

11. Matters referred from the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee (FFAC), including but not limited to:

A. Discussion and possible action on proposed amendments, new sections, and repeals as follows:

- 8. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed amendments to title 37 TAC, Chapter 451, Fire Officer.**

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; and

(A) possess valid documentation as a Fire Fighter II and Fire Officer I from either:

(i) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or

(ii) 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

(B) complete a commission approved Fire Officer I program and successfully pass the 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 approved Fire Officer I Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;

(ii) 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 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 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 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. **This subsection will expire on August 1, 2016.**
- (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.

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; and
- (3) hold, as a minimum, Fire Service Instructor I certification through the commission; and
 - (A) possess valid documentation as Fire Officer II; from either:
 - (i) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or
 - (ii) 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
 - (B) complete a commission approved Fire Officer II program and successfully pass the 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 approved Fire Officer II Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;
 - (ii) 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 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 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.
- (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. **This subsection will expire on August 1, 2016.**
- (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.