

10. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes for acceptance of Texas Engineering Extension (TEEX) ProBoard certification, including but not limited to the following:
- f. Title 37 TAC, Chapter 451, Fire Officer, Subchapter A, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer I, §451.1 Fire Officer I Certification, §451.3, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer I Certification, §451.5, Examination Requirements, and §451.7, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal, Subchapter B, Minimum Standards For Fire Officer II, §451.201, Fire Officer II Certification, §451.203, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer II Certification, §451.205, Examination Requirements, and §451.207 International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal, Subchapter C, Minimum Standards For Fire Officer III, §451.302, Fire Officer III Certification, §451.303, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III Certification, and §451.305, Examination Requirements, Subchapter D, Minimum Standards For Fire Officer IV, §451.401 Fire Officer IV Certification, §451.403, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV Certification, and §451.405, Examination Requirements.

CHAPTER 451

FIRE OFFICER

SUBCHAPTER A

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER I

§451.1 Fire Officer I Certification.

A Fire Officer I is defined as an individual who may supervise fire personnel during emergency and non-emergency work periods; serve in a public relations capacity with members of the community; implement departmental policies and procedures at the unit level; secure fire scenes and perform fire investigations to determine preliminary cause; conduct pre-incident planning; supervise emergency operations; or ensure a safe working environment for all personnel.

§451.3 Minimum Standards for Fire Officer I Certification.

(a) In order to be certified as a Fire Officer I an individual must:

- (1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and
 - (2) hold Fire Service Instructor I certification through the **commission** [~~Commission~~]; and
 - (A) possess valid documentation **as a Fire Fighter II and Fire Officer I** [~~of accreditation~~] from **either** the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress **or the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service** [~~as Fire Fighter II and Fire Officer I~~]; or
 - (B) complete a **commission** [~~Commission~~] approved Fire Officer I program and successfully pass the **commission** [~~Commission~~] examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Fire Officer I program must consist of one of the following:
 - (i) completion of a **commission** [~~Commission~~] approved Fire Officer I Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the **commission's** [~~Commission's~~] Certification Curriculum Manual;
 - (ii) completion of an out-of-state and/or military training program that has been submitted to the **commission** [~~Commission~~] for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceed the **commission** [~~Commission~~] approved Fire Officer I Curriculum; or
 - (iii) successful completion of 12 college semester hours consisting of the following courses or their equivalent:
 - (I) Fire Prevention Codes and Inspections, 3 semester hours;
 - (II) Fire and Arson Investigation I or II, 3 semester hours;
 - (III) Fire Administration I, 3 semester hours; and
 - (IV) Firefighting Strategies and Tactics I or II, 3 semester hours.
- (b) Out-of-state or military training programs which are submitted to the **commission** [~~Commission~~] for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 9 (pertaining to Fire Officer I) of the **commission's** [~~Commission's~~] Certification Curriculum Manual are met.

- (c) College courses will be considered equivalent if the course description is substantially similar to the course description contained in the Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM) from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

§451.5 Examination Requirements.

- (a) Examination requirements of Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive Fire Officer I certification.
- (b) Individuals will be permitted to take the Commission examination for Fire Officer I certification by documenting the following: Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification and Fire Service Instructor certification through the Commission or the equivalent IFSAC seals, and completing a Commission-approved Fire Officer I curriculum.

§451.7 International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.

- (a) Individuals holding a current commission Fire Officer I certification received prior to March 10, 2003, may be granted an International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) seal as a Fire Officer I by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees.
- (b) Individuals completing a commission-approved Fire Officer I program, documenting an IFSAC seal for Fire Fighter II and Instructor I, and passing the applicable state examination may be granted an IFSAC seal as a Fire Officer I by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees.

CHAPTER 451

FIRE OFFICER

SUBCHAPTER B

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER II

§451.201 Fire Officer II Certification.

A Fire Officer II is defined as an individual who may evaluate the performance of personnel; deliver public education programs; prepare budget requests, news releases, and policy changes; conduct inspections and investigations; supervise multi-unit emergency operations; and identify unsafe work environments and take preventive action; or review injury, accident, and health exposure reports. Individuals who perform inspections must comply with Chapter 429 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Fire Inspectors). Individuals who perform investigations must comply with Chapter 431 of *this title (relating to Fire Investigation)*.

