



## Texas Department of Insurance

State Fire Marshal's Office, Mail Code 112-FM  
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512-676-6800 • 512-490-1063 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

# FIRE EXTINGUISHER LICENSE & TEST INFORMATION

### USE OF THIS INFORMATION

This bulletin is an abbreviation of the fire extinguisher statute and rules and provides general information concerning the fire extinguisher licenses. If there is any conflict between this document and the statute and rules, the statute and rules will take precedence.

### FOR ASSISTANCE AND QUESTIONS

State Fire Marshal's Office  
P. O. Box 149221

Austin, TX 78714-9221  
or call and ask for the

Fire Extinguisher Licensing Technician  
512-676-6809

additional information and forms may be found on our web site at  
<http://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire>

### TYPES OF & REGISTRATIONS (for firms)

A firm cannot be registered without a licensed employee.

#### Extinguisher Certificate of Registration (ECR)

Each firm engaged in the business of portable fire extinguishers or fixed extinguisher systems must have an ECR. The extent of work, allowed by the firm (installing or servicing portable fire extinguishers or planning, certifying, installing, or servicing fixed fire extinguisher systems), is limited by the license held by their employees.

#### Extinguisher Branch Office Certificate of Registration

Each separate office location performing the same business as the firm holding the ECR must have a branch office certificate of registration.

#### Type C Registration

A firm issued a Type C registration and whose facility has been awarded an identification number (RIN) by the DOT is permitted to hydrostatically test DOT specification fire extinguisher cylinders. There is no Type C license.

### TYPES OF LICENSES (for individuals)

An individual cannot be issued a license until employed by a registered firm.

#### Type PL Planning License

A Type PL licensee is permitted to plan, install, certify, or service fixed fire extinguisher systems and sell, install, certify, or service portable fire extinguishers. *(This licensee must pass the NICET Level III test and the Extinguisher Statute & Rules TFM01 test.)*

#### Type A Fixed System License

Prerequisite: Hold a Type B license or an Apprentice permit for a minimum of 6 months. A Type A licensee is permitted to install, certify, or service all pre-engineered fixed fire extinguishing systems and portable extinguishers. Fixed fire extinguisher systems other than pre-engineered systems must be planned by a Type PL licensee or professional engineer. Installation and servicing of such a system may also be performed by or supervised by a Type A licensee. *(This licensee must pass the Extinguisher Type A TFM04 test, the Extinguisher Type K TFM03 test, the Extinguisher Type B TFM02 test, and the Extinguisher Statute & Rules TFM01 test.)*

#### Type K Kitchen Cooking Systems License

Prerequisite: Hold a Type B license or an Apprentice permit for a minimum of 6 months. A Type K licensee is permitted to install, certify, or service any pre-engineered fixed fire extinguisher systems used to protect a cooking area, and portable extinguishers. *(This licensee must pass the Extinguisher Type K TFM03 test, the Extinguisher Type B TFM02 test, and the Extinguisher Statute & Rules TFM01 test.)*

#### Type B Portable License

A Type B licensee is permitted to install, certify, or service portable extinguishers and test DOT non-specification portable fire extinguishers. The testing of DOT specification fire extinguishers must be done by a Type "C" registered firm. *(This licensee must pass the Extinguisher Type B TFM02 test and the Extinguisher Statute & Rules TFM01 test.)*

#### Apprentice Permit

An individual issued an Apprentice Permit is allowed to install or service fixed fire extinguishing systems and portable fire extinguishers and only under the direct (within sight) supervision of a valid licensee who certifies the work by signing the tag. *(No testing is required for this permit.)*

