Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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TO: LOCAL BUILDING AND FIRE OFFICIALS
FROM: STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL
SUBJECT: FIRE ALARMS IN 2015 IBC/IFC: NICET II & NICET III - NEW CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED BY SBCC

The Washington State Building Code Council adopted Section 907.10 NICET: National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies in their amendments to the 2015 Building Code and the 2015 Fire Code. See p. 2 for that amendment language. This will require that all new and existing fire alarm systems are certified and/or inspected by (click link for specific requirements) NICET II and/or NICET III as follows:

Certification Required (effective July 1, 2017)	Where Required per WAC 51-50-0907 and WAC 51-54A-0907	NICET Testing and Certification Requirements
907.10.2 Design Review NICET Fire Alarm Systems Level III (or a licensed PE in Washington) **Fire Alarm Systems: Level III Content Outline**	**All construction documents shall be reviewed by a NICET Fire Alarm Systems Level III certified individual prior to being submitted for permitting. The reviewing professional shall submit a signed and dated letter; or a verification method approved by the local AHJ indicating the system has been reviewed and meets or exceeds the design requirements of the state of Washington and the local jurisdiction.**	**Level III certification requires a minimum of five years of relevant experience and a personal recommendation. Requires a passing score on an examination, and payment of a fee.**
907.10.3 Testing/maintenance NICET Fire Alarm Systems or Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems Level II	**All inspection, testing, maintenance and programming not defined as 'electrical construction trade' by chapter 19.28 RCW[1] shall be completed by a NICET Fire Alarm Systems or Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems Level II certified individual.**	**Level II certification requires a minimum of two years of relevant experience. Requires a passing score on an examination, and payment of a fee.**

[1] "Electrical construction trade" includes, but is not limited to, installing or maintaining electrical wires and equipment that are used for light, heat, or power and installing and maintaining remote control, signaling, power limited, or communication circuits or systems.

NICET's Fire Alarm Systems Certification Program is for engineering technicians working in the fire alarm industry who engage in a combination of the following fire alarm systems activities: system layout (plan preparation), system equipment selection, system installation, system acceptance testing, system trouble-shooting, system servicing, and system technical sales. Technical areas covered include applicable codes and standards, types of detectors and signaling systems, supervision requirements, power requirements, building/space structure and occupancy considerations, and basic electricity and electronics.

NICET's Fire Alarm System Inspection and Testing program is for engineering technicians engaged in the performance, documentation, planning, and coordination of periodic inspection and testing of existing fire alarm systems and their components. General areas covered include inspection and testing procedures, periodicity, documentation, safety, and work management. Technical areas covered include types of fire alarm systems and their respective components, device and circuit specific test procedures for initiating devices, notification appliances, supervisory signal-initiating devices, primary and secondary power supplies, emergency communications equipment, interface with other systems, and on/off premises monitoring.

Certification is available through the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET); for more information on requirements visit their website: www.nicet.org.