



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2452

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Ram Villivalam

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 317/30
225 ILCS 317/35
225 ILCS 317/50

Amends the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act. Provides that any individual who performs inspection and testing of existing fire sprinkler systems and control equipment must possess a photo identification card issued by the State Fire Marshal as proof that the individual is in compliance with the Act. Provides that all inspections and testing of fire sprinkler systems and control equipment must be recorded on an inspection report or testing form. Provides that all fire sprinkler systems, upon completion of inspection and testing, must be affixed with a preprinted label bearing the name of the person performing the inspection and the license number of the licensee performing the inspection. Provides that a copy of the inspection report must be forwarded by the entity performing the inspection to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Provides that the fees for an inspection form and photo identification card shall be determined by the State Fire Marshal by rule. Provides that the State Fire Marshal has the power and duty to establish a database of all fire sprinkler systems, inspection records, and persons involved in the inspection or testing of existing fire sprinkler systems or control equipment. Effective January 1, 2022.

LRB102 10955 SPS 16287 b

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act is
5 amended by changing Sections 30, 35, and 50 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 317/30)

7 Sec. 30. Requirements for the installation, repair,
8 inspection, and testing of fire protection systems.

9 (a) Equipment shall be listed by a nationally recognized
10 testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. or
11 Factory Mutual Laboratories, Inc., or shall comply with
12 nationally accepted standards. The State Fire Marshal shall
13 adopt by rule procedures for determining whether a laboratory
14 is nationally recognized, taking into account the laboratory's
15 facilities, procedures, use of nationally recognized
16 standards, and any other criteria reasonably calculated to
17 reach an informed determination.

18 (b) Equipment shall be installed in accordance with the
19 applicable standards of the National Fire Protection
20 Association and the manufacturer's specifications.

21 (c) The contractor shall furnish the user with operating
22 instructions for all equipment installed, together with a
23 diagram of the final installation.

1 (d) All fire sprinkler systems shall have a backflow
2 prevention device or, in a municipality with a population over
3 500,000, a double detector check assembly installed by a
4 licensed plumber before the fire sprinkler system connection
5 to the water service. Connection to the backflow prevention
6 device or, in a municipality with a population over 500,000, a
7 double detector assembly shall be done in a manner consistent
8 with the Department of Public Health's Plumbing Code.

9 (e) This licensing Act is not intended to require any
10 additional fire inspections at State level.

11 (f) Before January 1, 2022, inspection and testing of
12 existing fire sprinkler systems and control equipment must be
13 performed by a licensee or an individual employed or
14 contracted by a licensee. Any individual who performs
15 inspection and testing duties under this subsection (f) must
16 possess proof of (i) certification by a nationally recognized
17 certification organization at an appropriate level, such as
18 NICET Level II in Inspection and Testing of Water Based
19 Systems or the equivalent, (ii) a valid ASSE 15010
20 certification in "inspection, testing and maintenance for
21 water-based fire protection systems", or (iii) satisfactory
22 completion of a certified sprinkler fitter apprenticeship
23 program approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. State
24 employees who perform inspections and testing on behalf of
25 State institutions and who meet all other requirements of this
26 subsection (f) need not be licensed under this Act or employed

1 by a licensee under this Act in order to perform inspection and
2 testing duties under this subsection (f). The requirements of
3 this subsection (f) do not apply to individuals performing
4 inspections or testing of fire sprinkler systems on behalf of
5 a municipality, a county, a fire protection district, or the
6 Office of the State Fire Marshal. This subsection (f) does not
7 apply to a stationary engineer, operating engineer, or other
8 individual employed on a full-time basis by the facility owner
9 or owner's representative performing weekly and monthly
10 inspections and tests in accordance with applicable National
11 Fire Protection Association standards.

12 Before January 1, 2022, a copy of the inspection report
13 for an inspection performed pursuant to this subsection (f)
14 must be forwarded by the entity performing the inspection to
15 the local fire department or fire protection district in which
16 the sprinkler system is located. The inspection report must
17 include the NICET Level II Inspection and Testing of Water
18 Based Systems certification number, ASSE 15010 certification
19 number for "inspection, testing and maintenance for
20 water-based fire protection systems", or journeymen number of
21 the person performing the inspection.

22 After December 31, 2021, inspection and testing of
23 existing fire sprinkler systems and control equipment must be
24 performed by a licensee or an individual employed or
25 contracted by a licensee. Any individual who performs
26 inspection and testing duties under this subsection (f) must

1 possess, on his or her person, a photo identification card
2 issued by the State Fire Marshal as proof that the individual
3 is in compliance with this Act and must possess proof of (i)
4 certification by a nationally recognized certification
5 organization at an appropriate level, such as NICET Level III
6 in Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems or the
7 equivalent, (ii) a valid ASSE 15010 certification in
8 "inspection, testing and maintenance for water-based fire
9 protection systems", or (iii) satisfactory completion of a
10 certified sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program approved by
11 the United States Department of Labor. The photo
12 identification card shall be issued by the State Fire Marshal
13 annually at a fee determined by the State Fire Marshal by rule.
14 State employees who perform inspections and testing on behalf
15 of State institutions and who meet all other requirements of
16 this subsection (f) need not be licensed under this Act or
17 employed by a licensee under this Act in order to perform
18 inspection and testing duties under this subsection (f). The
19 requirements of this subsection (f) do not apply to
20 individuals performing inspections or testing of fire
21 sprinkler systems on behalf of a municipality, a county, a
22 fire protection district, or the Office of the State Fire
23 Marshal. This subsection (f) does not apply to a stationary
24 engineer, operating engineer, or other individual employed on
25 a full-time basis by the facility owner or owner's
26 representative performing weekly and monthly inspections and

1 tests in accordance with applicable National Fire Protection
2 Association standards.