A licensed individual may not perform the above services unless employed by a registered extinguisher firm.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER LICENSE & TEST INFORMATION (Continued)

| WORK PERMITTED BY TYPE OF LICENSE |  |         |         |         |                 |         |         |                   |         |         |          |         |         | REQUIRED TESTS             |                        |                                    |           |                           |                           |                           |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Type of License                   | All Fixed Systems  |         |         |         | Cooking Systems |         |         | Residential Range |         |         | Portable |         |         | Cylinders                  |                        | Tests                              |           |                           |                           |                           |   |
|                                   | Plan   | Install | Certify | Service | Install         | Certify | Service | Install           | Certify | Service | Install  | Certify | Service | Test non-DOT Specification | Test DOT Specification | Extinguisher Statute & Rules TFM01 | NICET III | Extinguisher Type A TFM04 | Extinguisher Type K TFM03 | Extinguisher Type B TFM02 |   |
| Type PL Planning                  | X  | X       | X       | X       | X               | X       | X       | X                 | X       | X       | X        | X       | X       | X                          | Per DOT Requirements   | X                                  | X         |                           |                           |                           |   |
| Type A Fixed Systems              |  | X       | X       | X       | X               | X       | X       | X                 | X       | X       | X        | X       | X       | X                          |                        | X                                  |           |                           | X                         | X                         | X |
| Type K Cooking Systems            |  |         |         |         | X               | X       | X       | X                 | X       | X       | X        | X       | X       | X                          |                        | X                                  |           |                           |                           | X                         | X |
| Type B Portables                  |  |         |         |         |                 |         |         |                   |         |         | X        | X       | X       | X                          |                        | X                                  |           |                           |                           |                           | X |
| Apprentice Permit                 | Must do all work under direct supervision (within sight) of another licensee |         |         |         |                 |         |         |                   |         |         |          |         |         |                            |                        |                                    | None      |                           |                           |                           |   |
| Type C Registration               |  |         |         |         |                 |         |         |                   |         |         |          |         |         | X                          |                        | None                               |           |                           |                           |                           |   |

**SCHEDULING A TEST**

State Fire Marshal's tests are administered through PSI. You may schedule your test online at anytime using their Internet Registration and Scheduling Service at [www.psiexams.com](http://www.psiexams.com). PSI does offer an option to check the availability of appointment times and locations before registering and providing payment.

**TEST DESCRIPTION**

All tests consist of questions that require true-false or multiple choice answers. Questions may refer to a drawing, chart, or figure included with the test.

The technical test questions are based on the adopted standards. There are no questions based on specific manufacturer's equipment other than generally referenced by an NFPA standard.

**TEST SCORES**

A score of 70% is necessary to pass the test. After completion of the test you will receive two score reports. One of these reports must be submitted with your license application.

A brief synopsis of the results is included in your score report.

**TEST RESTRICTION**

An applicant may only schedule each type of test once a week and no more than three times within a twelve-month period.

**TEST REFERENCES**

**Extinguisher Statute & Rules TFM01 Test<sup>4</sup>**

All questions on this test are based on the Texas Insurance Code, Chapter 6001, "Fire Extinguisher Service and Installation" and the Fire Extinguisher rules, 28 TAC § 34.500. This book may be downloaded from our web site at: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/fmliexting.html>, then click on "Statute and Rules".

**NICET III Test<sup>2,3</sup>**

This is a series of tests administered by the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET). NICET offers four levels of testing. A copy of NICET's notification letter confirming the applicant's successful completion of the testing requirements for

certification at Level III in Fire Protection Engineering Technology, Special Hazard Suppression Systems, must be provided to the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office.

**Extinguisher Type A TFM04 Test<sup>3,4</sup>**

All questions on this test are based on the information from the following National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards adopted in the rules. See the statute and rules booklet to determine the latest edition date of the adopted standard.

- NFPA 11 Low Expansion Foam<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 11A Medium & High Expansion Foams<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 12 Carbon Dioxide Systems<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 12A Halon 1301 Systems<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 15 Water Spray Fixed Systems<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 16 Deluge Foam-Water Sprinkler Syst.<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 18 Wetting Agents<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 25 Maintenance of Water-Based Syst.<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 2001 Clean Agent Systems<sup>1</sup>

Questions on this test include but are not limited to the following subjects.

