

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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**ATTACHMENT 9**

Date: August 25, 2016

To: **State Board of Fire Services**

From: Paul Eck, Division Chief  
Fire Engineering

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

Update on proposed regulations of Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Automatic Fire Sprinkler Fitters Certification Program.

**Recommended Actions:**

N/A – Information Only

**Background Information:**

Public safety concerns have been raised by the fire service and the fire sprinkler industry regarding the dangers resulting from the improper installation of fire sprinkler systems in California.

To install fire sprinkler systems in California, a company owner is required to obtain a C-16 license from the Contractor State License Board. A C-16 license holder can employ an installer that has little to no training or experience to install an automatic fire sprinkler system. Furthermore, the C-16 license holder is not required to supervise each installer as work is performed. This creates a potential safety risk to the public in that sprinkler systems may be installed incorrectly.

Health and Safety Code Section 13110 authorizes the State Fire Marshal to propose, adopt, and administer the regulations that he or she deems necessary in order to ensure fire safety in buildings and structures. Pursuant to the authority under HSC 13110, the State Fire Marshal deemed it prudent to establish a program requiring fire sprinkler system installers be regulated.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:****1) Status of the Regulations Package**

The proposed regulation package 45-day public comment period ended March 28, 2016, with a Public Hearing held on April 7, 2016. The comments from the 45-day period and hearing were captured and will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law.

An additional 15-day Public Comment period was held and ended on August 11, 2016. It provided all information requested that was not posted in the original 45-day Public Comment; including the cost analysis from the non-union fitters, the survey from the Fire Service, and details of the individual verification process.

## **2) Modifications to the Proposed Language**

We received over three hundred public comments on the text as originally noticed. Upon review and analysis of the comments received, it was determined that modifications to the text were necessary. The reference documents that were relied upon for the proposed language were provided for clarification of the proposal through text modifications, and correct typographical errors to the text and forms. The most noteworthy change was to the name of the verification program.

Originally called the Job Related Experience Program (JREP), the JREP name was changed to Job Related Training and Experience Review (JRTER) to better describe its purpose, which is to provide a means of validating time and work experience, and not to provide a “training program”.

## **3) Review Process of the Job Related Training and Experience Review JRTER**

Fire Sprinkler Installers wishing to have their past employment evaluated as the basis for licensing under the proposed regulations will submit their documentation for State Fire Marshal Job Related Training and Experience Review (JRTER).

These applications would be reviewed by a five-member Board chaired by a representative of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The proposed structure of the JRTER Board is to have one representative from each of the following groups:

- Union Labor
- Non-Union Labor
- Joint Apprenticeship Committee
- Division of Apprenticeship Standards

Any appeal to the decision of this board will be made in writing to the Chief of the Fire Engineering Division.