

7. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed rule changes to 37 TAC, Chapter 441, Continuing Education, including, but not limited to §441.3, Definitions; §441.5, Requirements; §441.7, Continuing Education for Structure Fire Protection Personnel; §441.9, Continuing Education for Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel; §441.11, Continuing Education for Marine Fire Protection Personnel; §441.13, Continuing Education for Fire Inspection Personnel; §441.15, Continuing Education for Arson Investigator or Fire Investigator; §441.17, Continuing Education for Hazardous Materials Technician; §441.19, Continuing Education for Head of a Fire Department; §441.21, Continuing Education for Fire Service Instructor.

CHAPTER 441
CONTINUING EDUCATION

§441.3. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Certification period--That period from the time a certificate is obtained or renewed until it is time for the certificate to be renewed again. See §437.5 of this title (relating to renewal fees) for the definition of certification period.
- (2) **Continuing Education Track A**—Training intended to maintain previously learned skills as stated in the **Commission** ~~commission~~ certification curriculum manual for the certifications held, **and in subjects and hours designated by the Commission.**
- (3) ~~Track B—Fire service training or education intended to develop new skills that are not contained in the commission's certification curriculum manual for certifications held.~~

§441.5. Requirements.

- (a) Continuing education shall be required in order to renew certification which has a continuing education requirement stated in this chapter.
- (b) The continuing education requirement for renewal of certification shall consist of a minimum of 20 hours of training to be conducted during the certification period. Only 20 total hours of continuing education shall be required to renew all Texas Commission on Fire Protection certificates if any individual holds more than one certificate, except as provided in §441.17 of this title (relating to Continuing Education for Hazardous Materials Technician). All documentation of training used to satisfy the continuing education requirements must be maintained for a period of three years from the date of the training. Continuing education records shall be maintained by the department in accordance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, State and Local Records Management Division, Records Schedule, Local Schedule (GR 1050-28), whichever is greater.
- (c) **Continuing Education Track A** training must be conducted by a certified instructor. Interactive computer-based continuing education training that is supervised and verified by a certified instructor is acceptable **except for rapid intervention and live fire training.**
- (d) The continuing education program of a regulated entity must be administered and maintained in accordance with **Commission** ~~commission~~-rule by a certified instructor.
- (e) **Of those subjects designated by the Commission for continuing education, no** ~~Ne~~ more than four hours per year in any one subject of the appropriate chapter of the ~~commission's Certification Curriculum Manual~~ may be counted toward the ~~20-hour~~ continuing education requirement for ~~Track A~~.
- (f) **Documentation of continuing education training shall be reported to the Commission within 30 days following the completion of the training.**
- (f) ~~There shall be no "hour per subject limit" placed on Track B courses, except that emergency~~

~~medical courses shall be limited to four hours per year.~~

~~(g) The head of a fire department may select subject matter for continuing education appropriate for a particular discipline.~~

(h)-(l) NO CHANGE.

(m) An individual certificate holder, not employed by a regulated entity, shall submit documentation of continuing education training **within 30 days following the completion of the training.** ~~at the time of renewal. An example of documentation of continuing education training may include, but not be limited to a Certificate of Completion, a college or training facility transcript, a fire department training roster, etc.~~ Commission staff will review and may approve or disapprove such documentation of training in accordance with applicable **Commission** ~~commission~~ rules and/or procedures. The training for a resident of Texas at the time the continuing education training is conducted shall be administered by a **Commission** ~~commission~~ instructor, **Commission** ~~commission~~ certified training facility, an accredited institution of higher education, or a military or nationally recognized provider of training. The training for a nonresident of Texas, shall be delivered by a state fire academy, a fire department training facility, an accredited institution of higher education, or a military or nationally recognized provider of training. The individual must submit training documentation to the **Commission** ~~commission~~ for evaluation of the equivalency of the training required by this chapter. The individual certificate holder is responsible for maintaining all of his/her training records for a period of three years from the date of the training.

(n) If an individual has completed a **Commission** ~~commission~~ approved academy in the 12 months prior to his or her certification expiration date, a copy of that certificate of completion will be acceptable documentation of continuing education for that certification renewal period.

§441.7. Continuing Education for Structure Fire Protection Personnel.

(a) Continuing education will be required for personnel certified as structure fire protection personnel.

