

ARKANSAS FIRE PROTECTION LICENSING BOARD
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
Effective ~~August 1, 2012~~ July 1, 2013

1. SCOPE, PURPOSE AND FAIRNESS

1.1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of these rules is to regulate persons engaged in planning, selling, installing, maintaining, inspecting or servicing fire protection sprinkler systems in the interest of safe guarding lives and property pursuant to Act 743 of 1977 as amended (ACA 20-22-601 through 614).

1.2. **TITLE.** These rules shall be known and may be cited as the fire sprinkler rules and regulations and shall be administered by and through the Board.

1.3. **APPLICABILITY OF RULES.** These rules shall apply to all firms and persons engaged in the business and not to the general public.

1.4. **FAIRNESS NOTICE.** Notice by the Board as required by any provisions of statute or of these rules must be given by personal service of mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the person to be notified at his last known address of residence or business as it appears on the records in the office of the Board.

2. **DEFINITIONS.** The following words and terms, when used in these rule, have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- ❖ Act 743 of 1977 – Fire protection requirements set forth by the State of Arkansas, of which the Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board was initiated. The Act is known as ACA 20-22-601 through 614 or Title 20, Chapter 22, Subchapter 6, or loosely as “The Act”.
- ❖ *AFSA - American Fire Sprinkler Association – a nationally recognized organization for licensing installers.*
- ❖ *"Apprentice" means a qualified person:*
 - (A) Enrolled as required in an apprenticeship program recognized by the Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board; and*
 - (B) Who may perform work entitled by the licensee under the direct supervision of a licensed employee.*

- ❖ Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) –The organization, office or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, and installation, or a procedure.)
- ❖ Board – the Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board
- ❖ Certificate – the certificate or registration issued by the Board authorizing the applicant to engage in the business, whether relating to the individual RME, Inspector, Installer or the Fire Protection Sprinkler System business.
- ❖ Certify – to attest to the proper planning, installing, maintaining, inspecting or servicing of fire sprinkler systems by executing a business’s material and test certificate and attaching a completed service tag.
- ❖ Certified Firm – any business owned by an individual, partnership, corporation or association holding a current certificate of registration issued by the Board.
- ❖ Demarcation – a point of a service, an isolating valve downstream of the domestic meter service, where the fire service line becomes a dedicated Fire Protection Sprinkler System supply line installed, or serviced by a Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business under the direct supervision and responsibility of a Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business as herein defined.
- ❖ “Fire protection sprinkler system” means:
 - (A) An assembly of underground, overhead, or other piping or conduits that convey water with or without other agents to fire sprinkler heads, fire sprinkler nozzles, interior fire hoses, or other devices in order to extinguish, control, or contain fire and so provide protection from exposure to fire or the products of combustion; and
 - (B) A standpipe and hose system as defined under the provisions of National Fire Protection Association pamphlet number fourteen (No. 14).
- ❖ “Fire protection sprinkler system business” means those firms engaged in the planning, fire protection layout, selling, installing, maintaining, inspecting, and or servicing of fire protection sprinkler systems, including without limitation standpipes, hose stations, and fire pumps. “
- ❖ Fire protection sprinkler systems inspector” means a qualified person who:

(A) Is employed **full-time** by a licensed fire protection sprinkler business in the State of Arkansas and who has met the requirements to perform inspections of fire protection sprinkler systems in accordance with this subchapter; and

(B) May perform corrections of deficiencies from an inspection.

- ❖ “Firm” means any person, partnership, corporation, or association
- ❖ Full-Time Employee – an employee is considered to work full-time if the employee works an average of at least 30 hours per week.
- ❖ Impairment – a shutdown of a system or portion thereof. The two types of impairments are emergency and pre-planned.
- ❖ Inspection – a visual examination of a sprinkler system, or portion thereof, to verify it appears to be in operating condition and free from physical damage, per such standards referenced by the required Inspection Form .
- ❖ Installation – the initial placement of a system (or its extension), or the modification or alteration of a system after its initial placement.
- ❖ Installer – a licensed employee responsible for the initial installation of the fire sprinkler system in accordance with the applicable NFPA installation standards. Anywhere installer is referred to in this document it will be understood to be equivalent with the term “licensed fitter”.
- ❖ License – a written document issued by the Board to any person for the purpose of granting permission to such person to perform any act(s) for which authorization is required.
- ❖ Maintenance/Repair – to maintain in the condition of repair that provides performance as originally planned.
- ❖ NFPA – National Fire Protection Association, Inc. – a nationally recognized standards making organization located at # 1 Batterymarch Park, P. O. Box 9101, Quincy, Massachusetts 02269- 9101.
- ❖ NICET – National Institute for the Certification in Engineering Technologies-a nationally recognized organization for certifying layout technicians and inspectors.
- ❖ Organization – a corporation, partnership, other business association, a government entity or any other legal or commercial entity.

- ❖ Person – a natural person, including any owner, manager, officer, employee or occupant.
- ❖ Plan – to layout, detail, draw, calculate, devise or arrange an assembly of underground or overhead piping and appurtenances in accordance with either adopted fire protection standards or specifications especially designed by an engineer.
- ❖ Pre-planned – a condition where a water based Fire Protection Sprinkler System or a portion thereof is out of service due to work that has been pre-planned in advance such as revisions to the water supply or sprinkler system piping.
- ❖ Point of Service – the point at which the underground piping for a sprinkler system, using water as the extinguishing agent, becomes used exclusively for the fire sprinkler system.
- ❖ “Responsible managing employee” means an individual who is a full-time licensed employee of a registered fire protection sprinkler system business firm and who is designated by the fire protection sprinkler system business to be responsible for assuring that all fire sprinkler layouts, installations, and servicing of fire protection sprinkler systems are performed in accordance with all applicable provisions, rules, and guidelines
- ❖ ~~Reviewed, Sealed~~ Fire Sprinkler Drawings that have been reviewed by the State Fire Marshal’s Office and the local authority having jurisdiction that signify agreement with the Design submitted.
- ❖ “Service and servicing” means physically installing fire protection sprinkler systems by inspecting, placing in service, maintaining, refilling, repairing, hanging, locating, or testing the fire protection sprinkler system equipment in order to furnish or return the Fire Protection Sprinkler System to operational condition.
- ❖ "Sprinkler fitter" means a qualified person to oversee:
 - (A) An apprentice; or
 - (B) The initial installation or servicing of fire protection sprinkler systems.
 - (C) Corrections of deficiencies from an inspection.
- ❖ Standards - Nationally recognized standards adopted herein.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.25"

❖ Standards – those nationally recognized standards adopted herein.

