performance measure to evaluate effectiveness of training</i>	
<i>Test integrity (monitored and controlled through SFM)</i>	
<i>Renewal process</i>	
<i>Enforcement</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clear path to enforcement</i> 	

AES Certification Program Regulations Workgroup Outline

DRAFT 2-25-15

3

GROUND RULES:

- Use Roberts Rules of Order
- SFM establishes outputs
- Workgroup achieves outputs
- Stick to identified "Activities"
- Tenants before language
- Stay on topic
- Compromise
- No teleconferencing unless informational meeting only
- Alternate members allowed?
 - If yes, must be briefed by member so work effort not slowed
 - Voting?

KEY DECISIONS:

1. Need a 70% majority vote to pass a motion (2/11/15)

AES Certification Regulations Workgroup
3/25/15 at 0900

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