

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Division of Fire Prevention and Control

REGISTRATION OF SPRINKLER FITTERS AND INSPECTORS OF MULTIPURPOSE RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS AND TOWNHOUSES

8 CCR 1507-54

[Editor's Notes follow the text of the rules at the end of this CCR Document.]

FIT1 Authority to Promulgate Regulations

- A. The Colorado Division of Fire Safety Director is mandated to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to 24-33.5-1203.5, C.R.S., regarding the registration of Sprinkler Fitters and certification of inspectors of multipurpose residential fire sprinkler systems in one and two family dwellings and townhouses.

FIT 2 Definitions

- A. The definitions provided in sections 24-33.5-1202, C.R.S. and 12-58-102, C.R.S. shall apply to these rules and regulations.
- B. The following definitions are set forth herein to provide context to these rules and regulations:
1. "Sprinkler fitter" means a person other than an apprentice who is registered with the administrator and who installs fire suppression systems. "sprinkler fitter" does not include a person who performs maintenance and repair on fire suppression systems as a part of his or her employment. a sprinkler fitter does not include a person who performs work exclusively on cross-connection control devices or a person who performs work exclusively on an underground system. "sprinkler fitter" does not include a person performing work on his or her own home.
 2. "Fire suppression system" means an assembly of any or all of the following: piping valves, conduits, dispersal openings, sprinkler heads, orifices, and other similar devices that convey extinguishing agents for the purpose of controlling, confining, or extinguishing fire, with the exception of multipurpose residential fire sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses that are part of the potable water supply, pre-engineered range hoods, duct systems, and portable fire extinguishers.
- C. In addition to the above, the following will also apply:
1. "Division" or "The Division" means State of Colorado Division of Fire Safety.
 2. "Administrator" means the Director, or his designee, of the Division of Fire Safety.

FIT3 Purpose

- A. This regulation shall govern the establishment and enforcement of minimum standards for sprinkler fitters and inspectors of multipurpose residential fire sprinkler systems in one and two family dwellings and townhouses.

- B. The purpose is to establish minimum levels of training and skill that demonstrates competencies in each program.

FIT4 Sprinkler Fitters Scope

FIT4.1 Registration Required

- A. No person shall act, assume to act, or advertise as a sprinkler fitter who is not currently registered with the Division.
- B. Fire suppression contractors registered with the Division, pursuant to 24-33.5-1206.1, C. R. S., shall not allow persons to install a fire suppression system who is not registered with the Division as a fire sprinkler fitter.
 - 1. Persons who are enrolled in a sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program and are under the direct supervision and immediate presence of a registered sprinkler fitter may perform work on a fire suppression system.

FIT4.2 Registration Not Required

- A. Registration under the sprinkler fitter program is not required for the following persons or situations:
 - 1. A person who only performs maintenance and repair on fire suppression systems;
 - 2. A person who performs work exclusively on cross-connection control devices;
 - 3. A person who works exclusively on underground firelines;
 - 4. A person who works exclusively on portable fire extinguishers, pre-engineered commercial cooking hood systems, or other systems that are exempted from registration requirements in the Fire Suppression Program (24-33.5-1206.1, C. R. S.).
 - 5. A person who works on residential plumbing appliances, fixtures, appurtenances, or multipurpose residential fire sprinkler systems in one- or two-family dwellings or townhomes;
 - 6. A person who works on any system or item that is considered "plumbing" as defined in 12-58-102(5)(a), C. R. S.
 - 7. A person who performs work on lawn sprinklers or irrigation drain systems; or,
 - 8. A person performing fire suppression work on his or her personal home.

