



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin

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Laws and Regulations Requirements for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance, of Water Based Fire Protection Systems California Code of Regulations Title 19/NFPA 25, 2006 California Edition

Question 1. Where can I find the law and the regulations that govern the inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection systems?

Answer: For the law (statute) see Health and Safety Code (H&S) 13195. You can view the law by visiting: www.leginfo.ca.gov and clicking on "California Law", then click on Health and Safety Code and type in the Section (13195). For the regulations see Title 19, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Chapter 5. Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems. You can view the regulations by visiting: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pdf/fireengineering/fe/AESLawsRegs.pdf>.

Question 2. Can a company holding a State Fire Marshal "A" License *repair* fire protection system components?

Answer: Yes. Pursuant to the Business and Professions Code Section 7048, a State Fire Marshal "A" Licensed company may repair a water based fire protection system up to the \$500 limit (for labor, materials, and all other items) specified by the Contractors State Licensing Board.

Question 3. Can a company holding a State Fire Marshal "A" License *replace* fire protection system components?

Answer: Yes. Pursuant to the Business and Professions Code 7048, a State Fire Marshal "A" Licensed company may replace water based fire protection system components up to the \$500 limit (for labor, materials, and all other items) specified by the Contractors State Licensing Board.

Question 4. Is a CSLB, C-16 Licensed Contractor required to follow the requirements of Title 19 CCR Regulations adopted by the State Fire Marshal (SFM)?

Answer: Yes. Health & Safety Code Section 13195 requires the SFM to develop regulations to establish and control a program for the inspection, testing, maintenance of automatic extinguishing systems. H&S 13196.5 (d) exempts a specialty contractor as defined in the Business and Professions Code 7058 from the *licensing* requirements of the SFM.

Question 5. Is a CSLB, C-16 Licensed Contractor required to obtain a State Fire Marshal license in order to conduct inspection, testing and maintenance of water based fire protection systems in accordance with the requirements of Title 19 CCR Regulations adopted by the State Fire Marshal (SFM)?

Answer: No. Health and Safety Code 13196.5 (d) exempts a specialty contractor as defined in the Business and Professions Code 7058 from *licensing* requirements.

Question 6. What kind of license is required to measure the voltage and amp readings during a test of an electric fire pump?

Answer: Either a CSLB C-16 License (Fire Protection Contractor), a CSFM "A" License (Automatic Extinguishing Systems Concern), or a CSLB C-10 License (Electrical Contractor).

Question 7. Is the owner or his designee permitted to conduct a visual examination (*inspect*) a system in a building he or she owns?

Answer: The owner or his designee is only permitted to *inspect* a fire protection system in a building he or she owns subject to Title 19 Section 904.1(a) which requires the owner to be competent through training and experience.

If you have further questions, please contact Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal James Parsegian at james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov or (916) 445-8415.

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>