(b) Continuing education for Structure Fire Protection certification shall may be chosen from the following subjects:

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

Personal Protective Clothing

Fire Fighter Safety

Hazardous Materials

Fire Cause Determination

Rescue

Incident Management/Command

Pre-Incident Planning

Rapid Intervention

Live Fire

~~(b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from either Track A, Track B, or a combination of the two.~~

§441.9. Continuing Education for Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel.

(a) Continuing education will be required for personnel assigned as aircraft rescue fire fighting

personnel.

- (b) Continuing education must, at a minimum, meet the specific training requirements of FAR 139.319(i)(2) and (3) (pertaining to Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Operational Requirements). Continuing education required by this subsection may exceed 20 hours, if necessary, to complete all required subjects.
- (c) Continuing education for Aircraft Rescue Fire Protection certification may be chosen from the following subjects:**

Airport Familiarization: Signs, Markings, and Lighting
Aircraft Familiarization
Rescue
Emergency Aircraft Evacuation
Safety
Emergency Communications
Extinguishing Agents
Aircraft Cargo Hazards
Airport Emergency Plans
Live Fire

§441.11. Continuing Education for Marine Fire Protection Personnel.

- (a) Continuing education will be required for personnel certified as marine fire protection personnel for any certification period beginning after October 31, 1993.
- (b) Continuing education for Marine Fire Protection certification may be chosen from the following subjects:**

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
Personal Protective Clothing,
Fire Fighter Safety
Hazardous Materials
Merchant Vessel Orientation
Marine Rescue Operations
Incident Management/Command
Shipboard Fire Protection, Emergency Equipment and Systems
Water Survival
Live Fire

- (b) ~~Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from either Track A, Track B, or a combination of the two.~~

§441.13. Continuing Education for Fire Inspection Personnel.

- (a) Continuing education will be required for personnel certified as fire inspection personnel.
- (b) Continuing education for Fire Inspector certification may be chosen from the following subjects:**

Occupancy Types
Construction Types
Fire Protection/Suppression Systems
Portable Extinguishers
Occupant Emergency Planning and Preparedness
Hazardous Materials
Fire Behavior
Codes and Ordinances
Plan Reviews
Reports and Records

- ~~(b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from either Track A, Track B, or a combination of the two.~~

§441.15. Continuing Education for Arson Investigator or Fire Investigator.

- (a) Continuing education will be required for personnel certified as arson investigation or fire investigation personnel.

(b) Continuing education for Fire Investigator certification may be chosen from the following subjects:

Legal Considerations
Interviews and Interrogation
Investigation Documentation
Physical Evidence
Fire Patterns
Cause and Origin Determination
Accidental Fires
Incendiary Fires
Fire Science
Hazardous Materials

- ~~(b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from either Track A, Track B, or a combination of the two.~~

§441.17. Continuing Education for Hazardous Materials Technician.

- (a) Ten hours of continuing education in hazardous materials (technician level) will be required for individuals certified as a hazardous materials technician. This will be in addition to continuing education required by other sections of this chapter.

(b) Continuing education for Hazardous Materials Technician certification may be chosen from the following subjects:

Codes, Laws, Standards
Containers, Markings, Colors
Detection, Identification, Monitoring Equipment
Personal Protective Equipment
Incident Management/Command
Decontamination

Responder Safety
Toxicity and Health Effects
Data Collection and Interpretation
Control Equipment and Techniques

~~(b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from either Track A or Track B, or a combination of the two.~~

§441.19. Continuing Education for Head of a Fire Department.

(a) Continuing education will be required for personnel certified as head of a fire department.

(b) Continuing education for Head of Department certification may be chosen from the following subjects:

Human Resource Management
Community Relations
Government Relations
Administration
Emergency Services Delivery
Disaster Planning
Risk Management
Program Development and Implementation
Program Analysis
Incident Management/Command

~~(b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from either Track A, Track B, or a combination of the two.~~

§441.21. Continuing Education for Fire Service Instructor.

(a) Continuing education will be required for individuals certified as a fire service instructor.

(b) Continuing education for Fire Service Instructor certification may be chosen from the following subjects:

Instructional Techniques
Instructional Delivery
Evaluation and Testing
Lesson Plan Development
Training Program Management/Administration
Training Reports and Records
Instructional Aids and Equipment
Learning Characteristics

~~(b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from either Track A or Track B, or a combination of the two.~~

(c) Persons holding Fire Service Instructor certification may use the hours from any fire protection classes they have conducted to satisfy continuing education requirements, provided no more than 4 hours conducted in any one subject may be counted toward the total required.