

8. **Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 451, Fire Officer, including but not limited to, Subchapter C, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III, §451.303, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III Certification, Subchapter D, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV, and §451.403, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV Certification.**

CHAPTER 451

FIRE OFFICER

SUBCHAPTER C

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER III

§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; from either:
 - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or
 - (B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1(a)(2) of this title (relating to Requirements—General); 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; or

(vii) Community Risk Reduction.

[~~(7) Special temporary provision: Through February 2014, 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.~~]

(7)~~(8)~~ Special temporary provision: Through February 2015, an individual is eligible for Fire Officer III certification upon documentation of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline.

[~~(9) 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.

CHAPTER 451

FIRE OFFICER

SUBCHAPTER D

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER IV

§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; from either:
 - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or
 - (B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1(a)(2) of this title (relating to Requirements—General); 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: Through February 2014, 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.~~]

(6)~~(7)~~ Special temporary provision: Through February 2015, an individual is eligible for Fire Officer IV certification upon documentation of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline.

[~~(8) 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.