

Certification Questions:

Q: Am I eligible to be certified?

A: Yes you are if you are at least 18 years of age, are an active member of a Connecticut Fire Department (or an out of State Fire Department that provides mutual aid to a Connecticut Department), and meet the specific requirements contained in the State Certification Regulation for the level of certification you are seeking.

Q: What levels can I be certified to?

A: As of March 22, 2006, The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control offers certification examinations for the following 24 levels of certification:

Firefighter I, II
Airport Firefighter
Pump Operator
Aerial Operator
Tanker Operator
Fire Service Instructor I, II
Fire Officer I, II, III, IV
Health and Safety Officer
Incident Safety Officer – Fire Suppression
Hazardous Materials Awareness
Hazardous Materials Operations
Hazardous Materials Technician
Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I, II
Trench Rescue Technician
Confined Space Rescue Technician
Vehicle & Machinery Rescue Technician
Rope Rescue Technician
Structural Collapse Rescue Technician

Q: How do I apply to take a certification test?

A: Upon completion of the appropriate training for a given level of certification, you may complete and submit the appropriate certification examination application. Some applications are available online at <http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/cwp/view.asp?a=826&Q=245496&cfpcPNavCtr=|30770|#30771> and at training courses that address specific levels. All Certification Examination Applications are available at the Commission's Offices at the Connecticut Fire Academy. Each application must be received by the Certification Division at least 10 days prior to the examination being applied for.

Q: If I fail can I retake a certification exam without taking the training over again?

A: Candidates are eligible to retake failed examinations an unlimited number of times during a one year period. Depending upon your final score and how long it has been since your examination you may or may not need to retake training.

Please go to:

<http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/cwp/view.asp?a=826&Q=311296&cfpcPNavCtr=|44728|44946> to view the whole retest policy

Q: Do I have to take a Connecticut Fire Academy course to become certified?

A: The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control has determined that eligibility for many levels of certification is limited to persons who take Connecticut Fire Academy courses. Exceptions to that requirement are for the certification levels of Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Pump Operator, and Tanker Operator; training for which is not limited to Connecticut Fire Academy courses. In accordance with the Certification Eligibility Policy adopted by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, eligibility for Structural Collapse Rescue Technician certification is restricted to members of the CT USAR Team.

Q: Is my State certification recognized in other States in the United States or in Canada? Is my certification from another state or country or the Department of Defense recognized in Connecticut?

A: The Commission's Certification System has been accredited nationally by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). This accreditation allows Connecticut to award certification reciprocity based upon certifications awarded in other States, the United States Department of Defense or Canada and conversely many States and Canadian Provinces will do the same.

Q: Can I challenge a certification examination?

A: From time to time the Commission may allow a candidate for certification to petition for permission to challenge one or more components of an examination level without completing the training requirement specified above if, by evaluation by the Director of Certification, that person's education is equivalent to that which would have been received through the training program delivered by the Training Division of the Commission. Such challenge shall be limited to persons who are applying based upon certification(s) received from an IFSAC or Pro Board Accredited entity or based upon equivalent training and education received in a formal program.

Q: Can anyone ask about my certification status and exam grades or are those private matters?

A: The level of Certification that has been attained by an individual is a matter of public record and may be disclosed to interested parties. Examination scores and grades are private and will only be released to the individual.

Q: When can I expect to get my results?

A: Examination results are typically processed and mailed within four to six weeks after completion of the examination. The processing of results of examinations taken during the peak testing months of November, December, January, May, June, and July is generally delayed due to shear volume.

Q: I see that there are now two levels of Safety Officer Certification, that of Health and Safety Officer and Incident Safety Officer – Fire Suppression. I was already certified as a Fire Department Safety Officer. Do I have to become certified again?

A: No. The two new levels of certification are the result of a change to the NFPA Standard against which the examination is based, NFPA Standard 1521. The new levels replace the former Fire Department Safety Officer level, but that level is still valid. If you wish to examine for one or both of the new levels you may do so following the normal process to prepare for and take an examination.

Q: How do I obtain Duplicate Certificates, Order Patches and Rockers or receive a transcript?

A: You may submit an order form for one or all of these items. The form is available at the Certification Office or at the following link:
http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/lib/cfpc/CERT_ORDER_FORM.pdf

Q. What is CPAT certification?

A: CPAT (Candidate Physical Ability Test) is a practical exam used to test a candidate's physical ability to perform a job task related to firefighting and is not related to the fire service certification examinations administered and delivered by the Commission's Certification Division. For more information on the CPAT process go to: <http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/cwp/view.asp?a=826&Q=246722>

Q: If I become certified as a Fire Service Instructor can I teach for the Connecticut Fire Academy?

A: Certification as Fire Service Instructor means that you have successfully demonstrated your competency against the national standard for that level. From time to time employment opportunities for instructors at the Connecticut Fire Academy or Regional Fire Schools may be available. These opportunities generally have additional requirements that must be met. Contact the Academy or Regional School directly to determine what may be required. Certified instructors

may serve as practical skills station evaluators at local certification examinations after they have taken the Commission's Station Evaluator Training course.

Q: I have questions concerning the national certification by the Pro Board or IFSAC. Where can I find answers?

A: Go to the Pro Board's FAQ page at: <http://www.theproboard.org/FAQ.htm> or to IFSAC's FAQ page at: <http://www.ifsac.org/faqs.html> for those answers.