❖ Tags: See Section 5

❖ Test – the act of subjecting a Fire Protection Sprinkler System to any procedure necessary to insure its proper operation or installations.

❖ Trainee means an employee who may perform work entitled by the licensee under the direct supervision of a licensed employee.

Formatted: Subtle Emphasis

Formatted: Normal, Space After: 0 pt, No bullets or numbering, Tab stops: 0.06", Left + 0.25", Left + 0.56", Left

Formatted: Subtle Emphasis

Formatted: Subtle Emphasis

3. **APPLICATION.**

3.1. The rules and regulations shall have uniform force and effect throughout the State, Municipalities, or counties and may require additional certificate of registration or licenses or may require certified firms to obtain permits or pay fees beyond the scope of these rules and regulations.

3.2. These rules and regulations do not apply to a person or organization that only sells or supplies products or materials to a certified firm, special agent fire suppression system, a regular employee of a certified firm, inspection activities conducted as part of an insurance or engineering survey, inspection activities performed by a government official as part of code enforcement activities, routine observation of the condition of fire sprinkler equipment by the maintenance staff of the owner or tenant and nothing herein shall be deemed to limit or restrict the practice of engineering by licensed or certified professional engineers.

3.2.1. Adopted codes – the Board adopts, in its entirety, the current adopted edition of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code, ~~2007 edition~~ and the documents referenced therein published by and available from the ICBO Resource Center, 9300 Jollyville Road, Suite 101, Austin, TX 78759-7455, (512-794-8700, Fax 343-9116, 800-252-3602. A copy of the codes shall be kept available for public inspection in the office of the State Fire Marshal.

3.2.2. Adopted Standards. The Board adopts in their entirety, the documents referenced by the adopted code and summarized in the section of the adopted fire code Chapter 45 of that code. To the extent there is not contradiction between the adopted code and copywriters standards published by and available from, the National Fire Protection Association, Inc. # 1 Batterymarch Park, P. O. Box 9101, Quincy, Mass. 02269-9101, 1-800-344-3555, such NFPA standards, even though referenced in part, are

entirely adopted. Where the adopted code does not reference a standard or edition, the most recently published edition of the standard shall be the one adopted by the Board. A copy of the standards shall be kept available for public inspection in the office of the State Fire Marshal.

3.2.3. Approved Certification Organizations. The Board approves the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET).

3.2.4. Approved Apprenticeship Program. The Board approves the US Dept of Labor Fire Protection Apprenticeship Program for certifying [Licensing Fire Sprinkler](#) Fitters.

3.2.5. ~~Licencees~~[Licensees](#) are certified in training and must obtain the experience required for their licensing as pertaining to their knowledge of NFPA standards. All work performed by NICET certified ~~licencees~~[licensees](#) are subject to design professionals and fire officials, who are the authorities having jurisdiction, who may require work beyond NFPA in order to meet requirements set forth in the State Fire Code or the design professional's or fire authority's interpretation thereof. [All AHJ requirements, especially requiring deviations from NFPA or the State Fire Code, must be in writing or else such deviations are the licensed employee's responsibility.](#)

3.3. Explanation of Roles.

3.3.1. Owner's Role. The responsibility of properly maintaining a water based fire system shall be that of the owner(s) of the property. By means of periodic inspections, tests, and maintenance, the equipment shall be shown to be in good operating condition or any defects or impairments shall be revealed. Inspection, testing, and maintenance shall be implemented in accordance with procedures meeting or exceeding those established in this document and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Personnel who have developed competence through training and experience shall perform the task.

3.3.2. Per NFPA, The building owner or occupant shall not make changes in the occupancy, the use or process, nor the materials used or stored in the building without evaluation of the fire system for their capability to protect the new occupancy, use or materials. The evaluation shall consider factors that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ◆ *Occupancy changes such as converting office or production space into warehousing.*
- ◆ *Process or material changes such as metal stamping of molded plastics.*
- ◆ *Building revisions such as relocated walls, added mezzanines and ceilings added below sprinklers.*
- ◆ *Removal of heating systems in spaces with piping subject to freezing.*
- ◆ *Where changes in the occupancy, hazard, water supply, storage, commodity, storage arrangement, building modification or other conditions that affect the installation criteria of the system are identified, the owner or occupant shall promptly take steps (such as contacting a qualified business, consultant or engineer) to evaluate the adequacy of the installed system in order to protect the building or hazard in question. Where the evaluation reveals a deficiency causing a threat to life or property, the owner shall make appropriate corrections. All requirements of the authority having jurisdiction shall be followed.*
- ◆ *The owner shall maintain records. Records shall indicate the procedures performed (inspection, test or maintenance), the organization that performed the work, the results, the date and the inspector or RME license number. Original records shall be retained for the life of the system. Subsequent records shall be retained for a period of one year after the next inspection, test or maintenance required by the standard.*
- ◆ *To avoid false alarms where a supervisory service is provided, the alarm receiving facility shall always be notified by the owner or designated representative before conducting any test or procedures that could result in the activation of an alarm or after such test or procedures are concluded.*

3.3.3. Fire protection sprinkler system business's Role. *In order to fulfill the intent of the owner's roles, a specialized business may be hired who satisfies the role of employing "personnel who have developed competence through training and experience". The business then assumes responsibility for the maintenance, inspection, servicing or installation of the system to the extent expressed in the contract between the two parties. If requested by the Board, the business's inspector or RME shall furnish a license number for all hired work and shall fax a copy of the completed forms to the Licensing Board.*

3.3.4. RME Role: The RME is responsible for assuring that all fire protection sprinkler system business is performed in accordance with all applicable provisions, rules, and guidelines.

