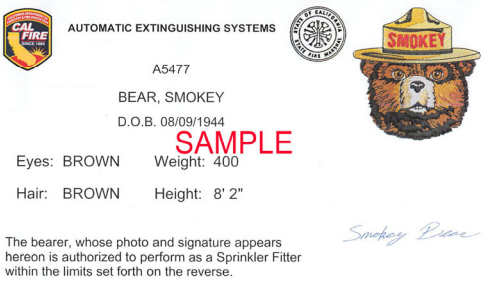
CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
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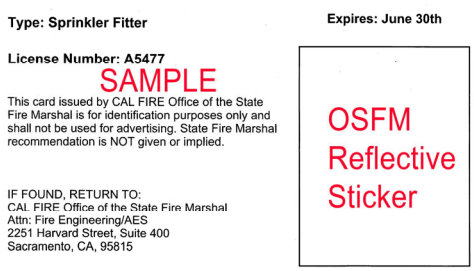
2019 FIRE SPRINKLER FITTER CERTIFICATION

As part of the implementation of the new Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification Program, effective January 1, 2019 any person who installs, alters, or repairs water-based fire protection systems in a multi-family or commercial building is required to possess a certification card from CAL FIRE-Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). All Apprentices and Trainees shall possess a registration card as shown below.

Sample Certification Card



Sample Sprinkler Fitter card.



Sample back of card.

Additionally, the back of the certification card will have a reflective sticker indicting the year and certification type. The 2018-2019 Multi-Family Residential Certification card holder will receive a white sticker and the 2018-2019 Commercial Certification and Apprentices/Trainee card holders will receive a yellow sticker.

Sample Certification Stickers



Sample Commercial Sticker



Sample Multi-Family Residential Sticker

Over 5,000 Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification and registration cards have been issued. In addition, some fitters have been issued a letter from the OSFM acting as a temporary certificate. These temporary letters are issued in lieu of cards, and can be verified at any time by contacting the OSFM.

Enforcement
In California Code of Regulations Title 19, Chapter 5.5, Article 4 details the enforcement of the Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification Program. The State Fire Marshal, their designee, and the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) are authorized to inspect project worksites where work on fire protection systems is being performed to ensure that persons performing the work possess valid certifications or registrations as required by this Chapter. All workers are required to provide proof of applicable certification or registration card. Sections 928 through 933 lay out the penalties and corrective actions for violating these regulations.

Resources
For all regulatory requirements for Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification, please go to the following link:
http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/aes/aeslawsregs(rev2017).pdf

Additional information about the Program can be found in the 2017 Information Bulletin:
http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/informationbulletin/pdf/2017/IB_AESCert_final_05_25_17.pdf

2018 Information Bulletin: http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/informationbulletin/pdf/2018/2018-001%20-%20IB%20%20AES%20SF%20Implementation%20Period.pdf

Any further questions, please contact us via email at AES@fire.ca.gov.

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NEW Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems Certification
(Water-Based Fire Protection)
CCR, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 5.5

Following the passage of Assembly Bill 433 in 2013 new regulations will go into effect July 1, 2017 requiring Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems (AES) Sprinkler Pipefitters to be certified by the CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (CAL FIRE – OSFM). The new regulations will require anyone who installs or repairs water-based fire protection systems to possess the necessary skills and qualifications to safely and properly install the system so that it will be operable in its time of need.

The new law added Section 13110 to the Health and Safety Code which authorized the State Fire Marshal to propose, adopt, and administer the regulations he/she deems necessary to ensure fire safety in buildings and structures within this state. Regulations were developed with the help of a workgroup consisting of representatives from industry, labor, enforcing agencies, and CAL FIRE – OSFM staff.

Work Covered

- Work consisting of the installation, alteration or repair of all water-based fire protection systems including: wet, dry, pre-action, and deluge sprinkler systems, small hose connections, standpipe systems, private fire service mains and their appurtenances, hydrants and monitor nozzles, water spray systems, foam water systems, fire pumps, water storage tanks, low, medium, and high expansion foam systems, and water mist systems.
- Includes all occupancies required to have a fire sprinkler system, or those voluntarily installed fire sprinkler systems, except one- and two-family dwellings.

Work Excluded

- One and two-family residential sprinkler systems.
- Installation, alteration or repair of underground water supply lines from the connection of the water supply to the first joint, or mechanical connection at the base of the system riser.
- Installation of pre-engineered water-based fixed extinguishing systems.

Implementation Period

- December 31, 2017 – Deadline for Journeyman Fire Sprinkler Fitters (Legacy Applicants Only), those who possess an active C-16, or those employed by a C-16 who meet the minimum qualifications to certify without taking the certification examination.
- July 1, 2018 – Certification card required for fitters; requires at least one certified fitter per job site.
- January 1, 2019 – All fitters shall possess a certification card, all trainees and apprentices shall possess a registration card.

Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification

Prior to January 1, 2018:

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Journeyman Fire Sprinkler Fitter, active C-16 holder, or those who meet the minimum qualifications below:
  - Commercial – 7,000 hours and five years verified work experience.
  - Multi-family residential – 3,500 hours and two years verified work experience.
- File a Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification Application (AES 1005) and pay the $150 application fee.

After January 1, 2018:

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Active C-16 holder or have successfully completed a California State or federally-approved Fire Sprinkler Fitter Apprenticeship Program.
- File a Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification Application (AES 1005) and pay the $150 application fee.
- Pass written certification examination. This exam is conducted by a third-party CAL FIRE – OSFM contractor which has an additional examination fee.

Fire Sprinkler Fitter Apprentice Registration

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Registered in a State of California or federally-approved Fire Sprinkler Fitter Apprenticeship Program.
- Proof of employment by a licensed C-16.
- Work under the direct supervision of a Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter.

- File an Apprentice/Trainee Registration Application (AES 1005A) and pay the $150 application fee.

Fire Sprinkler Fitter Trainee Registration

- A person not registered in a State of California or federally-approved Fire Sprinkler Fitter Apprenticeship Program shall be registered as a trainee and may work as a trainee for up to one year.
- Be at least 16 years old.
- Proof of employment by a licensed C-16.
- Work under the direct supervision of a Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter.
- Be registered in a State of California or federally-approved Fire Sprinkler Fitter Apprenticeship Program within one year of their date of hire.
- File an Apprentice/Trainee Registration Application (AES 1005A) and pay the $150 application fee.

Employer Responsibilities

- Ensure all fire sprinkler fitters, apprentices, and trainees under their employment are certified or registered.
- Must notify CAL FIRE – OSFM in writing within 72 hours from the date of hire of an employee's status as a trainee, apprentice or certified fire sprinkler fitter.

Continuing Education

- Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter shall complete three units of American National Standards Institute/International Association of Continuing Education and Training (ANSI/IACET) accredited continuing education within a three-year period. This requirement is verified by CAL FIRE - OSFM every three years at time of renewal.
- If proof of completion is not received at time of renewal on the third year of the three-year period, the Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter shall be required to re-apply as a new applicant, pay all associated fees, and pass a written examination.

Applications are available on the CAL FIRE - OSFM's website (http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/strucfireengineer_aes), and are currently being accepted for filing. Please note, certification and registration cards will not be issued until the regulations are effective on **July 1, 2017**.

For additional information regarding the approved AES Certification regulations, please visit our Code Development website below under PRIOR RULEMAKING ACTIVITIES: http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment_title19development

For questions, please contact CAL FIRE - OSFM at the e-mail: AES@fire.ca.gov