



CAL FIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Information Bulletin 26-001

Issued: January 5, 2026

Sprinkler Fitter Licensing – Judgment and Injunction

OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to provide notice of a recent judgment and injunction by the Sacramento Superior Court in a case relating to the regulations for the Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems Certification for Sprinkler Fitters.

INFORMATION:

Effective January 7, 2026, the following stricken sections of the regulations of the Office of the State Fire Marshal were invalidated and cannot be enforced. All other regulations in the California Code of Regulations Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 5.5, remain in full force and effect. A Fire Sprinkler Fitter Trainee Registration, Fire Sprinkler Fitter Apprentice Registration, or Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification is still required for persons working as sprinkler fitters in California.

Section 924.11. "T" Definitions.

(a) Trainee. A person or individual working in the fire protection industry installing water-based fire protection systems ~~at an entry level position~~ as described in Section 937.

Section 926. Maximum Number of Directly Supervised Employees.

~~A Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter may supervise the number of apprentices permitted in their Apprenticeship Agreement and up to two (2) trainees.~~

Section 937 . Fire Sprinkler Fitter Trainee Registration.

~~(a) A person not registered in a California State or federally approved apprenticeship program, shall be registered with the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a Fire Sprinkler Fitter Trainee and work within the scope of these regulations as a trainee for up to one (1) year from their date of hire.~~

(b) To be registered as a trainee, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Be 16 years of age or older.
- (2) Complete an Apprentice/Trainee Registration Application (AES 1005A) accompanied by the fees prescribed in Section 925.1 of these regulations.
- (3) Provide proof of employment with a licensed California Contractors State License Board C-16 contractor.

(c) Upon approval of 1 through 3 above, the applicant will be issued a Trainee Registration Card.

(d) Individuals may perform work within the scope of these regulations for no more than ninety (90) days prior to submitting an application to the OSFM.

(e) The trainee shall ~~work under the direct supervision of a Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter at all times and shall do the following:~~



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(1) Only perform installation of water-based fire protection systems for a properly licensed California Contractors State License Board C-16 contractor.

(2) ~~Be registered into a California State or federally approved fire sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program within one (1) year of their date of hire.~~

(f) ~~If the trainee is not accepted into a California State or federally approved fire sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program within one (1) year of their date of hire, the individual shall no longer be registered to work within the scope of these regulations.~~

(g) An original trainee registration shall be valid from the date of issuance through June 30th. Thereafter, each trainee registration shall be renewed annually and is valid from July 1st through June 30th.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is actively working on a rulemaking package to resubmit the stricken sections to the Office of Administrative Law.

FOR QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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