3.3.5. Installer's Role. The Installer receives approved drawings as signed off by the company's RME and is in charge of installing the sprinkler system according to such drawings and completing the installation in compliance with all applicable NFPA standards. Once completed, the Installer must complete the Contractor's Material Test Certificate in accordance with the appropriate NFPA standard and affix the permanent green installation tag. The role of this individual is "installation" and this individual's competency falls under the jurisdiction of the company's RME.

3.3.6. Inspector's Role. The Inspector is an experienced and trained individual who is employed by a Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business to visually examine and verify the installed system appears to be in operating condition and free of physical damage in accordance with the nationally adopted NFPA 25 standard. The Inspector also acts as a liaison and informant for the fire department by signing systems off as described in the tagging system later described in this document. Where the installer's initial installment is covered under the business's and manufacturer's warranties, the inspector must have the competence to provide assurance that the system components are working properly even after the warranties have been exhausted.

4. **REGISTRATION, LICENSING, FEES.** Alteration of any Certificates or Licensed Documents renders them invalid and is the basis for administrative action pursuant to Act 743 of 1977 as amended.

4.1. **Company License.** Certificate of Registration. Each firm engaged in the business shall have a certificate of registration issued by the Board (example: FSS-xxx).

4.1.1. Business Location. A specific location shall be maintained by each certified firm which shall be indicated on the certificate.

4.1.2. Posting. Each certificate shall be posted conspicuously on the premise.

4.1.3. Change in ownership. The change of a firm's ownership invalidates the current certificate. To assure continuance of the business, an application for a new certificate must be submitted to the Board fourteen (14) days prior to such change.

- 4.1.4. Change in corporate Officers. Any change of corporate officers must be reported in writing to the Board within fourteen (14) days. This change does not require a revised certificate.
- 4.1.5. Duplicate certificates. A duplicate certificate may be issued upon receipt of written notification of the loss or destruction, without delay, accompanied by the required fee.
- 4.1.6. Revised certificate. The change of a firm's name, location or mailing address requires a revised certificate. Certificates requiring changes must be surrendered to the Board within fourteen (14) days after the change requiring the revision. The certificate holder must submit written notification of the necessary change with the surrendered certificate accompanied by the required fee.
- 4.1.7. Minimum Age. A certificate shall not be issued to any person who is under 18 years of age.
- 4.1.8. Termination of Registered firm's RME. Upon termination of the registered firm's RME, the firm shall submit to the Board, in writing, within forty-eight (48) hours and have a full time employee submit for a new RME license within thirty (30) days.
- 4.1.9. Nontransferable. A certificate is not transferable from one firm to another.
- 4.1.10. Certificate holders shall be responsible for the acts of their agents and employees for purposes of these rules, including the taking of administrative action by the Board.
- 4.2. **Individual Licenses.** Each individual engaged in any activity outlined in these rules and regulations or in the Act empowering them, shall have a license issued by the Board (example: RME, FIT, or APP).
- 4.2.1. Each Licensed Individual shall be employed [by the business full time](#) and shall only perform the act(s) authorized by their license.
- 4.2.2. Pocket License. The pocket license is for identification purposed only as long as such license remains valid and the firm reflected on the license employs the license holder.
- 4.2.3. Posting. Wall licenses shall be posted conspicuously on the premise of the firm's business location.
- 4.2.4. Duplicate License. A duplicate license must be obtained from the Board to replace a lost or destroyed license. The license holder must submit

written notification of the loss or destruction without delay accompanied by the required fee.

- 4.2.5. Revised License. The license holder must submit written notification of the necessary change with the surrendered license accompanied by the required fee.
- 4.2.6. License requiring change(s) due to a change of home or mailing address must be surrendered to the Board within fourteen (14) days after the change requiring the revision.
- 4.2.7. License requiring a change due to a change from one registered firm to another must be submitted in writing to the Board within forty-eight (48) hours.
- 4.2.8. Minimum Age. A license will not be issued to any person who is under 23 years of age. [Supervised employees, such as Apprentices and Trainees](#), are not subject to this requirement; however, the minimum age for apprentices [and trainees](#) shall be 18 years of age.
- 4.2.9. ~~Inspectors must meet the criteria outlined in Exhibit F, Table A unless waived, taken exception to, or otherwise deemed equivalent as determined by the Board.~~
- 4.2.10. Restrictions of Licenses are as follows:
 - A license does not authorize anyone engaged in the business to enforce these rules or to enter any building without the owner's permission.
 - Licensees shall not permit the use of their license by other persons.
 - A licensee shall not engage in any act of the business unless employed by a certified firm.
 - Nontransferable. A license is not transferable from one person to another.

4.3. **Applications.**

- 4.3.1. **Certificate of Registration.** Applications for certificates shall be in writing on forms provided by the Board and accompanied by the required fee.
- 4.3.2. Applications must be signed by the sole proprietor, by each partner of a partnership, or by an officer of a corporation or organization and must be accompanied by evidence of registration as an Arkansas Corporation or as a foreign corporation with evidence of registration with the Arkansas Secretary of State. The application shall also include written

authorization by the applicant permitting the Fire Marshal, or his representative, to enter, examine, and inspect any premises, building, room, or establishment used by the applicant while engaged in the business to determine compliance with the provisions of Act 743 of 1977 as amended.

