**State Fire Marshal Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification Act**

**(Health & Safety Code 13191 et seq.)**

# NOTICE TO LOCAL FIRE OFFICIALS

## SB 1299, signed by Governor Newsom has changed the rules for State Fire Marshal Sprinkler Fitter Certification and Registration and is now state law

**Effective January 1, 2027**

### Who and What is Covered by Act (HSC 13191.3)

A person must be certified or registered by the State Fire Marshal if they engage in the installation, extension, alteration, repair, service, inspection, maintenance, safe-off, or investigation of internal piping condition and obstructions of, or add appurtenances to, fire suppression systems, or otherwise work on fire suppression systems.

### Exceptions to Work Covered by the Act (HSC 13191.3 Exceptions)

1. Installation, alteration, or repair of residential fire sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings.

2.The 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.

3. Pre-engineered fixed extinguishing systems.

4. Fire suppression personnel, fire inspectors, or fire marshals inspecting or testing a fire suppression or standpipe system for the purposes of ensuring proper operation.

5. Monthly, quarterly, and annual inspections performed by persons in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 901) of Division 1 of Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations.

6. Temporary replacement of a sprinkler head following activation by an authority having jurisdiction.

7. A person may perform an investigation of internal piping condition and obstructions of water-based fire suppression systems without being a State Fire Marshal certified fire sprinkler fitter if the person meets both of the following criteria:

(1) The person holds a valid certificate from any of the following nationally recognized professional certification organizations and at the specified level of training or experience:

(A)ASSE International's ASSE/IAPMO/ANSI Series 15000, Professional Qualifications Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.

(B) National Fire Protection Association Certified Water-Based Fire Protection System Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance (WBITM).

(C) National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Systems Level III.

## The Act Covers All Types (Water, Chemical, Etc.) of Fire Suppression Agents (HSC 13191.2(i))

Piping or conduit and associated components, beginning at the first joint or mechanical connection at the base of the system riser, whether public or private, that conveys water or other approved fire-suppressing agents to dispersal openings or devices to extinguish, control, or contain fire and to provide protection from exposure to fire or other products of combustion, including, but not limited to, wet and dry standpipes, deluge systems, water-mist systems, foam-water systems, standpipe with hose systems, fire pumps, water storage tanks, valves, meters, pressure-regulating devices, air compressors and air lines associated with a fire suppression system, releasing panels and associated supervisory devices, and other ancillary valves and appurtenances attached thereto that are necessary for system performance.

## Type of Work Covered by the Act (HSC 13191.2(v))

Layout, onsite fabrication, work and practice concerning the construction, installation, alteration, modification, repair, performance of safe-off, initial acceptance testing and inspection, planned or emergency impairment inspection, obstruction investigation, test, or performance of maintenance and service, on or of a fire suppression system.

## Supervision Ratios (HSC 13191.4(a))

A certified fire sprinkler fitter shall directly supervise the number of apprentices permitted in the applicable apprenticeship agreement and up to two trainees.

## Directly Supervise (HSC 13191.4(a); HSC 13191.2(h))

A certified fire sprinkler fitter must be physically present, onsite, with the assigned registered apprentice fire sprinkler fitter or trainee.

## Contractor Responsibility (HSC 13191.4(b))

A licensed C-16 Fire Protection Contractor or public entity, as applicable, shall be responsible for ensuring the people it assigns to work on a fire suppression system are appropriately certified or registered and for ensuring compliance with the supervisor-to-apprentice ratios described in subdivision (a).

## AHJ has Authority to Require Proof of Being Certified (HSC 13192.1(a))

The State Fire Marshal, its designee, or the authority otherwise having jurisdiction may inspect project worksites where work on fire suppression systems is performed to ensure that persons performing the work possess valid certifications or registrations as required by this chapter. The State Fire Marshal, its designee, or the authority otherwise having jurisdiction may require persons performing work to provide proof of possession of the applicable certification or registration card.

## Violation Subject to Prescribed Penalties by State Fire Marshal (HSC 13192.4(c)(2)(A))

Violation of this act is a crime. The violator shall be subject to a misdemeanor or a severe monetary penalty as determined by the State Fire Marshal, depending upon the severity of the violation.

## Issuance of Stop Work Orders (HSC 13192.2(a))

The State Fire Marshal, its designee, or the authority otherwise having jurisdiction determines that work on fire suppression systems is being performed in violation of this chapter may issue stop work orders.

## No Work During Investigation (HSC 13192.2(b))

After the issuance of a stop work order, work shall not resume until the State Fire Marshal, its designee, or the authority otherwise having jurisdiction complete a full investigation and verify that all work on the fire suppression system in question has been performed by duly authorized persons.

## Violations of Act are Subject to Remove and Replace Penalty (HSC 13192.2(c))

If an investigation determines that the work on a fire suppression system was not performed by those authorized, any pipe, riser, pump, or any other component thereof installed by an unauthorized person shall be subject to removal by the State Fire Marshal or the authority otherwise having jurisdiction.

For Further Information Email or Call:

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