

## Official Summary of Recommendations

### CEU Workgroup

The CEU Workgroup has conducted a review of current Continuing Education requirements under Article 6, §946 and §946.1 of the Certification Qualifications. Based on identified challenges and industry feedback, the Workgroup proposes the following updates to improve compliance, accountability, and the effectiveness of continuing education for Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitters.

#### **Recommendation 1: Revision to Continuing Education Requirements (§946)**

##### **Proposed Change**

Amend the current requirement of three (3) CEUs every three (3) years to an annual requirement of one (1) CEU per year.

Additionally, include language stating that:

- CEU certificates remain valid for 36 months from the date of completion, allowing multi-unit courses to be applied across multiple renewal periods.

##### **Purpose**

- Promote consistent, ongoing professional development.
- Reduce the burden of completing multiple CEUs at the end of a renewal cycle.

##### **Problem Identified**

- A majority of Certified Fitters delay completing CEUs until the end of the three-year cycle.
- This practice undermines the intent of continuous education and creates administrative strain.

##### **Rationale**

- The current system encourages postponement rather than continuous learning.
- An annual requirement establishes a consistent standard and improves knowledge retention.
- Allowing 36-month certificate validity ensures flexibility and encourages participation in higher-value courses.

#### **Recommendation 2: CEU Provider Reporting Requirements (§946.1)**

##### **Proposed Change**

Add a requirement that all CEU providers must:

- Submit an annual report (spreadsheet format) of all issued course certificates.
- Deadline: No later than January 30 each year.

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- Required data fields include:
  - Provider Name
  - Fitter Name
  - Fitter Card Number
  - Course Name
  - Course Completion Date
  - CEU Credit Issued

### Purpose

- Strengthen verification processes for CEU compliance.
- Provide Cal Fire with a centralized method to validate submitted certificates.

### Problem Identified

- Instances of:
  - Altered certificates (e.g., name changes)
  - Fraudulent or fabricated certificates
- Current verification requires manual follow-up with providers.

### Rationale

- Improves integrity of the certification system.
- Reduces administrative burden on Cal Fire staff.
- Ensure CEU providers maintain accurate and accountable records.

### Conclusion

These recommendations are intended to:

- Reinforce the purpose of continuing education as an ongoing process
- Improve compliance and accountability across both Fitters and CEU providers
- Streamline administrative verification processes for Cal Fire

The CEU Workgroup respectfully submits these recommendations for review and consideration by the AES Committee.