

5. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to 37 TAC, Chapter 429, Minimum Standards for Fire Inspectors, Subchapter B, Minimum Standards for Fire Inspector Certification, including, but not limited to, §429.201 Minimum Standards for Fire Inspection Personnel, §429.203 Minimum Standards for Basic Fire Inspector Certification, §429.205 Minimum Standards for Intermediate Fire Inspector Certification, §429.207 Minimum Standards for Advanced Fire Inspector Certification, §429.209 Minimum Standards for Master Fire Inspector Certification, and §429.211 International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.

# Chapter 429

## MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE INSPECTORS

### ~~[SUBCHAPTER B]~~

#### ~~[Minimum Standards for Fire Inspector Certification]~~

#### **§429.201. Minimum Standards for Fire Inspector Personnel[ ~~—New Track.~~]**

- (a) Fire protection personnel of a governmental entity who are appointed to fire code enforcement duties must be certified, as a minimum, as a basic fire inspector as specified in §429.203 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Fire Inspector Certification[~~—New Track~~]) within one year of initial appointment to such position.
- (b) Prior to being appointed to fire code enforcement duties, all personnel must complete a Commission-approved basic fire inspection training program and successfully pass the Commission examination pertaining to that curriculum.
- (c) Individuals holding any level of fire inspector certification shall be required to comply with the continuing education requirements in §441.13 of this title (relating to Continuing Education for Fire Inspection Personnel).
- (d) Code enforcement is defined as the enforcement of laws, codes, and ordinances of the authority having jurisdiction pertaining to fire prevention.

**(e) Any regulated firefighter that holds at least a Basic Fire Inspector Certification through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) and is required to perform inspections as part of their regularly assigned duties shall be considered by TCFP as also being in the Fire Inspector discipline for purposes of attaining higher levels of certification. Inspection will include any inspection that requires a TCFP certified inspector.**

#### **§429.203. Minimum Standards for Basic Fire Inspector Certification[ ~~—New Track.~~]**

In order to be certified as a basic fire inspector, an individual must:

- (1) possess valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress as an Inspector I, Inspector II, and Plans Examiner I; or
- (2) complete a Commission-approved Basic Fire Inspector program and successfully pass the Commission examination(s) as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved basic fire inspection training program shall consist of one or any combination of the following:
  - (A) completion of the Commission-approved Basic Fire Inspector Curriculum, as specified in Chapter 4 of the Commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or
  - (B) successful completion of an out-of-state, NFA, and/or military training program which has been submitted to the Commission for evaluation and found to meet the minimum requirements as listed in the Commission-approved Basic Fire Inspector Curriculum as specified in Chapter 4 of the Commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or
  - (C) successful completion of the following college courses:
    - (i) Fire Protection Systems, three semester hours;
    - (ii) Fire Prevention, three semester hours; or Fire Prevention Codes and Inspections, three semester hours;
    - (iii) Building Code, three semester hours;

- (iv) Building Construction, three semester hours;
- (v) Hazardous Materials, three semester hours. (Total semester hours, 15\*. NOTE: Building Code and Building Construction may be combined into a single three-semester hour class. If this is the case, the total semester hours may be reduced to 12. Hazardous Materials I or II may be used to satisfy the requirements of Hazardous Materials).

**§429.205. Minimum Standards for Intermediate Fire Inspector Certification[ ~~—New Track.~~]**

Applicants for Intermediate Fire Inspector certification holding a prerequisite Basic Fire Inspector certification as defined in §429.203 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Fire Inspector Certification [ ~~—New Track.~~]) must have acquired four (4) years experience appointed as a fire inspector.

**§429.207. Minimum Standards for Advanced Fire Inspector Certification[~~—New Track.~~]**

Applicants for Advanced Fire Inspector Certification must complete the following requirements:

- (1) hold as a prerequisite an Intermediate Fire Inspector certification as defined in §429.205 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Intermediate Fire Inspector Certification[~~—New Track.~~]);
- (2) acquire as a minimum eight (8) years experience appointed as a fire inspector; and
- (3) show successful completion of Fire Inspector III and Plans Examiner II courses meeting the applicable job performance requirements as identified in NFPA 1031, Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner.

**§429.209. Minimum Standards for Master Fire Inspector Certification[ ~~—New Track.~~]**

(a) Applicants for Master Fire Inspector Certification must complete the following requirements:

- (1) hold as a prerequisite an Advanced Fire Inspector certification as defined in §429.207 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Advanced Fire Inspector Certification[ ~~—New Track.~~]); and
- (2) acquire a minimum of 12 years experience appointed as a fire inspector, and 60 college semester hours or an associate degree, which includes at least 18 college semester hours in fire science subjects.

(b) College level courses from both the upper and lower division may be used to satisfy the education requirement for Master Fire Inspector Certification.

**§429.211. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal[ ~~—New Track.~~]**

(a) Individuals who hold commission Fire Inspector certification prior to January 1, 2005, may be granted International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) seals for Inspector I and Inspector II by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seals and paying applicable fees.

(b) Individuals who hold commission Fire Inspector certification prior to January 1, 2005, may apply to test for Plan Examiner I. Upon successful completion of the examination an IFSAC seal for Plan Examiner I may be granted by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying the applicable fee.

~~[(c) Individuals who pass the applicable state examination prior to January 1, 2005, may be granted IFSAC seals for Inspector I and Inspector II by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seals and paying applicable fees.]~~

~~[(d) Individuals who pass the applicable state examination prior to January 1, 2005, may apply to test for Plan Examiner I. Upon successful completion of the examination an IFSAC seal for Plan Examiner I may be granted by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying the applicable fee.]~~

**(c)(e)** Individuals who pass the applicable section of the state examination on or after January 1, 2005, may be granted IFSAC seal(s) for Inspector I, Inspector II, and/or Plan Examiner I by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal(s) and paying the applicable fees, provided they meet the following provisions:

- (1) To receive the IFSAC Inspector I seal, the individual must:

(A) complete the Inspector I section of a commission-approved course; and

(B) pass the Inspector I section of a commission examination.

(2) To receive the IFSAC Inspector II seal, the individual must:

(A) complete the Inspector II section of a commission-approved course;

(B) document possession of an IFSAC Inspector I seal; and

(C) pass the Inspector II section of a commission examination.

(3) To receive the IFSAC Plan Examiner I seal, the individual must:

(A) complete the Plan Examiner I section of a commission-approved course; and

(B) pass the Plan Examiner I section of a commission examination.