4.3.3. Responsible Managing Employee, Inspector, and Installer Licenses.

Original and renewal applications for a license from an employee of a firm engaged in the business shall be on forms provided by the Board and accompanied by the required fee. Each licensee shall pass the examination(s) administered by this board, as outlined in Section 4, Part 5 "Examinations".

4.3.4. Original and renewal applications for a license from an employee of a firm engaged in the business shall be on forms provided by the Board and accompanied by the required fee.

4.3.5. One of the following documents must accompany the application to evidence technical qualifications for a **Responsible Managing Employee license**.

4.3.5.1. A copy of ~~the applicant's current~~ [NICET's notification letter regarding the applicant's successful completion of the examination requirements for certification at Level III or Level IV Certificate or Wallet Card](#) for fire protection automatic sprinkler system layout.

4.3.5.2. A copy of a diploma showing the completion of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Protection Engineering (or Engineering Technology) from a recognized institution, along with a signed affidavit from an Arkansas licensed sprinkler business stating the individual has a minimum of three (3) years subsequent experience in fire sprinkler layout.

~~4.3.6. Where Inspector or Fitter's License Affidavits are required for applicants, such forms must be signed by the firm's RME testifying to the competency of the individual's training and having 6,000 hours of experience with fire protection sprinkler systems.~~

~~4.3.6.4.3.7. One of the following documents must accompany the application to evidence technical qualifications [and/or having met certification requirements](#) for an **Inspector or Fitter's license** [prior to sitting for the exam](#).~~

~~4.3.6.1. **Evidence of having met the Certification Requirements for the License**, including~~

~~[4.3.7.1.1. An Inspector or Fitter's License Affidavit OR](#)~~

~~4.3.6.1.1~~ ~~4.3.7.1.2~~. Proof of registration with the [Arkansas-US](#) Dept of Labor Fire Sprinkler Fitter Program in order to obtain a Fitter License.

~~4.3.6.1.2. — Proof of having satisfied any one of the pre-requisites outlined in Exhibit F to obtain an Inspector's License.~~

~~4.3.7.1.3. — Fitters may be grandfathered in for a license without sitting for any state exams provided that their employer submits An Inspector or Fitter's License Affidavit for the applicant prior to August 1, 2013.~~

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

4.4. Insurance Required.

4.4.1. The Board shall not issue a certificate of registration under these rules unless applicant files with this office proof of liability insurance as required in Act 743 of 1977 as amended.

4.4.2. Each certified firm shall maintain in force and on file in the Board's office the certificate of insurance as required. Failure to do so will be cause for action to suspend the firm's certificate.

4.5. Examinations.

4.5.1. Each applicant for a license shall take and pass, with at least 90% grade, an examination covering these rules. The Board shall set the content, frequency and location covering these rules and Act 743 as amended. In addition to these requirements, Inspectors [and Fitter applicants](#) must pass an examination covering the current editions of [NFPA 25](#) and [NFPA 13](#), [NFPA 13R](#), [NFPA 20](#), [NFPA 24](#) and the [Inspector applicant must also pass an examination covering the current edition of NFPA 25.](#)

4.5.2. Applicants not passing the examination must file a re-examination application accompanied by the required fee.

4.5.3. A person whose license has been expired for two years or more and makes application for a new license must take and pass another examination. No examination is required for a license renewed within two years of expiration.

4.6. Fees.

4.6.1. Every fee required in accordance with the provisions of Act 743 of 1977 as amended and these rules shall be paid by money order or check. Money order or check shall be made payable to the Fire Protection Licensing Board.

- 4.6.2. Fees shall be paid at the office of the Board in Little Rock, Arkansas or mailed to an address specified by the Board.
- 4.6.3. Late fees are required of all certificates or license holders who fail to submit renewal applications on or prior to their expiration date of June 30.
- 4.6.4. A renewal application accompanied by a required fee and deposited with the United States Postal Service is deemed to be timely filed, regardless of actual date of delivery, when its envelope bears a legible postmark date which is on or before the expiration date of the certificate being renewed.
- 4.6.5. A certificate or license expired for two years or more cannot be renewed.
- 4.6.6. Late fees are required of all certificates or license holders who fail to submit renewal applications on or prior to the expiration date of June 30.
- 4.6.7. A renewal application accompanied by a required fee and deposited with the United States Postal Service is deemed to be timely filed, regardless of actual date of delivery, when its envelope bears a legible postmark date which is on or before the expiration date of the certificate being renewed.
- 4.6.8. A certificate or license expired for two years or more cannot be renewed.

Fees shall be as follows:

Certificate of Registration

Initial Fee	\$700.00
Renewal Fee	\$700.00
Application Fee	\$100.00
Branch Office (if using Different name)	\$ 28.00
Update/Revision	\$ 30.00

Responsible Managing Employee License

Initial Fee (which includes 1st exam Fee)	\$300.00
Renewal Fee	\$300.00

Inspector License

Initial Fee (which includes 1st exam fee)	\$150.00
Renewal Fee	\$150.00

Installer License

Initial/Renewal fee for Fitter License	\$50.00
Initial/Renewal fee for Apprenticeship License	\$25.00
Initial/Renewal fee for Trainee Permit	\$15.00

Formatted: Not Highlight

Other Fees

Transfer/Duplication	\$ 30.00
Any changes to Certificate or License	\$ 30.00
Examination Fee	\$ 28.00

<i>Expired 1-90 days</i>	<i>1 renewal fee + 1/2 initial fee = Total fee due</i>
<i>Expired 90-365 days</i>	<i>1 renewal fee + 1 initial fee = Total fee due</i>
<i>Expired 366 days-2 years -</i>	<i>2 renewal fees + 1 initialfee = Total fee due</i>
<hr/>	
<i>Example: 1-90 days</i>	
<i>Company Renewal Fee</i>	<i>\$700.00 + \$350.00 = \$1050</i>
<i>RME Renewal Fee</i>	<i>\$300.00 + \$150.00=\$450.00</i>
<i>Inspector Renewal Fee</i>	<i>\$150.00 + \$75.00 = \$225.00</i>

After two (2) years a company would be treated a a new company. RME(s) and Inspector(s) shall re-test to receive a license.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1. Installation, Inspection and Service.

