Advisory Bulletin No.:	2026.003
Division/Section:	Fire Fighter Training Division
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Applies to:	Michigan Fire Service, Fire Inspectors
Issued by:	Thomas M. Hughes, State Fire Marshal, and State Fire Safety Board

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Subject
Fire inspector certification qualifications since the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) stopped accepting applications for Certified Fire Inspector I (CFI-I) or Certified Fire Inspector II (CFI-II) examinations.

Purpose
This advisory bulletin is intended to ensure continuity in Michigan's Fire Inspector Certification Program while administrative rules and then forms, advisory bulletins, and other materials are updated to reflect NFPA 1030 (2024 Edition) standards.

Background
As part of NFPA's Emergency Response and Responder Safety (ERRS) Document Consolidation Plan, several professional qualification standards have been consolidated into broader standards. While these consolidations do not substantially change the job performance requirements (JPRs) contained in the previous standards, they do affect references contained in Michigan administrative rules, advisory bulletins, forms, and other documents.

Similar to the consolidation of NFPA 1001, 1002, 1003, and 1005 into NFPA 1010, NFPA has consolidated several fire prevention professional qualifications into NFPA 1030. **NFPA 1030 (2024 Edition),** ***Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions*****,** consolidates **NFPA 1031, 2014 Edition**, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner*, together with the former **NFPA 1035** and **NFPA 1037.**

In addition to consolidating these standards, NFPA has restructured its fire inspector certification program. The previous CFI-I and CFI-II credentials have been replaced by Certified First Responder Inspector (CFRI) and Certified Fire Inspector (CFI) credentials. Effective June 30, 2026, NFPA will no longer accept applications for the CFI-I or CFI-II examinations. As a result, the Bureau of Fire Services conducted a review of the applicable JPRs and certification requirements to determine the impact of these changes on Michigan's Fire Inspector Certification Program.

Existing Laws

The Bureau is required to promulgate rules establishing qualifications for certification as a full-time inspector by an organized fire department to enforce fire safety rules promulgated under the Fire Prevention Code. MCL 29.2b(2).

The state fire marshal, with the approval of the Fire Fighters Training Council, is required to promulgate rules establishing the minimum standards for the certification of a fire service member and to develop and administer certification examinations, testing procedures, and reciprocity recognition for credentialing various fire service disciplines, including certified fire inspectors, that "must meet the respective professional qualifications in the current and appropriate National Fire Protection Association standard." MCL 29.369(1) & (2).

The consolidation into NFPA 1030 affects references contained within the existing **Michigan's Fire Inspector Certification** administrative rules (Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Fire Services, Fire Inspector Certification). Michigan's administrative rules and related advisory bulletins currently adopt or reference NFPA 1031. Specifically, Mich Admin Code, R 29.501a(1), last amended in 2009, states:

> The requirements for fire inspector I certification as provided in NFPA 1031 standard for professional qualifications for fire inspector and plan examiner 2003 edition, effective August 7, 2003, are adopted by reference in these rules.

However, **Michigan's Firefighter Training Council** administrative rule, Mich Admin Code, R 29.410(e), last amended in 2021, adopts the 2014 edition of the NFPA 1031 standard. Thus, the consolidation also affects the Firefighter Training Council General Rules.

To qualify for certification as a "certified fire inspector," an individual must satisfy eight requirements, including that they

> "[h]old an NFPA fire inspector I certification, **or the equivalent**, as determined by the bureau of fire services in consultation with the state fire safety board (emphasis added)." Mich Admin Code, R 29.502(h).

To qualify for classification or reciprocity as a certified fire inspector, the applicant must also either pass a certification examination that covers the skill and knowledge requirements of NFPA 1031 (2014 Edition) or meet those standards at the time the certificate is awarded. Mich Admin Code, R 29.405b.

To qualify for recertification as a certified fire inspector, an applicant must "meet the NFPA Inspector I requirements as adopted in R 29.501a, former Michigan State Police fire inspector training, or *other approved program* (emphasis added)." Mich Admin Code, R 29.502a(a)(i).

Analysis of NFPA 1031 and NFPA 1030
The administrative rules must be amended, consistent with the formal rulemaking process specified in the Administrative Procedures Act, to adopt NFPA 1030 (2024 Edition). Until then, the Bureau must continue administering the technical requirements of chapters 4 and 5 of NFPA 1031 (2014 Edition).

The Bureau, in consultation with the State Fire Safety Board, compared the applicable JPRs contained in NFPA 1031 and NFPA 1030. Based on this review, the Bureau and Board concluded on August 26, 2026, that the technical content of NFPA 1031, Chapters 4 and 5, has been incorporated into Chapter 7 of NFPA 1030, thus combining the former Inspector I and Inspector II chapters into a single Fire Inspector chapter while maintaining substantially equivalent competencies for CFI certification.

The Bureau, in consultation with the Board, also compared the JPRs contained in NFPA 1031, Chapters 4 and 5, with the JPRs contained in NFPA 1030, Chapter 6. Based on this review, the Bureau and the Board concluded that the technical content of NFPA 1031, Chapters 4 and 5, differs from the technical content of NFPA 1030, Chapter 6, setting forth the JPRs for the NFPA CFRI credential.

Interpretation

- Accordingly, the Bureau of Fire Services and the State Fire Safety Board recognize the NFPA CFI certification issued under NFPA 1030 (2024 Edition), Chapter 7, as equivalent to an NFPA 1031 (2014 Edition) CFI-I certification for purposes of satisfying the certification and recertification requirements of Rules 29.502, 29.502a, and 29.405b. However, the Bureau and Board *do not* recognize the NFPA 1030 (2024 Edition) CFRI certification as equivalent to the NFPA 1031 (2014 Edition) CFI-I certification for purposes of satisfying the requirements of Rules 29.502, 29.502a, and 29.504b.
- Individuals holding the previous NFPA CFI-I or CFI-II credentials remain eligible to apply for, obtain, renew, or maintain a CFI certification, including reciprocity and continuing education requirements.

Questions regarding Michigan CFI certification requirements or equivalency determinations may be directed to the Bureau's Fire Fighter Training Division.

Respectfully,

Thomas M. Hughes
State Fire Marshal
Director, Bureau of Fire Services