

Chapter 4101:2-87

Certification of Fire Protection System Designers **

Note: Chapter 4101:2-87 of the Administrative Code was filed pursuant to Chapter 119 of the Revised Code.

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4101:2-87-01 Authority to adopt

Pursuant to section 3781.105 of the Revised Code, Chapter 4101:2-87 of the Administrative Code is applicable to the certification of fire protection system designers.

HISTORY: Eff. 7-1-97

1982-83 OMR 640 (E), eff. 1-1-83; 1978-79 OMR 4-776 (R), eff. 6-30-79; 1978-79 OMR 4-405 (E), eff. 1-1-79

4101:2-87-02 Definitions

(A) "Automatic sprinkler system: means an integrated system of underground or overhead piping designed in accordance with fire protection engineering standards. The portion of the system above ground is a network of specially or hydraulically designed piping installed in a building, structure, or area, generally overhead, to which automatic sprinklers are connected in a systematic pattern. The system is usually activated by heat from a fire and discharges water over the fire area.

(B) "Board of building standards" or "board," as used herein, means the board established by section 3781.07 of the Revised Code.

(C) "Certified automatic sprinkler system designer" means a person who is certified pursuant to section 3781.105 of the Revised Code.

(D) "Certified fire alarm system designer" means a person who is certified pursuant to section 3781.105 of the Revised Code as a fire alarm system designer.

(E) "Certified special hazards system designer" means a person who is certified pursuant to section 3781.105 of the Revised Code as a special hazards system designer.

(F) "Evidence" means acceptable and useable exhibits required as a part of any consideration or action on the part of the board and shall consist of certified personal statements and drawings for fire protection systems that verify that he has directly engaged in the designing and preparation of drawings.

(G) "Fire alarm system" means a system consisting of components and circuits arranged to monitor and annunciate the status of fire alarm or supervisory signal initiating devices and to initiate appropriate response to those signals.

(H) "Fire protection system designer" means a person who is certified pursuant to section 3781.105 of the Revised Code as an automatic sprinkler system designer, a fire alarm system

designer, or a special hazards system designer. Persons may hold more than one certification.

(I) "Special hazards system" means a system consisting of piping, detection, and actuation equipment that utilizes a foam water, halon, halon alternative, carbon dioxide, dry chemical, or wet chemical suppression agent.

HISTORY: Eff. 7-1-97

1982-83 OMR 640 (E), eff. 1-1-83; 1978-79 OMR 4-776 (R), eff. 6-30-79; 1978-79 OMR 4-405 (E), eff. 1-1-79

4101:2-87-03 Filing application

(A) Applications shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the board and will be received at the office of the board.

(B) Each applicant shall submit, with the formal application, evidence that he has directly engaged in designing and preparing drawings for the fire protection systems for which certification is requested that conform to the requirements of the "National Fire Protection Association." Evidence shall include completion of the applicable examination described in rule 4101:2-87-04 of the Administrative Code.

(C) The board shall retain, as a permanent part of the application, all documents submitted.

(D) Personal appearance before the board, if required, shall be at a time and place designated by the board.

(E) Failure to comply, within ninety days from the date of written request from the board for additional evidence or information, or to appear before the board, when such appearance is deemed necessary by the board, may be considered as just and sufficient cause for disapproval of the application.

HISTORY: Eff. 7-1-97

1982-83 OMR 640 (E), eff. 1-1-83; 1978-79 OMR 4-776 (R), eff. 6-30-79; 1978-79 OMR 4-406 (E), eff. 1-1-79

4101:2-87-04 Examinations and certifications

(A) Examinations:

The person requesting certification shall submit evidence of satisfactory completion of the required examination modules conducted under the requirements of the "National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), for the appropriate subfield of fire protection engineering technology as described in paragraphs (B)(1) to (B)(3) of this rule.

(B) Certifications:

(1) For automatic sprinkler system designer, a copy of the "NICET Letter of Approval" indicating "NICET Level III" or "Level IV" certification in the field of fire protection engineering technology, subfield of automatic sprinkler system layout.

(2) For fire alarm system designer, a copy of the "NICET Letter of Approval" indicating "NICET Level III" or "Level IV" certification in the field of fire protection engineering technology, subfield of fire alarm systems. **

(3) For special hazards system designer, a copy of the "NICET Letter of Approval" indicating "NICET Level III" or "Level IV" certification in the field of fire protection engineering technology, subfield of special hazards systems layout. **

HISTORY: Eff. 7-1-97 **

1996-97 OMR 663 (A), eff. 1-1-97; 1982-83 OMR 641 (E), eff. 1-1-83; 1978-79 OMR 4-776 (R), eff. 6-30-79; 1978-79 OMR 4-406 (E), eff. 1-1-79

4101:2-87-05 Issuance of certificate, renewal, and fees **

(A) An appropriate certificate shall be issued to the applicant upon completion of the qualification requirements of rule 4101:2-87-03 of the Administrative Code and payment of an initial fee of one hundred dollars. The applicant shall submit a separate fee for each certification requested. **

(B) The term of the certificate shall be one year from date of approval.

(C) It shall be the responsibility of the certificate holder to renew certification.

