



Initial Certification Requirements for South Carolina Certified Fire Marshal (CFM)

Effective: December 21, 2011 Revised: February 6, 2017

PURPOSE: This policy provides information regarding the initial South Carolina Certified Fire Marshal (CFM) certification process, and provides guidance for obtaining initial CFM certification in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §23-9-30.

BACKGROUND: In 2010, the Office of State Fire Marshal received recommendations from the Legislative Audit Council (LAC) in its 2010 audit entitled *A Review of the Office of State Fire Marshal*. The report can be found at http://lac.sc.gov/LAC_Reports/2010/Pages/OSFM.aspx. Recognizing the importance of a nationally recognized standard for CFM training and certification, the International Code Council (ICC) Certified Fire Inspector I (CFI I) certification was identified as the initial level of training for CFM. Additionally, in 2016, State Fire recognized the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) Certified Fire Inspector I (CFI I) as equivalent. Both nationally recognized programs are ProBoard accredited curriculums and now offer reciprocity with each other.

POLICY: In order to become initially certified as a South Carolina CFM, a candidate shall be employed with an entity considered to be an Authority Having Jurisdiction. Additionally, the candidate shall possess a current ICC CFI I or NFPA CFI I certification and successfully pass State Fire course 8610, S.C. Fire Marshal Rules and Regulations.

ICC CFI II, NFPA CFI II, ICC Certified Fire Marshal, ICC Certified Building Official, and ICC Master Code Professional will be accepted in lieu of CFI I for initial CFM certification.

Once standards have been met, the candidate shall request initial certification by emailing FMcertification@llr.sc.gov. After credentialing, instructions will be emailed on how to print and view a certification.

South Carolina CFM Certifications are on a three year certification cycle. All initial CFM candidates will have one full certification cycle to comply with the OSFM Policy for Recertification of CFM's. All initial CFM's are required to attend ICC approved quarterly trainings through State Fire.

NOTE:

- State Fire will offer periodic preparatory courses for the ICC CFI I Exam. It is recommended that, prior to taking the ICC CFI I or NFPA CFI I preparatory course or exam, candidates new to the profession obtain foundational training. This training is provided through State Fire, but may also be obtained elsewhere. E.g. National Fire Academy or IFSTA Fire inspection Principles and Practices. Certification may be obtained directly from ICC, NFPA, or State Fire. Candidates with current ProBoard certifications are encouraged to contact the ICC, or the NFPA for reciprocity. Prior to ICC certification, an NFPA 472 (Hazmat Awareness training) affidavit is required to be signed. Online NFPA 472 training is available through State Fire.
- State Fire is an ICC Preferred Education Provider, which enables the State Fire to issue ICC approved Continuing Education Units (CEU's).
- While all candidates are welcome to State Fire training, only personnel of Authorities Having Jurisdiction will be credentialed as a South Carolina CFM.
- Questions? Contact South Carolina, State Fire at FMcertification@llr.sc.gov