5.1.1. All sprinkler systems installed under Act 743 of 1977 as amended shall be under the supervision of a licensed Responsible Managing Employee.

5.1.2. **Beginning at the demarcation valve** where water is used exclusively for fire sprinkler systems installation, testing and or servicing shall be executed by a Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business or under the direct supervision thereof and shall be in compliance with the adopted code and standards.

5.1.3. **Direct Supervision** is herein defined as on sight coordination, instruction and evaluation given by a Licensed Fitter to ensure that all

work is installed per any adopted codes and standards. Such supervision includes, but is not limited to, assurance, by inspection, that listed materials and proper restraints are used, such work is flushed, hydrostatic testing of 200 psi for 2 hours is performed, that the work is hydraulically calculated and Contractor's Material Test Certificates reference any subcontracted work, who performed such work (with all contact information) and the exact scope of such work.

5.1.4. At least one Licensed Fitter shall oversee the work on each project, being on site daily when fire sprinkler work is being performed. All other installers shall have apprenticeship licenses. Anyone installing fire sprinkler work without a license issued by this Board, shall be subject to fines and penalties described herein.

5.1.5. Licensed Fitters are to complete the **Contractor's Material and Test Certificate** upon completion of the installation where required by NFPA. The RME is responsible for distributing a Business's-Contractor's Material and Test Certificate as follows:

5.1.5.1. Original copy retained by the installing company.

5.1.5.2. Second copy kept at the site after completion of the installation.

5.1.6. A licensed inspector, employed by a Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business, shall **conduct inspections in compliance with NFPA 25 and must utilize forms approved by the Licensing Board**. (Sample Forms may be obtained from NFPA 25). A written inspection report shall be completed and copies filed with the

5.1.6.1. Owner, occupant or other designated responsible person.

5.1.6.2. State or Local Fire Marshal's Offices when systems require Yellow or Red Tags. Such Inspection Forms shall include the words "Yellow Tag" or "Red Tag" in the upper right hand corner of the 1st page so the Fire Authority can more readily discern the nature of the report.

5.1.7. The AFSA or NFSAs sample forms in the Appendix of NFPA 25 are APPROVED FORMS in the State of Arkansas along with all forms provided in the NFPA documents. Other Forms are permitted IF they fully comply with all the requirements in the NFPA standards, such forms comply with NFPA 25 AND have been individually approved by the board prior to utilizing them. See Exhibit H.

- 5.1.8. Service, which includes maintenance, where required, shall be conducted by a Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business and in compliance with the appropriate adopted standards.
- 5.1.9. **Complete records** shall be kept of the tests and operations of each system. The records shall be available for examination by the Fire Authority.
- 5.1.10. **Fire Pumps.** Fire Pump installation, inspection and/or testing must be performed or officially supervised by a licensed Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business) whose field representative must demonstrate proper training recognized by the Board. [See Exhibit F](#)
- 5.1.10.1. A licensed company may elect to utilize a distributor or manufacturer's representative to perform these services provided it is under the supervision of an Arkansas licensed Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business. Documentation of proper training and/or a letter from a distributor or manufacturer's representative must be submitted to the Board.
- 5.1.10.2. Once the Fire Pump inspection, installation and testing is completed an AFSA or NFSA form shall be completed, retained on file by the business and furnish to :
- 5.1.10.2.1. Owner, occupant or other designated responsible person.
- 5.1.10.2.2. In the case of items requiring a Yellow or Red Tag, such report shall be sent to the State or Local Fire Marshal. Such Inspection Forms shall include the words "Yellow Tag" or "Red Tag" in the upper right hand corner of the 1st page so the Fire Authority can more readily discern the nature of the report.
- 5.1.11. **Backflow Prevention.**
- 5.1.11.1. Adding Backflow Prevention to Existing Facilities. Where backflow preventers are required to be installed on existing systems, the owner must have the system re-calculated with the loss of the backflow preventer. For pipe schedule systems, the pipe schedule method of evaluating the additional friction loss is acceptable.
- 5.1.11.2. Backflow Prevention Installation. Due to the necessity for hydraulic calculation, all Backflow Preventers that are installed downstream of the point of demarcation must be calculated and installed by a Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business except that such may be calculated by an Engineer licensed in the State of Arkansas. Backflow Preventers must be hydraulically calculated at the maximum flow condition for the fire sprinkler system.

5.1.11.3. Backflow Preventers installed in Fire Pump Supply. Per NFPA 20, Backflow preventers must be installed downstream of the fire pump installation unless otherwise required by the State Health Department or local municipalities. Such Backflow Preventers shall be listed to accommodate Fire Pump Churn pressure in addition to any other supply pressure obtained for the system.

5.1.12. **Stand pipes** shall be installed by a licensed Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business per Act 1073 of 2003.

5.1.13. **Multipurpose systems** are residential type systems where domestic plumbing and fire sprinkler work are highly integrated. Any fire sprinkler portion of such system must be performed by a licensed Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business or under the direct supervision, as defined in Section 5.1.b.