FIT4.3 Regulations/Procedures

- A. Applicants shall complete and submit an application for registration as designated by the Division.
- B. To be registered as a Sprinkler Fitter by the Division an applicant shall meet and agree to, and provide proof of the following requirements:
 - 1. Satisfactory completion of an accredited sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program recognized by the United States Department of Labor or state apprenticeship agency, in accordance with the requirements of 29 CFR 29.1 et seq, or other similar apprenticeship program approved by the administrator; or,

2. Documented evidence that the applicant is currently authorized to practice as a sprinkler fitter in another state or jurisdiction that has substantially similar or greater requirements than the requirements established in this rule; or,
 3. Documented evidence demonstrating that the applicant performed at least eight thousand (8,000) hours of practical work experience on fire suppression systems within the past five (5) years; or,
 4. Otherwise, demonstrate similar competency as a sprinkler fitter as determined by the division.
- C. Applicants shall also provide proof of a passing score on an examination approved by the administrator.
1. Examinations that have been approved by the administrator as acceptable for compliance with the examination requirement are:
 - a. United Association Star Pipefitter Mastery Exam; or,
 - b. CSA Sprinkler Commercial On-site Competent Person Exam (ASCR2); or,
 - c. City of Denver's Journeyman/Inspector Examination
 2. Examinations specified in these rules taken to comply with another jurisdiction's registration requirements shall be accepted by the Division if the exam was taken within one (1) year of the application date.
- D. New applicants shall submit a completed and notarized Affidavit of Legal Residency as required in 24-76.5-103(4)(b), C.R.S.
- E. New applicants shall submit a copy of their current State's driver's license or Colorado Identification Card.
- F. Applicants shall be required to pay a fee for registration and all other processing fees as specified in FIT11.

FIT4.4 Registration Period

- A. The registration period for new and renewal registrations shall expire on June 30th each year regardless of when the registration is issued.
1. There shall be no pro-rate of registration fees nor extensions of the registration period granted.

FIT4.5 Registration Renewal

- A. Registrants requesting a renewal of their sprinkler fitter registration must complete an application, provide documented continuing education, and pay a renewal fee.
1. During renewal years, applicants are not required to submit an Affidavit of Legal Residency, Driver's License, or a government issued, picture Identification Card.
- B. In years that the division adopts a new edition of the fire code or standards, a sprinkler fitter shall be required to provide proof of passing of one of the examinations specified in FIT4.3(C)(1)(a-c)
1. During renewal years, when an examination is required to be taken, the Division will assess an examination verification and processing fee per application.

- C. Registrants who do not apply within 60 days of the registration period expiration date will not be allowed to renew and must comply with the requirements of a new applicant. All new applicant registration fees shall apply.

FIT4.6 Continuing Education

- A. A registrant may be renewed only if he or she has completed 24 or more hours of continuing education units (CEU) in subjects related to the sprinkler fitter industry. The education must consist of courses approved by the Division and have been completed by the registrant during the previous registration period.
- B. Proof of continuing education shall be submitted with the registrant's renewal application and shall be in the following formats:
 - 1. Copy of certificate, diploma, degree, or card indicating course completion or attendance; or
 - 2. Copy of Formal letter, from issuing organization attesting to the registrant's attendance; or,
 - 3. Other formal document approved by the Division.
 - 4. The conversion rate for coursework/class attendance continuing education shall be 1 hour = 1 CEU (1:1).
- C. Applicants may substitute a maximum of 16 CEU hours of registration-related work experience in addition to 8 CEU hours of documented coursework to attain the 24 CEU hours of required continuing education. All proof of work experience shall be by formal letter from the employer, contractor, project owner, steward, project manager, or business manager for which the work was performed.
 - 1. The conversion rate for work experience shall be 100 hours = 1.0 CEU (100:1) on straight time with no provisions for overtime hours allowed.
 - 2. All work experience substitutions shall be conducted during the previous registration period.

FIT5 Multipurpose Residential Fire Sprinkler System Inspector Certification

FIT5.1 Certification Required

- A. No person shall act, assume to act, or advertise as an inspector of multipurpose residential fire sprinkler systems in one and two family dwellings and townhouses who is not currently certified by the Division or who do not meet the requirements of 12-58-104(k).
 - 1. Persons currently certified as a Fire Suppression Inspector pursuant to 24-33.5-1206.4 are not required to meet the requirements of this section fit5.

