



Fire Marshal's Alert September 2011

State Fire Marshal Announces Changes to Texas Insurance Code Chapter 6002 & the Fire Alarm Rules

The following is a synopsis of some of the substantive changes to TIC, Chptr 6002 and the Fire Alarm Rules. The Commissioner of Insurance, through the State Fire Marshal, has amended the Fire Alarm Rules in order to implement House Bill (HB) 2118, 80th Legislature, Regular Session, effective September 1, 2007 and to make changes necessary to licensing structures and procedures for the State Fire Marshal Office's implementation of the State Insurance Regulators Connection (SIRCON) licensing computer software program. The new rules took effect July 5, 2011. A complete copy can be downloaded from the SFMO fire alarm web site at: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/fmlialarm.html> then click on "Statute and Rules."

TIC, Chapter 6002 (amended 9/1/2011)

- Sec. 6002.158.(e). **Training Schools and Instructors; Approval.** Section modified to require examination for residential fire alarm course and minimum score of 80% to pass.

28 TAC §§ 34.600 the Fire Alarm Rules (effective 7/5/2011)

- §34.606.(1) **Definitions.** Definition of "Approval" added for document issued by SFMO to acknowledge that individual or entity meets requirements to perform functions of approved instructor or approved training school.
- §34.606.(7) **Definitions.** Definition of "Designated employee" added for individual specified by a registered firm as a full-time employee and a licensee.
- §34.606.(12),(22) **Definitions.** Definition of "Instructor" & "Training school" added related to providing training in installing, servicing, inspecting, and certifying the fire alarm and detection systems in single-family or two-family residences. Also see §34.611, §34.627, §34.628
- §34.607 **Adopted Standards.** Later editions of certain standards were adopted. Examples are NFPA 72-2007; NFPA 70-2008; NFPA 101-2009. See Rules for entire list. You are responsible for obtaining a copy and installing, servicing and maintaining all fire alarm systems and devices according to these standards. You may obtain these from NFPA at www.nfpa.org
- §34.610. **Certificates of Registration.** Removed requirement for posting of certificates at business location.
- §34.610.(b) **Certificates of Registration.** Section added requiring each registered firm to specify one full-time licensed employee as the firm's "designated employee" on their certificate of registration applications and renewal applications
- §34.610.(f) **Certificates of Registration.** Branch office certificates are now combined with the main office certificate of registration. Initial fee for a branch office is \$100 and is not prorated. Branch office certificates expire and renew on same date as registered firm's main office.
- §34.611. **Licenses and Approvals.** Added license for Residential fire alarm technician
- §34.613(a)(7) **Applications** adds a sentence specifying that a fire alarm licensee designated by a monitoring company as its employee may not serve in a similar capacity for another company.
- §34.614.(c)(1)(C)&(D) **Fees.** Renewal late fees for branch offices are combined with late fees for the registered firm's main office.

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