

Alicia Hamilton, Fire Service Training Specialist III (916) 445-6267
Curriculum Development Division alicia.hamilton@fire.ca.gov
1131 S Street
Sacramento, California 95811 Fax (916) 445-8128



Memo

DATE: June 30, 2009
TO: Mike Richwine, Chief
FROM: Alicia Hamilton, FSTS III
RE: Los Angeles County request for a new Driver/Operator certification course

Los Angeles County Fire Department has submitted a course outline for a 40-hour Aerial Truck Apparatus course that they would like to include in the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator I certification track.

I have discussed their proposal letter (see attached PDF file) with Captain Mahan and told him I would have to research the history of the Driver/Operator certification track since the early days had two levels of certification and aerial truck training may fit better in the Level II.

Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Certification History

1982 Career Development Guide (CDG)

Primary development was by Frank Fantino and the Costa Mesa Fire Department. The certification flowchart showed two levels of certification: Driver/Operator I and Driver/Operator II.

The training record and tasks within the CDG did not identify which certification level each task was linked to. The content did cover the entire NFPA 1002 standard that was effective at the time.

- Driver/operating emergency vehicles
- Apparatus equipped with a fire pump
- Apparatus equipped with an aerial ladder
- Apparatus equipped with a tiller
- Apparatus equipped with an elevating platform
- Approved driving course



1983 Career Development Guide (CDG)

This CDG title did list both levels of certification (I and II), but the content once again did not identify which certification level each task was linked to. The content also followed that found in the 1982 CDG edition.

This 1983 CDG was announced in the SFM Newsletter with scheduled completion in early 1985. The announcement encouraged fire fighters to "Get a head start on completing certification requirements.... Order a CDG and start your training today!!!!"

1984 SFM Newsletter

Certification tracks in this newsletter identified Driver Operator I with Pump Operations and Emergency Vehicle Operations the two courses required. Driver Operator II lists in-service training using the CDG as the requirement.

The article explains that Driver/Operator I covers 29 tasks from NFPA 1002 dealing with emergency vehicle and pump operations and Driver/Operator II covers 33 tasks dealing with aerial and other special types of fire apparatus.

Because of the general nature of the content in Driver/Operator I, it will be treated as a statewide certification and, therefore, will be transferable among fire departments. Since specific types of equipment are covered in Driver/Operator II, this certification will remain department-specific and will not be transferable from one department to another.

1984 Career Development Guide (CDG)

This is the first CDG that attempts to separate the two certification levels. The introduction states that Section I identifies the tasks for Driver/Operator I and Section II identifies the tasks for Driver/Operator II. However, there is no Section II in the manual.

The introduction also states that the written tests for both Driver/Operator I and II will be developed, administered, and corrected by the CFSTES. The manipulative test for Driver/Operator I will also be developed by the CFSTES, but administered locally. The manipulative test for Driver/Operator II will be developed and administered locally.

Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator I Certification

The first Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator I certificate was issued on October 11, 1984. The certificate continues to be available today utilizing the same two course requirements and certification guidelines.

Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator II Certification

This certificate has never been issued. After reviewing the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) minutes that advises SFT on certification policy, no action was ever formally taken to remove this level from the certification track. However, no movement has ever occurred.

It is my opinion that SFT may have removed this "local" certification level for Driver/Operator when it changed Fire Fighter II certification from being a local certificate to a statewide certificate. Managing local certification is not a responsibility of SFT.

Resurrecting Driver/Operator II Certification

The 2009 Edition of NFPA 1002 has criteria for the following:

- Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator
- Fire Department Driver/Operator — Pumper
- Fire Department Driver/Operator — Aerial
- Fire Department Driver/Operator — Tiller
- Driver/Operator — Wildland Fire Apparatus
- Fire Department Driver/Operator — Aircraft Rescue And Fire-fighting Apparatus
- Fire Department Driver/Operator — Mobile Water Supply Apparatus

The first four categories were included in previous versions of NFPA 1002 and were included in the CDGs to the extent required by that edition of the standard, with the first two categories included in the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator I level. The last four categories have not been addressed by SFT.

An updated Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Certification Training Standards Guide needs to be developed that looks at the entire standard and determine what and how these categories should be met within the State's certification system.

Based on the original philosophy that the components of Driver/Operator II certification include very specific types of equipment, this certification may still not be applicable at the statewide level.