

Fire Suppression Systems

Through [Public Act 207 of 1941, the Fire Prevention Code](#), the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) has jurisdiction over many different types of state-regulated facilities in Michigan. Installations, renovations, inspections, testing and/or maintenance on every fire suppression system (including hood suppression and clean agent systems) in state-regulated facilities must be performed by a firm that has been certified through BFS. For guidance on state-regulated facilities, please refer to the Act as well as the [Fire Alarm and Fire Suppression Certification Rules](#) for the promulgated rules for certification. Certification forms are also available on the Bureau website (www.michigan.gov/bfs) under the Frequently Used Forms section.

Fire Safety Rules and Code Requirements

All plans and specifications submitted for fire suppression systems are required to be in compliance with Rule R29.2809. Specifically:

R 29.2809 Plans and specifications

Rule 9.(1) Before installation or modification of a required fire suppression system, detailed plans and specifications of the proposed required fire suppression system or modification of the system shall be submitted to BFS, by a certified firm or licensed architect or engineer for approval. Violation of this rule may result in an immediate stop work order, which will remain in effect until plans are submitted to the office and receive approval from BFS Plan Review before work may resume on the project.

The [Fire Safety Rules](#) also adopt various National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) documents and therefore, fire suppression plans and specifications for the different facility types may require the use of different NFPA documents. Below is a list of NFPA documents that apply to each facility type:

Adult Foster Care: Reference the 2002 Edition of NFPA 13 for large (13-20 bed) facilities and NFPA 13R or NFPA 13D for Small (7-12 bed) facilities.

Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Homes for the Aged, Free Standing Outpatient Facility, CMCF and Hospice Residence: Reference the Life Safety Code (LSC) 2012 Edition and the 2010 Edition of NFPA 13.

Penal Institutions: Reference the LSC 1997 Edition and the 1996 Edition of NFPA 13.

Schools, Colleges and Universities: Reference the LSC 2012 Edition and the 2010 Edition of NFPA 13.

School Dormitories and College/University Dormitories: Reference the LSC 1997 Edition and the 1996 Edition of NFPA 13.

Hood suppression and clean agent systems are subject to the same Fire Safety Rules as above. Refer to the specific LSC for proper editions of the NFPA 96, 17, 17A and 2001 documents.

Plan Submittals

An [Application for Fire Safety Plan Examination \(BFS-979\)](#) must accompany each plan submittal to BFS. Be sure to include your BFS Certification Number (not your license number) on the application for your fire suppression plan submittal. Your submittal should also include a set of

shop drawings for review along with important cut sheets, hydraulic calculations and a current flow test.

Inspections, Testing and Maintenance

The promulgated rules state that all inspections, testing and maintenance performed on fire suppression systems in state-regulated facilities must be completed by BFS certified firms. Specifically:

R 29.2811a Inspection

Rule 11a. Before final approval of a project, a responsible person shall be present to perform all required tests during system inspection by BFS.

R 29.2802 System testing, servicing, inspection, or maintenance by certified firm required

Rule 2. (1) Testing, servicing, inspection, or maintenance functions which are intended to be performed by persons who have special training, knowledge, and equipment and which is so indicated in the manufacturer's instructions or in a nationally recognized code are required to be performed by a certified firm. At a minimum of once a year, system tests of required fire alarm systems and fire suppression systems shall be conducted in compliance with the standards adopted by reference in R 29.2809 by a certified firm.

(2) Subject to approval by the department of consumer and industry services, office of fire safety, limited testing, inspection, and adjustments to a required fire alarm or fire suppression system shall be permitted to be performed by a trained staff member who is employed by the regulated facility, and who has adequate knowledge of the installation, construction, and operation of the apparatus, and the hazards involved.

Additional questions may be directed to the BFS Plan Review Division at 517-241-8847.