3 All inspections and testing of fire sprinkler systems and
4 control equipment must be recorded on an inspection report or
5 testing form that shall include information as recommended by
6 the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 25. The
7 contents of the inspection report shall be established by the
8 State Fire Marshal by rule and shall include the license
9 number of the licensee performing the inspection and the ASSE
10 15010 certification number for "inspection, testing and
11 maintenance for water-based fire protection systems" or the
12 NICET Level III "inspection and testing of water based
13 systems" certification number or journeymen number of the
14 person performing the inspection.

15 All fire sprinkler systems, upon completion of inspection
16 and testing, must be affixed with a preprinted label bearing
17 the name of the person performing the inspection and the
18 license number of the licensee performing the inspection. The
19 label required under this Section shall include information
20 established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

21 After December 31, 2021, a copy of the inspection report
22 for an inspection performed pursuant to this subsection (f)
23 must be forwarded by the entity performing the inspection to
24 (i) the local fire department or fire protection district in
25 which the sprinkler system is located and (ii) the Office of
26 the State Fire Marshal. The inspection report must include the

1 NICET Level III Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems
2 certification number, ASSE 15010 certification number for
3 "inspection, testing and maintenance for water-based fire
4 protection systems", or journeymen number of the person
5 performing the inspection.

6 (Source: P.A. 101-626, eff. 6-1-20.)

7 (225 ILCS 317/35)

8 Sec. 35. Fees, renewals, continuing education, and
9 required insurance.

10 (a) The fees for an original license, inspection form,
11 photo identification card, and each renewal and for duplicate
12 copies of licenses shall be determined by the State Fire
13 Marshal by rule.

14 (b) Each license must be renewed every 2 years. Each
15 licensee must complete 16 hours of continuing education in the
16 2-year period following his or her renewal or initial
17 licensure after the effective date of this amendatory Act of
18 the 97th General Assembly. Current licensure as a professional
19 engineer or proof of current NICET certification in Level III
20 or IV shall satisfy this requirement for designated certified
21 persons. Continuing education offered through nationally
22 recognized building and fire code organizations and their
23 affiliates; nationally recognized fire sprinkler organizations
24 and their affiliates; institutions of higher education;
25 educational bodies specializing in automatic fire suppression

1 system technology; as well as other entities approved by the
2 State Fire Marshal shall be also acceptable. All continuing
3 education entities seeking to be approved providers of
4 continuing education shall make application to the State Fire
5 Marshal and offer programs that:

6 (1) contribute to the advancement, extension, or
7 enhancement of the professional skills or technical
8 knowledge of the licensee in the practice of fire
9 sprinkler contracting; and

10 (2) are developed and presented by persons with
11 education or experience in the subject manner of the
12 program.

13 (c) Any person who fails to file a renewal application by
14 the date of expiration of a license shall be assessed a late
15 filing charge, which shall be determined by the State Fire
16 Marshal by rule.

17 (d) All fees shall be paid by check or money order. Any fee
18 required by this Act is not refundable in the event that the
19 original application or application for renewal is denied.

20 (e) Every application for an original license shall be
21 accompanied by a certificate of insurance issued by an
22 insurance company authorized to do business in the State of
23 Illinois or by a risk retention or purchasing group formed
24 pursuant to the federal Liability Risk Retention Act of 1986,
25 which provides primary, first dollar public liability coverage
26 of the applicant or licensee for personal injuries for not

1 less than \$500,000 per person or \$1,000,000 per occurrence,
2 and, in addition, for not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence
3 for property damage. The insurance policy shall be in effect
4 at all times during the license year and a new certificate of
5 insurance shall be filed with the State Fire Marshal within 30
6 days after the renewal of the insurance policy.

7 (Source: P.A. 97-112, eff. 7-14-11.)

8 (225 ILCS 317/50)

9 Sec. 50. Powers and duties of the State Fire Marshal. The
10 State Fire Marshal has all of the following powers and duties:

11 (a) To prescribe and furnish application forms, licenses,
12 and any other forms necessary under this Act.

13 (b) To suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew
14 licenses for cause.

15 (c) To conduct hearings concerning the suspension,
16 revocation, or refusal to issue or renew licenses.

17 (d) To levy and collect fines pursuant to this Act.

18 (e) To promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the
19 administration of this Act.

20 (f) To establish a database of all fire sprinkler systems,
21 inspection records, and persons involved in the inspection or
22 testing of existing fire sprinkler systems or control
23 equipment.

24 (Source: P.A. 92-871, eff. 1-3-03.)

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January

SB2452

- 9 -

LRB102 10955 SPS 16287 b

1 1, 2022.