§451.203 Minimum Standards for Fire Officer II Certification.

(a) In order to be certified as a Fire Officer II an individual must:

(1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and

(2) hold Fire Officer I certification through the **commission** [~~Commission~~]; and

(3) hold, as a minimum, Fire Service Instructor I certification through the **commission** [~~Commission~~]; and

(A) possess valid documentation **as a Fire Officer II** [~~of accreditation~~] from **either** the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress **or the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service** [~~as Fire Officer II~~]; or

(B) complete a **commission** [~~Commission~~] approved Fire Officer II program and successfully pass the **commission** [~~Commission~~] examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Fire Officer II program must consist of one of the following:

(i) completion of a **commission** [~~Commission~~] approved Fire Officer II Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the **commission's** [~~Commission's~~] Certification Curriculum Manual;

(ii) completion of an out-of-state and/or military training program that has been submitted to the **commission** [~~Commission~~] for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceed the **commission** [~~Commission~~] approved Fire Officer II Curriculum; or

(iii) successful completion of 15 college semester hours consisting of the following courses or their equivalent:

(I) Fire Prevention Codes and Inspections, 3 semester hours;

(II) Fire and Arson Investigation I or II, 3 semester hours;

(III) Fire Administration I, 3 semester hours;

(IV) Fire Administration II or Company Fire Officer, 3 semester hours; and

(V) Firefighting Strategies and Tactics I or II, 3 semester hours.

- (b) Out-of-state or military training programs which are submitted to the **commission** [Commission] for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 9 (pertaining to Fire Officer) of the **commission's** [Commission's] Certification Curriculum Manual are met.
- (c) College courses will be considered equivalent if the course description is substantially similar to the course description contained in the Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM) from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

§451.205 Examination Requirements.

- (a) Examination requirements of Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive Fire Officer II certification.
- (b) Individuals will be permitted to take the Commission examination for Fire Officer II certification by documenting the following: Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification, Fire Service Instructor certification and Fire Officer I certification through the Commission or the equivalent IFSAC seals, and completing a Commission-approved Fire Officer II curriculum.

§451.207 International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.

- (a) Individuals holding a current Commission Fire Officer II certification received prior to March 10, 2003, may be granted an International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) seal as a Fire Officer II by making application to the Commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees.
- (b) Individuals completing a Commission-approved Fire Officer II program; documenting IFSAC seals for Fire Fighter II, Instructor I and Fire Officer I; and passing the applicable state examination, may be granted an IFSAC seal as a Fire Officer II by making application to the Commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees.

CHAPTER 451

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SUBCHAPTER C

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER III

§451.301 Fire Officer III Certification.

A Fire Officer III is a midlevel supervisor who performs both supervisory and first-line managerial functions who has met all the job performance and certification requirements of Fire Officer II as defined in NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications. Typical duties of an individual at the Fire Officer III level include: establishing procedures for hiring, assignment, and professional development of personnel; developing public service/partnership and programs; preparing budgets and budget management systems; planning for organizational resource management; evaluating inspection and public safety programs and plans; managing multi-agency plans and operations; serving as Incident Commander at expanding emergency incidents for all hazard types; and developing and managing a departmental safety program.

§451.303 Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III Certification.

(a) In order to be certified as a Fire Officer III an individual must:

- (1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and
- (2) hold Fire Officer II certification through the commission; and
- (3) hold, as a minimum, Fire Service Instructor II certification through the commission; and
- (4) document completion of ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System; and
- (5) possess valid documentation **as a Fire Officer III** ~~[of accreditation]~~ from **either** the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress **or the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service** ~~[as Fire Officer III]~~; or
- (6) complete a commission approved Fire Officer III program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Fire Officer III program must consist of one of the following:
 - (A) completion of a commission approved Fire Officer III Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;
 - (B) completion of an out-of-state and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceed the commission approved Fire Officer III Curriculum; or
 - (C) successful completion of 15 college semester hours of upper level coursework from a four-year regionally accredited institution in any of the following subject areas:
 - (i) Administration/Management
 - (ii) Budget/Finance
 - (iii) Planning/Organization
 - (iv) Leadership/Ethics