FIT5.2 Regulations/Procedures

- A. All applicants shall complete and submit an application for certification designated by the division.
- B. To be certified as a Multipurpose Residential Fire Sprinkler System Inspector an applicant shall meet the following requirements.
 - 1. Be currently employed by, under contract to, or volunteer services to the state or a governing body as a plumbing inspector assigned to perform compliance inspections on plumbing as specified in 12-58-102(5)(a) C.R.S; and,

2. Be at least eighteen years of age; and,
 3. Not have violated any of the provisions specified in section 24-33.50-1206.6 (2) C.R.S. or 3 CCR 720-1; and,
 4. Comply with all applicable standards adopted by the Division and the State Plumbing Board, and applicable codes, ordinances and resolutions adopted by municipalities, counties, and cities and counties.
- C. Applicants shall also provide proof of a passing score on an examination approved by the administrator.
1. Examinations that have been approved by the Division as acceptable for compliance with the examination requirement are evidence of current certification as an:
 - a. ICC Residential Fire Sprinkler Inspector/Plans Examiner; or,
 - b. ICC Plumbing Inspector, issued after July 1, 2011; or,
 - c. ICC Residential Plumbing Inspector, issued after July 1, 2011.
- D. New applicants shall submit a completed and notarized Affidavit of Legal Residency as required in 24-76.5-103(4)(b), C. R. S.
- E. New applicants shall submit a copy of their current State's driver's license, or a government issued, picture Identification Card.
- F. Applicants shall be required to pay a fee for certification and all other processing fees as specified in FIT11.

FIT5.3 Certification Period

- A. Multipurpose residential fire sprinkler system inspector certifications shall be valid for three (3) years from the month of issuance.
1. There shall be no pro-rate of registration fees nor extensions of certification period granted.

FIT5.4 Certification Renewal

- B. Persons requesting a renewal of their multipurpose residential fire sprinkler system inspector certification must complete an application, provide documented continuing education, or the ICC renewal certificate, and pay a renewal fee.
1. During renewal years, applicants are not required to submit an Affidavit of Legal Residency, Driver's License, or a government issued, picture Identification Card.
 2. Certified persons who do not apply for renewal within 90 days of the certification period expiration date will not be allowed to renew and must comply with the requirements of a new applicant. All new applicant certification fees shall apply.

FIT5.5 Continuing Education

- A. A certified inspector may be renewed only if he or she completed 30 or more hours of continuing education units (CEU) in subjects related to the plumbing or fire sprinkler industry or has their ICC

certificate renewal. The education must consist of courses approved by the Division and have been completed by the inspector during the previous certification period.

B. Proof of continuing education shall be submitted with the renewal application and shall be in the following formats:

1. Copy of certificate, diploma, degree, or card indicating course completion or attendance; or
2. Copy of a formal letter, from the issuing organization, attesting to the inspector's attendance; or
3. Other formal document approved by the Division.
4. The conversion rate for coursework/class attendance continuing education shall be 1 hour = 1 CEU (1:1).

C. Applicants may substitute a maximum of 15 CEU hours of certification-related work experience in addition to 15 CEU hours of documented coursework to attain the 30 CEU hours of required continuing education. All proof of work experience shall be by formal letter from the employer that was used to meet the requirements of Section FIT5.2(B)(1) of these regulations.

1. The conversion rate for work experience shall be 100 hours = 1.0 CEU (100:1) on straight time with no provisions for overtime hours allowed.
2. All work experience substitutions shall be conducted during the previous certification period to be accepted.

FIT6 Complaints

- A. Complaints alleging violation of any provision of 24-33.5-1206.5, C. R. S. through 1206.7, C. R. S., or the rules of this program shall be filed with the Director.
- B. The Division may act on anonymous complaints or those made by complainants who desire to remain anonymous. However, individuals submitting complaints should be aware that such complaints are public records and may be available for inspection in accordance with the Colorado Public Records Act 24-7-2201 et seq, C. R. S.
- C. The Division will investigate the information contained in the complaint. If proper evidence substantiates a violation of 24-33.5-1206.5 through 1206.7, C.R.S., or these rules the Division will proceed pursuant to FIT8 through FIT 10.
- D. Should the Division determine that a hearing should be held, the Division will utilize the services of the Colorado Division of Administrative Hearings in accordance with the Colorado Administrative Procedures Act (24-1-101 et seq., C. R. S).

FIT7 Denial of application

- A. The division may deny any application for registration or certification for any of the following reasons:
 1. The applicant makes a false statement on the application form or in any of the attachments required for registration or certification.
 - a. False statement means providing false or misleading information or failing to include material information as requested.