5.1.14. **Elevator Safety** falls under the jurisdiction of the Arkansas Department of Labor, Elevator Safety Division and shall adhere to Rules and Regulations adopted by the Arkansas Elevator Safety Board. Although NFPA 13 allows the omission of fire sprinklers meeting ASME/ANSI A17.1 requirements, the portion of this document dealing with the installation of pipes in hoistways and machine rooms, namely ASME/ANSI A17.1a of 1998, rule 102.2 (now replaced by the equivalent reference from the 2004 edition), list 5 requirements which, alongside additional concerns of the Elevator Safety Division, can be satisfied by following the guideline shown below:

5.1.14.1. Elevator Pits require fire sprinklers due to the accumulation of debris in the pit. Such fire sprinklers require a shutoff valve with a tamper switch, but do not require any monitoring of flow. The supply shall not enter the elevator shaft more than 6" above the finished floor level and once entering must be installed tightly to hug the wall of the pit (ideally not on the same wall as the hydraulic equipment unless specifically arranged by the Elevator Inspection Division of the Dept of Labor). The elevator sprinkler shall be Intermediate temperature, Ordinary Response and located 16" to 20" above the pit floor.

5.1.14.2. Elevator Machine Rooms require both shutoff valves with tamper switches AND a flow switch to be wired by a licensed alarm company IF shunting is required. The water flow switch shall be set to Zero Delay in order to shunt the main power supply and Car Lighting Circuit. All flow switches must be testable. (if providing a plugged outlet, place the outlet at least 1 foot away from the waterflow switch for annual testing). The Elevator Machine Room sprinkler shall be Intermediate Temperature, Ordinary Response, giving the 135 degree fixed temperature detector time to return the elevator to

the designated floor with open doors, remaining in place, until Phase II Recall is initiated by the Elevator's keyed switch. The time delay between heat sensor activation and higher response time/ the higher temperature rated fire sprinkler is intended to allow electrical power to shut down prior to fire sprinkler activation. See Exhibit G.

5.1.14.3. Sprinklers shall not be required in the tops of elevators unless required by NFPA 13 (i.e. for Freight Elevators). If a fire sprinkler is installed in the hoistway, it shall be installed as specified for the Elevator Machine Room and a heat detector at the top of the hoistway shall perform the same shunting functionality as described for the Machine Room.

5.1.15. **The Department of Human Services (DHS)** does not recognize concessions made by the codes and standards with regards to Fire Retardant Treated Wood (FRTW) and therefore, where projects fall under the jurisdiction of DHHS, please consult with the Director of Human Services, prior to attempting such work.

5.1.16. **Engineers, Fire Officials, Insurers, and other AHJs** are the recognized authorities of Codes and Standards adopted by this Board and govern the parameters of design for which the Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business and RME are responsible for fulfilling. Fire Sprinkler Licenses are products of NFPA Standards and NICET Certifications, which are entities SUBJECT TO; HOWEVER INDEPENDENT OF, State Codes. This Board has no authority pertaining to State Codes, though such Codes dictate the editions of the Standards recognized by this board. Therefore, licenses issued from this board do not indicate any proficiency on the part of its licensees pertaining to State Codes.

5.1.17. **The State Fire Code provides limitations on NFPA 13R systems, FDC accessibility requirements, the maximum distance between a fire hydrant and FDC, where fire sprinklers may be omitted, where additional fire sprinklers may be required, firewall separation requirements that design professionals may achieve by water curtains, window sprinklers, or other design methods, seismic bracing requirements, and a host of requirements beyond NFPA standards that this board requires certification for. Though fire sprinkler contractors may possess knowledge beyond their certifications and licensing, the rules and regulations of this board and its licensees do not extend beyond the certified competency required by this board. Fire Sprinkler Businesses do not determine scope but rather follow the scope given by design professionals pertaining to these and many other design parameters and design options allowed by the codes. As code requirements are given by engineers and fall under the AR State Board of Licensure for**

Professional Engineers, installation standards fall under the expertise of licensees regulated by this board

5.1.18. Fire Authorities determine and enforce code requirements in the initial permitting process with design professionals, which is a process independent of this board's jurisdiction. However, fire authorities review system layout and installation per NFPA standards as well, and this portion of the fire authority's review and enforcement applies to the licensees regulated by this board.

5.2. Sprinkler System Plans.

5.2.1. One set of Sprinkler working plans and hydraulic calculations shall be submitted to ~~the~~ State Fire Marshal's Office ~~and to the local authority~~ having jurisdiction reviewing authority, where applicable, for all systems installed in a building prior to completion of installation. This set may be emailed.

5.2.2. Subsequent alterations or additions shall be legibly noted on updated plans. When an alteration consists of 20 sprinklers or less and all floor areas were calculated with such alterations accounted for, updated plans are not required. Updated plans are required for all alterations consisting of more than 20 sprinklers. Additions to systems areas also require updated plans.

5.2.3. Plans shall bear the signature of the licensed responsible managing designer, his license number, the date of installation, alteration or addition and the certificate of registration number of the certified firm.

5.3. Hydraulic Placard Standards and Requirements (See Exhibit "A" for example).

5.3.1. Every new and remodeled system shall receive a self-adhesive hydraulic placard that is to be placed in plain view on the system riser.

5.3.2. The placards shall be no less than 0.002" in thickness, made of an aluminum foil type material.

5.3.3. Adhesives shall have 3M, or equivalent, permanent pressure sensitive backing.

5.3.4. Size shall be no less than 5" wide by 7" long.

5.3.5. Wording on the placard shall be legible and permanent so as not to rub off.

5.3.6. Fire Protection Sprinkler System business~~s~~ shall submit samples of placards to the Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board for approval at the time of licensing and for annual license renewals.

5.3.7. The Wording on the Placard show be as follows:

- Each placard shall contain the following information:
- System number
- Remote area location
- Number of sprinklers calculated
- Hazard group
- Commodity protected
- Maximum storage height
- Density
- Design discharge area
- GPM discharge at base of riser
- Residual pressure at base of riser
- Un-sprinkled areas of the facility (for partial systems only).
- Date of installation /placed in service.
- The statement “DO NOT REMOVE, DESTROY OR OBSTRUCT BY ORDER OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL” in bold type and font size shall be no smaller than 16.
- RME name and license number
- Company certificate of registration number
- Fire Sprinkler company name, address and telephone number
- Codes, edition(s) and year system installed by

5.4. Overview of Tagging System and Procedures

5.4.1. Every new and remodeled system shall receive the Tags described below.

5.4.2. **Authorized Tag Personnel.** Only the following persons are authorized to attach, remove, or re-attach green tags, yellow tags or red tags.