1. Selection of the correct type of pipe and fittings permitted on various types of systems
2. Requirements and frequency for system testing of various types of systems
3. Requirements and frequency for maintenance of various types of systems
4. General knowledge of the various types of fire protection systems
5. Identifying the correct applicable NFPA standard
6. Classification of fire types

**Extinguisher Type K TFM03 Test<sup>3,4</sup>**

All questions on this test are based on the requirements pertaining to fire protection systems for cooking areas from the following National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards adopted in the rules. See the statute and rules booklet to determine the latest edition date of the adopted standard.

- NFPA 10 Portable Fire Extinguishers<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 17A Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems<sup>1</sup>
- NFPA 96 Ventilation and Cooking Operations<sup>1</sup>

**TEST REFERENCES (continued)**

## FIRE EXTINGUISHER LICENSE & TEST INFORMATION (Continued)

Questions on this test include but are not limited to the following subjects.

1. Specific requirements for wet chemical systems
2. Specific requirements for pre-engineered systems protecting cooking operations
3. Requirements and frequency for system testing of various types of systems protecting cooking operations
4. Requirements and frequency for maintenance of various types of systems protecting cooking operations
5. Classification of fire types

### Extinguisher Type B TFM02 Test <sup>3, 4</sup>

All questions on this test are based on the information from the following National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard in its entirety as adopted in the rules. See the statute and rules booklet to determine the latest edition date of the adopted standard.

NFPA 10 Portable Fire Extinguishers <sup>1</sup>

Questions on this test include but are not limited to the following subjects relating to portable fire extinguishers.

1. General requirements for portable extinguishers
2. Selection of the proper extinguisher based on the type of hazard or fire classification
3. Distribution, inspection, and maintenance requirements of extinguishers
4. Hydrostatic testing of extinguishers, hoses, etc.

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>These publications can be purchased through the National Fire Protection Association, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, Tel 1-800-344-3555 or by visiting [www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org).

<sup>2</sup>These tests are administered and scheduled by the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), 1420 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, Tel 1-800-787-0034 or by visiting <http://www.nicet.org>.

<sup>3</sup>All technical test requirements (other than Statute & Rules TFM01) are waived if the applicant is a Texas registered professional engineer.

<sup>4</sup>These tests are administered through PSI.

### EMPLOYEE LICENSE FEES

| Type of License      | Initial | Renewal (2 year)            |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Type PL Planning     | \$ 70   | \$ 100                      |
| Type A Fixed Syst.   | \$ 70   | \$ 100                      |
| Type K Cooking Syst. | \$ 70   | \$ 100                      |
| Type B Portables     | \$ 70   | \$ 100                      |
| Apprentice Permit    | \$ 30   |                             |
| Duplicate License    | \$ 20   | (e.g. replace lost license) |
| Revised License      | \$ 20   | (e.g. change employer)      |

Late fees are assessed as required by the statute and rules.

Except for overpayments resulting from mistakes of law or fact, all fees are non-refundable.

### COMPANY REGISTRATION FEES

| Certificate of Registration | (2 year) |                          |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
|                             | Initial  | Renewal                  |
| Main Office                 | \$ 450   | \$ 600                   |
| Branch Office (each)        | \$ 100   | \$ 200                   |
| Type C Registration         | \$ 250   | \$ 300                   |
| Revised Registration        | \$ 20    | (e.g. change of address) |

Late fees are assessed as required by the statute and rules.

Except for overpayments resulting from mistakes of law or fact, all fees are non-refundable.

### OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

The following must be submitted to apply for a Certificate of Registration:

- Certificate of Registration application
- Certificate of Insurance for bodily injury and property damage
- Additional documents (if applicable):
  - corporate charter, etc.
  - assumed name certificate
  - franchise tax account status must be *ACTIVE*
- Name of employee who is or will be licensed.
- Registration fee

### OBTAINING AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSE

The following must be submitted to apply for a license:

- Extinguisher Individual License application
- Score reports showing successful completion of exam requirements
- Name of firm who is or will be registered
- License fee