



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING AND INVESTIGATIONS**

P.O. BOX 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 568-2948
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: April 17, 2024

To: Automatic Extinguishing Systems Committee

From: Alex Rapphahn, Staff Services Analyst

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Certified Sprinkler Fitters Continuing Education Requirements

Recommended Actions:

Information Only

Background Information:

Following the passage of Assembly Bill 433 (Gordon) in 2013, regulations went into effect on July 1, 2017, requiring Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems (AES) sprinkler fitters to be certified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

Per regulations, certified Sprinkler Fitters and Multifamily Residential Sprinkler Fitters must complete three continuing education units every three years. In November 2020, the OSFM published Information Bulletin 20-006, which gave certified sprinkler fitters and multifamily residential sprinkler fitters extra time to get their continuing education due to COVID-19.

When an applicant initially applies for certification, their certification expires on June 30. The initial certification would then be valid for one month (if issued in June) to 11 months (if issued in July). The range of the initial certification has made it difficult for applicants to determine when continuing education is due.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

Depending on when an applicant was initially certified, the range for continuing education could be 22 months (if approved initially in June) to 33 months (if approved initially in July) based on the renewal period (which opens in January).

The OSFM will now require the submission of CEs at the time of the third renewal (3 years). The first partial year will not count towards the three-year CE requirements. This change will benefit the applicant, and the initial period will be (30-41 months before continuing education is required to be submitted. All future CE requirements will be due at the three-year renewal. The OSFM started implementing this change on April 2, 2024.

Potential Industry Impacts:

This proposed change will make it easier for applicants to determine when their continuing education.