5.4.2.1. A Fire Protection Sprinkler System Business's RME, Licensed Fitter, or Inspector.

5.4.2.2. By order to the State Fire Marshal

5.4.2.3. By order of the local Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction

5.4.2.4. By order of the State Fire Protection Licensing Board or its designated employee.

5.4.3. After installation and after each service, maintenance, or inspection a new GREEN "service tag" shall be completed in detail indicating all work that has been done and then attached to the system in such a position as to permit convenient inspection and not hamper actuation or operation of the system.

5.4.4. **Where impairments are found,** a Green Tag must not be installed on the system until corrections have been made.

5.4.4.1. Impairment. A shutdown of a system or portion thereof. The two types of impairments are as follows:

5.4.4.1.1. Pre-Planned. A condition where a water based Fire Protection Sprinkler System or a portion thereof is out of service due to work that has been planned in advance, such as revisions to the water supply or sprinkler system piping.

5.4.4.1.2. Emergency. A condition where a water based Fire Protection Sprinkler System or portion thereof is out of order due to an unexpected occurrence, such as a ruptured pipe, an operated sprinkler, or an interruption of the water supply to the system.

5.4.4.1.2.1. All impairments that would interfere with the fire department's ability to rely upon the fire sprinkler system's reliability are considered to be Emergency Impairments. (Example: a potential or immediate hazard that jeopardized water flow conditions in the fire department connection supply line, bad fire department connection threads, an obstruction in the FDC supply, any openings in the system (whether piping or sprinklers, defective FDC check valves, etc.)

- 5.4.5. Green Tag. Any system that is green tagged is understood to have successfully passed inspection by a licensed individual utilizing the state standard inspection forms NFSA or AFSA Forms. All non-emergency impairments must be noted in the comment section of the tag (see Exhibit C).
- 5.4.6. Green Tags are to be attached after the initial installation after the Licensed Fitter has completed the Contractor's Material Test Certificate.
- 5.4.7. Yellow Tag. Any system that is understood to have non-emergency impairments that do not merit a Red Tag, such as manufacturer's recalls, missing head boxes or contents thereof, inoperable alarm functions, areas with improperly spaced fire sprinklers, where fire sprinklers have been painted and require replacement, and other such impairments that would not be anticipated to substantially diminish the system's ability to perform its intended function – protection of the occupants and/or building **(See Exhibit D)**.
- 5.4.8. If non-emergency impairments are found, the RME or Licensed Inspector must notify the building owner or his representative. In addition, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified in writing and/or a copy of the completed tag (front and back) is to be sent to him noting all impairments. This information must be sent by mail or fax with fourteen (14) business days of the inspection.
- 5.4.9. Red Tag. Any system that is red tagged is understood to be emergency impaired and therefore would not be acceptable to connect to in the case of emergency operations **(See Exhibit E)**.
- 5.4.10. If impairments are found in the system that constitute an emergency impairment, as defines in NFPA 25, then the RME or the inspector shall complete and attach a Red Tag in such a position as to permit convenient inspection and not hamper actuation or operation of the system and one laminated Red Tag is to be placed on the exterior fire department connection (peel and seal clear laminate is acceptable). After notifying the owner and discussing the deficiencies, the RME or inspector shall immediately notify the local AHJ within 24 hours, either by telephone or in writing, and follow up by way of sending a copy of the inspection report or a copy of the completed tags (front and back) by mail, email or fax within 5 business days of the inspection.
- 5.4.11. **This Section applies to Tag Configuration and Contents.**
- 5.4.12. A new service tag shall be green in color and shall be attached each time an inspection, service or maintenance is performed and the criteria of the above paragraph exist.

5.4.13. Service tags are to be attached when the selected inspection form (AFSA or NFSA format) is completed and impairment have not been found during the inspection.

5.4.14. Green Service tags, Yellow Tags, and Red Tags shall be 5 1/4 inches in height and 2 5/8 inches in width.

5.4.15. All tags must utilize a "punch out" system for dating and may be printed and established for a period of five (5) years. After each printing one tag shall be sent to the Fire Protection Licensing Board.

5.4.16. Service Tags, Yellow Tags, and Red Tags shall bear the following information:

- Printed at the top of the tag in all capital letters in at least 36 point bold face type will be the following: "DO NOT REMOVE BY ORDER OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL".
- Name, address, telephone number and certificate number of the firm performing the installation, service, maintenance or inspection
- Name and license number of the firm's Inspector or RME clearly printed (hand printing not allowed).
- Signature of the person performing the work.
- Day, month and year the work was completed (may be punched)
- Type of work performed - installation, service, maintenance or inspection (may be punched)
- Name and address of the property owner where the work was performed.
- Description and address of the property where the work was performed.
- Comments/Impairments (shall include 3 or more lines).

6. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

6.1. The Fire Protection Licensing Board shall issue no certificate of registration to a firm where the issuance of such license shall be confusing to the public. It shall be the duty of the person requesting a certificate of registration to inquire of the Board concerning the acceptability of the proposed company name.

6.2. Enforcement. The failure to comply with provisions of these rules by certificate holders or licensees may subject them to Board action including but not limited to, suspension, fine, revocation or refusal to issue or renew a license or certificate of registration.

The penalty for noncompliance with ANY written rule or regulation stated herein is subject to the maximum allowed penalty fees listed in Arkansas Amendment Title 20-22-604

The board may require a firm to pay all necessary and proper costs incurred by the board in the preparation, conduct, and findings of a hearing involving correcting the action or work performed by the board in violation of a statute, rule, or order enforceable by the board.