(D) Applications for renewal of certificate shall be on forms prescribed by the board and shall be submitted at least thirty days prior to expiration of current certificate. The applicant using the "NICET" program shall show evidence of holding an active "NICET" certification in the appropriate subfield for renewal. Forms shall, in addition to other data, require the current business address and telephone number. **

(E) Application forms for renewal shall be accompanied by an annual renewal fee of one hundred dollars. The applicant shall submit a separate fee for each renewal certification requested. **

(F) Any holder of a certificate which has expired through failure to renew may obtain a renewal of the certificate within one year from the date of its expiration provided renewal application is made and accompanied by the renewal fee as required in paragraph (E) of this rule. The holder of a certificate which has expired shall not perform any duties for which a certificate is required.

HISTORY: Eff. 7-1-97 **

1982-83 OMR 641 (E), eff. 1-1-83; 1978-79 OMR 4-776 (R), eff. 6-30-79; 1978-79 OMR 4-406 (E), eff. 1-1-79

4101:2-87-06 Revocation or suspension of certificate

(A) The board upon its own motion or upon written complaint of any person shall investigate the actions of the holder of a certificate if proof satisfactory to the board is presented showing that the holder of the certificate is:

(1) Guilty of the practice of fraud or deceit in obtaining the certificate; or

(2) Incompetent to submit and certify plans and specifications for fire protection systems to the appropriate building department under section 3791.04 of the Revised Code; or

(3) Engaging in any illegal or fraudulent [sic] acts in connection with the design, sale, or installation of fire protection systems. **

(B) When a complaint against a certificate holder has been investigated and found to be justified:

(1) He shall be notified of the charges by certified mail, return receipt requested. He shall be informed that he has thirty days from the date of the mailing to request a hearing before the board and may be represented by counsel;

(2) The board shall schedule a hearing seven to fifteen days after receipt of the request, unless another date is mutually agreed upon by both parties. The board may continue or postpone the hearing upon application by the party or upon its own motion;

(3) Following the hearing, held in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the board may either dismiss the complaint or issue an order revoking or suspending certification. Failure to request a hearing shall cause the board to issue an order revoking or suspending certification; and

(4) The party affected shall be sent a certified copy of the order and informed by certified mail, return receipt requested, that he may appeal the order within fifteen days to the court of common pleas in Franklin county pursuant to sections 3781.10, 3781.101, and 119.12 of the Revised Code.

(C) The board, following the issuance of an order revoking or suspending certification shall notify the "National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET)" of the revocation or suspension order. **

HISTORY: Eff. 7-1-97 **

1990-91 OMR 98 (A), eff. 8-1-90; 1982-83 OMR 641 (E), eff. 1-1-83; 1978-79 OMR 4-776 (R), eff. 6-30-79; 1978-79 OMR 4-406 (E), eff. 1-1-79

BBS MEMO

Ohio Board of Building Standards

February 4, 1997

6606 Tussing Road, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

NICET CERTIFICATION NOW ACCEPTED

Effective September 26, 1996, Am. Sub. Senate Bill No. 293 revised section 3781.105 of the Revised Code. The revision expands the scope of the section from "automatic sprinkler design" to "fire protection system design," which includes sprinkler design, fire alarm design, and special hazards system design (CO, Halon, wet chemical, and dry chemical systems). It also requires the board to certify individuals who pass an examination from the "National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies" (NICET) that demonstrates their knowledge and understanding of the type of fire protection system for which the individual seeks certification. The board has drafted rules allowing individuals holding a level III or IV certification to prepare and submit fire protection construction documents to certified building departments in Ohio.

NICET was established in 1961 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. NICET certification must be renewed annually; it is not a license, but a condition for obtaining Ohio certification. NICET does not authorize the use of a stamp or seal; a "Letter of Approval," which identifies the certification field/subfield, level attained, and the certification number, is the official NICET document and should be shown as evidence of certification. The engineering technician certification has four levels of work elements: Levels I and II cover background technical requirements, Level III requires five years of design experience, Level IV requires 10 years of experience. NICET certification programs exist for various construction-related areas; the fire protection engineering technology certification includes subfields of automatic sprinkler system layout, fire alarm systems, and special hazards systems layout.

The following revisions to the OBBC are scheduled for discussion at the next BBS meeting, and should move to public hearing this Spring. Rules 4101:2-1-20, 2-1-22, and 2-1-29 will have language changed from "automatic sprinkler" to "fire protection" and will establish three certification sub-categories of fire protection - automatic sprinkler, fire alarm, and special hazards system design.

Rules in Ohio Administrative Code, Chapter 4101:2-87, "Certification of automatic sprinkler system designers" will be revised to state the qualifications necessary for three categories of fire protection certification: note that the definition of "special hazards system" will include foam water, halon, halon alternatives, carbon dioxide, dry chemical, and wet chemical systems. Rule 4101:2-87-04 will be completely revised to permit those individuals with NICET Level III or Level IV certification to apply to the state of Ohio for certification in their respective sub-field of fire protection systems design.

BECAUSE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORC REVISIONS WAS SEPTEMBER 26, 1996, BUILDING OFFICIALS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ACCEPT CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS HOLDING CURRENT NICET LEVEL III OR IV CERTIFICATION (IN THE APPLICABLE SUB-CATEGORY) BASED ON THE NEW ORC TEXT.

Contact the BBS staff at 614/644-2613 if you have any questions, or to obtain copies of the proposed rules.