3. The applicant fails to meet all of the requirements specified in the application.
4. The applicant is currently barred from registration, certification, or licensure from another State agency, governing body, or local jurisdiction.
5. The applicant has been convicted of a crime which reflects upon the integrity of the applicant in operating within the capacity for which they are registered.
6. The applicant has been terminated from employment from a registered fire suppression contractor, fire authority, or other governing body for engaging in negligent or unsafe work or construction practices.

FIT8 Registration Revocation

- A. The division shall revoke sprinkler fitter registrations and inspector certifications under these regulations when the director has found that the person holding the registration has committed an act or has failed to perform a duty including but not limited to the following:
 1. Fraud or material deception in the obtaining or renewing a registration or certification;
 2. Professional incompetence as manifested by poor, faulty, or dangerous workmanship;
 3. Engaging in conduct that is likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public in the course of professional services or activities;
 4. Contracting or assisting unregistered persons to perform services for which registration or certification is required under these rules;
 5. Negligently performing any services regulated by the Division;
 6. Using another registrant's or certified person's credentials to obtain or perform work regulated by these rules;
 7. Failing to comply with the provisions of these rules.
- B. All revocations shall be for a period no less than the remainder of the current registration period or one (1) year, whichever is greater.

FIT9 Registration Suspension

- A. The administrator shall suspend the registration or certification status when the person holding the registration or certificate has committed an act or has failed to perform a duty that constitutes grounds for suspension including but not limited to the following:
 1. After the second failure to provide proper registration identification to a certified inspector;
 2. Failure or refusal to stop work or leave a job site upon request of the certified inspector;
 3. Failure to notify the Division of any changes that may affect the person's current registration or certification status;
 4. Expiration of a required, qualifying document or examination during the registration period;
 5. Failing to comply with the provisions of these rules.

- B. All suspensions shall be for a period no more than 1 month or the remainder of the current registration or certification period, whichever is less.

FIT10 Program Fines and appeals

- A. In addition to suspension and revocation, the director may assess a fine for any conduct determined to constitute a violation of these rules.
- B. The fines for violating any provision of 24-33.5-1206.5 through 1206.7, C. R. S., or the provisions of these rules shall be as follows:
1. a letter of admonition and a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000.
 2. Any subsequent violation of a similar magnitude shall be assessed a fine of not less than \$1,000 not to exceed \$10,000 and shall result in immediate suspension of the registration or certification pending a hearing of revocation pursuant to 24-33.5-1204.5(1)(e).
 3. Any violation determined by the director that constitutes a threat to public health, safety, or welfare shall result in immediate suspension, pending a revocation hearing pursuant to 24-33.5-1204.5(1)(e), C. R. S., and the Colorado Administrative Procedures Act (24-1-101 et seq., C. R. S.), and final agency action.
 - a. All fines collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the general fund.
- C. Persons who feel aggrieved by the decision of the Director may request a hearing in accordance with the Colorado Administrative Procedures Act (C.R.S. 24-1-101 et seq.).

FIT11 Program Fee Schedule

- A. The following fees shall apply for products and services provide by, or on behalf of the Division of Fire Safety:
1. Fire Sprinkler Fitter New Application \$75.00
 2. Fire Sprinkler Fitter Renewal Application \$50.00
 3. Multipurpose Residential Inspector New Application \$30.00/3 years
 4. Multipurpose Residential Inspector Renewal Application \$30.00/3 years
 5. Renewal late fee \$25.00/application
 6. Examination Verification and Processing \$25.00
 7. Verification of Program Reciprocity \$25.00
 8. Manual Application Data Entry or Pertinent Information changes performed by DFS \$10.00
 9. Mailing of ID card or payment receipt \$10.00

FIT12 Publications and Rules Incorporated by Reference

- A. All publications and rules adopted and incorporated by reference in these regulations are on file for public inspection by contacting the Division of Fire Safety. This rule does not include later amendments to or editions of any materials incorporated by reference. All publications and rules

adopted and incorporated by reference in these regulations may be examined at any state publications depository library.

Editor's Notes

History

Entire rule eff. 11/14/2011