(v) Risk Management

(vi) Safety and Health

(vii) Community Risk Reduction

- (7) Special temporary provision: Within one year following the effective date of this rule, an individual is eligible to take the commission examination for Fire Officer III upon documentation to the commission that the individual has completed training that covers the requirements of NFPA 1021, Chapter 6. The documentation of completed training must be a certificate of completion from a nationally recognized training provider. During the one year period, the commission examination shall consist of a written exam. The examination requirements in §451.305(b) of this subchapter (relating to Examination Requirements) must still be met. This paragraph expires one year from the effective date of this rule.
- (8) The application processing fee for the initial examination is waived for individuals in paragraphs (6) and (7) of this subsection who have completed the training requirement and submit the application for the commission examination for one year from the effective date of this rule. After this date, the application processing fee for examinations will be required.
- (b) Out-of-state or military training programs which are submitted to the commission for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 9 (pertaining to Fire Officer) of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual are met.

§451.305 Examination Requirements.

- (a) Examination requirements of Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive Fire Officer III certification.
- (b) Individuals will be permitted to take the commission examination for Fire Officer III certification by documenting the following: Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification, Fire Service Instructor II certification and Fire Officer II certification through the commission or the equivalent IFSAC seals, and completing a commission approved Fire Officer III program.

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FIRE OFFICER

SUBCHAPTER D

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER IV

§451.401 Fire Officer IV Certification.

A Fire Officer IV is an upper level supervisor who performs both supervisory and managerial functions who has met all the job performance and certification requirements of Fire Officer III as defined in NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications. Typical duties of an individual at the Fire Officer IV level include: Administering job performance requirements; evaluating and making improvements to department operations; developing long-range plans and fiscal projections; developing plans for major disasters; serving as Incident Commander at major incidents for all hazard types; and administering comprehensive risk management programs.

§451.403 Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV Certification.

(a) In order to be certified as a Fire Officer IV an individual must:

- (1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and
- (2) hold Fire Officer III certification through the commission; and
- (3) document completion of ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System; and
- (4) possess valid documentation **as a Fire Officer IV** [of accreditation] from **either** the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress **or the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service** [as Fire Officer IV]; or
- (5) complete a commission approved Fire Officer IV program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Fire Officer IV program must consist of one of the following:
 - (A) completion of a commission approved Fire Officer IV Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;
 - (B) completion of an out-of-state and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceed the commission approved Fire Officer IV Curriculum; or
 - (C) successful attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution in any of the following:
 - (i) Fire Science/Administration/Management
 - (ii) Emergency Management
 - (iii) Public Administration
 - (iv) Emergency Medicine
 - (v) Business Management/Administration
 - (vi) Political Science

- (vii) Human Resources Management
 - (viii) Public Health
 - (ix) Risk Management
 - (x) Criminal Justice; or
 - (xi) a related management/administration/leadership degree.
- (6) Special temporary provision: Within one year following the effective date of this rule, an individual is eligible to take the commission examination for Fire Officer IV upon documentation to the commission that the individual has completed training that covers the requirements of NFPA 1021, Chapter 7. The documentation of completed training must be a certificate of completion from a nationally recognized training provider. During the one year period, the commission examination shall consist of a written exam. The examination requirements in §451.405(b) of this subchapter (relating to Examination Requirements) must still be met. This paragraph expires one year from the effective date of this rule.
- (7) The application processing fee for the initial examination is waived for individuals in paragraphs (5) and (6) of this subsection who have completed the training requirement and submit the application for the commission examination for one year from the effective date of this rule. After this date, the application processing fee for examinations will be required.
- (b) Out-of-state or military training programs which are submitted to the commission for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 9 (pertaining to Fire Officer) of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual are met.

§451.405 Examination Requirements.

- (a) Examination requirements of Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive Fire Officer IV certification.
- (b) Individuals will be permitted to take the commission examination for Fire Officer IV certification by documenting the following: Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification and Fire Officer III certification through the commission or the equivalent IFSAC seals, and completing a commission approved Fire Officer IV program.