STATE OF MICHIGAN
GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

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DIRECTOR

Memorandum

DATE: June 15, 2021

TO: Michigan's Fire Service

FROM: Kevin J. Sehlmeyer, State Fire Marshal

SUBJECT: Reciprocity Application Requirements for Specific Certifications in Michigan

In accordance with Public Act 291 of 1966, as amended, the following reciprocity application requirements are meant to clarify the requirements of the Act so that the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) may successfully grant reciprocity for specific certifications in Michigan. The reciprocity is to show the individual meets the NFPA standard for the course.

General Requirements:

The following general requirements must be met for all reciprocity applications (unless an exception is noted for the specific discipline):

1. **The applicant must meet *ALL* of the following requirements:**
   - Be a member or an employee of a recognized fire department or public safety department in Michigan.
   - Be entered into the bureau's training information network (SMOKE); and
   - Complete and submit the bureau's Request for Reciprocity Application (BFS-258) to LARA-BFS-SMOKE@michigan.gov.

   Note: The Request for Reciprocity Application (BFS-258) is available on the BFS Fire Fighter Training Division's (FFTD) webpage under Forms and Procedures.

2. **The applicant must provide a copy of his/her certificate and supporting documentation in writing from the certifying agency from *ONE* of the following:**
   - An individual with a valid Pro Board® or IFSAC certificate.
   - An individual certified by another state's certifying agency; or
   - An individual who has been honorably discharged from, or a current member of, the Armed Forces of the United States and completed firefighter training while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

   Note: The Active Member of the Armed Forces in Good Standing form (BFS-258A) has been added to the FFTD webpage under Forms and Procedures.

Discipline Specific Requirements:

Additionally, reciprocity applications for each of the below disciplines, the specific requirements must be met at the time the certification is issued.

Firefighter I with hazardous materials operations, Firefighter II, and/or Firefighter I and II with hazardous materials operations must also meet:

- NFPA 1001, "Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications".

Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations must also meet:

- NFPA 1072, "Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents".

Fire Instructor I, Fire Instructor II, and Fire Instructor III** must also:

- Meet the NFPA 1041, "Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications".
- To become a certified instructor must also:
    - Have attended and passed the Fire Instructor I Orientation (H04A or subsequent) course; and
    - Apply for instructor certification on appropriate level forms (BFS-209 – Fire Instructor 1 and/or BFS-211 – Fire Instructor 2).

****Fire Instructor I** reciprocity may also be applied for by an individual who meets both the General Requirements and the Fire Instructor I requirements listed above, and:

- Possesses either:
    - a valid teaching certificate from the Michigan Department of Education.
    - a valid Instructor Coordinator License through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services EMS Division.
    - a M-410 certificate issued by the National Wildland Coordinating Group.
- Or has completed either:
    - a U.S. Department of Homeland Security instructor course.
    - a National Fire Academy instructor course; or
    - a Federal Emergency Management Agency instructor course.

Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II, Fire Officer III, and/or Fire Officer IV must also meet:

- NFPA 1021, "Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications"; and
- Fire Instructor I, or higher, (above) qualifications.

Fire Inspector I must also:

- Meet the NFPA 1031, "Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner"; and
- To become a certified inspector must also:
    - Meet the requirements for fire inspector certification, as specified in Public Act 207 of 1941, as amended; and
    - Complete and submit the bureau's State Certified Fire Inspector Application form (BFS-997) for certification as a Certified Fire Inspector.

Fire Investigator must also meet:

- NFPA 1033, “Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator”.

Previous Certifications:

Certified (Associate) Fire Instructor:

- An instructor who is approved by the bureau as a certified fire instructor, according to qualifications established before 2010 shall maintain his or her status as a certified fire instructor.
- A certified associate fire instructor who is approved by the bureau, according to qualifications established before September 30, 2021 shall maintain his or her status as a certified associate fire instructor.

Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council Fire Officer Certifications:
The bureau shall recognize previously issued certificates as equivalent for fire officer certification to be applied toward the advancement to the next level of fire officer certification. All fire officer certifications shall be obtained in sequential order as required in NFPA 1021. Previously issued Michigan fire officer certificates include:

- Fire Officer I (E01A, E01B)
- Fire Officer II (E02A, E02B)
- Fire Officer III (E03A)
- Michigan Company Officer I and II series (O21A) (equivalent to Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II)
- Michigan Fire Officer III series (O31A) (equivalent to Fire Officer III)

Certifications Not Available for Reciprocity:

At the time of this memo, there are no recognized certifications available for reciprocity in Michigan for the following titles:

- Fire Chief
- Public Safety Director
- Hazardous Materials Responder
- Technical Rescue Responder

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact:

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