6.3. Severability. If any provision of these rules or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason the invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or any other application of these rules which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application. To this end all provisions of these rules are declared to be severable.

7. BOARD HEARINGS, COMPLAINTS, INVESTIGATIONS

7.1. Complaints. Any and all complaints falling within the jurisdiction of the Board, which individual's make, must be in written form. The Board staff will date stamp the complaint and a complaint number will be assigned when received in the Board office.

7.2. Jurisdiction. Failure to meet any rules, regulation, requirement or implication thereof clearly written or illustrated in this document, whether in its body, exhibits, or whatever portion thereof, is subject to fines and penalties and falls within the jurisdiction of this Board.

7.3. Investigation. The Board may, on its own motion, initiate investigations. The Board after reviewing the complaint ~~with Board Counsel~~ will determine whether there is sufficient evidence to make a prima facie case and proceed to investigate the allegations.

7.4. Hearings. If it is determined there is a prima facie case, that a licensee or individual has violated laws under the Board's jurisdiction, the Board will cause a Notice of Hearing to be issued. The Notice of Hearing will contain information as required by Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act.

7.5. Hearing Notice Procedures.

7.5.1. The Notice will be served on the respondent by U. S. Mail or by personal delivery at least twenty (20) days before the scheduled hearing.

- 7.5.2. Notice shall be deemed sufficient if the Notice is mailed to the person at his or her address of record with the Board.
- 7.5.3. Any and every Notice, Order or other instrument herein required to be forwarded or sent to any person concerning a complaint or hearing shall be deemed sufficient if addressed to the person at his or her address as last furnished to the Board, in a sealed envelope and delivered by Certified Mail, postage prepaid.
- 7.5.4. At any and all meetings of the Board at which a hearing is to be held on any complaint previously filed the same shall be set down for a day certain by the Board, at least ten (10) days prior to any such hearing date.
- 7.5.5. The Board shall, at least 20 days prior to any such hearing date, notify all persons entitled to notice thereof, by certified mail of the order of the Board setting such complaint for hearing. Said Notice shall contain the place and approximate time of said hearing, a brief and concise statement of the facts forming the basis of the complaint, the provisions of the law or the rules and regulations thought to be involved therein and shall be executed by the Board, dated and sealed with the official seal of the Board.
- 7.5.6. Any licensee complained against and to be heard or any complaining witness, may, by written petition signed and dated, invoke the aid of the Board in the procurement of any witness he or she may desire to be present and testify at any such hearing, such petition to be filed with the Board at least five (5) days prior to such hearing date. Any and all cost anticipated must be deposited with the Board at the time of any such request.
- 7.6. Every pleading, motion or other document and every request to the Board must be filed with the Board in writing, signed, dated and in quadruplicate.
- 7.7. Hearings before the Board shall be presided over by the Chairman, although the Board may from time to time utilize hearing officers. Testimony before the Board shall be made under oath and shall be stenographically reported.
- 7.8. Each and every hearing of the Board after being duly called to order, shall begin with a statement by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, as to the nature of the cause to be heard, an inquiry of the parties present as to whether each is prepared to proceed and thereafter the cause, shall proceed with the presentation of evidence for and on behalf of the complainant¹ At the conclusion of such evidence the person complained against may then proceed to introduce evidence in contradiction, after which rebuttal testimony may be offered

- 7.9. Either oral or written argument on the issues raised may be called for or dispensed with by the Chairman or discretion of the Board.
- 7.10. At any hearing both the licensee and complaining witness involved may be present in the hearing room during the entire proceedings and shall have the right to cross-examine any witness and to examine any document or evidence submitted.
- 7.11. The Board will receive into evidence all affidavits, depositions, certified copies of documents, Photostats of official records and exhibits therewith introduced, together with such other evidence as may be administered by law.
- 7.11.1. The Board shall give to such evidence such weight as they shall determine just and proper.
- 7.11.2. Respondents before the Board shall be entitled to be represented by counsel, shall be allowed to cross-examine witnesses and shall be allowed to present testimony, photographs and other exhibits which are determined to be admissible by the Chairman or Hearing Officer.
- 7.12. No attorney shall withdraw his appearance in any case before this Board except by leave of the Board after notice is served by him or his client and counsel for the Board.
- 7.13. At the conclusion of the evidentiary portion of the hearing, the Board will conduct deliberations. At the close of the deliberations, the Board will make Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law and Disciplinary Orders, if appropriate.
- 7.14. The Board shall file its written findings and conclusions as to all hearings, same to be signed by the Board. A copy of such Order shall be sent to the licensee involved by certified mail.
- 7.15. Alternate Proceedings. Prior to proceeding to a formal adjudicative hearing, the case will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee to determine whether summary proceedings should be invoked. Members of the committee will be appointed by the Chairman and will in most cases include the State Fire Marshal, the Board Executive Director and/or Investigator and the Board's Legal Counsel. If the committee determines that violations, if proved, would not warrant license revocation or a fine in the amount greater than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars, the committee may recommend the complaint be handled in a summary manner. The decision will be referred to the Chairman for acceptance or rejection.
- 7.16. If the Board decides to utilize alternative proceedings, the respondent will be notified by mail that the Board has learned that he or she has engaged

in actions which violate the licensing law and it is recommended that under all the circumstances appropriate sanction is a fine of one thousand (\$1000) dollars or less. The Notice will further inform the respondent that he has the right to reject the proposed fine and have a full evidentiary hearing.

- 7.17. The respondent will be provided with a document which requests that he admit or deny violation of the Licensing Law and to further accept or reject the proposed penalty. The respondent will indicate he understands he has the right to a full evidentiary hearing before the Board and that he elects not to exercise that right.