

11. Discussion and possible action on current commission proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 451, Fire Officer, including but not limited to, Subchapter C, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III, new §451.307, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal; and Subchapter D, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV, new §451.407, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.

CHAPTER 451

FIRE OFFICER

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; 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 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.

(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.

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

- (a) Individuals holding a current commission Fire Officer III certification *that was issued from a commission examination and* received prior to September 1, 2016, may be granted an International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) seal as a Fire Officer III by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees. This subsection will expire on August 31, 2017.**
- (b) Individuals completing a commission approved Fire Officer III program; documenting IFSAC seals for Fire Fighter II, Instructor II and Fire Officer II; and passing the applicable state examination, may be granted an IFSAC seal as a Fire Officer III by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees. *In order to qualify for an IFSAC seal, an individual must submit the application for the seal prior to the expiration of the examination.***

CHAPTER 451

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; 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 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.
- (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.

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

- (a) Individuals holding a current commission Fire Officer IV certification *that was issued from a commission examination and* received prior to September 1, 2016, may be granted an International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) seal as a Fire Officer IV by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees. This subsection will expire on August 31, 2017.**
- (b) Individuals completing a commission approved Fire Officer IV program; documenting IFSAC seals for Fire Fighter II, Instructor II and Fire Officer III; and passing the applicable state examination, may be granted an IFSAC seal as a Fire Officer IV by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees. *In order to qualify for an IFSAC seal, an individual must submit the application for the seal prior to the expiration of the examination.***