

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act is  
5 amended by changing Sections 15, 30, and 35 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 317/15)

7 Sec. 15. Licensing requirements.

8 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person or business to  
9 engage in, advertise, or hold itself out to be in the business  
10 of installing or repairing fire sprinkler systems in this State  
11 after 6 months after the effective date of this Act, unless  
12 such person or business is licensed by the State Fire Marshal.  
13 ~~This license must be renewed every year.~~

14 (b) In order to obtain a license, a person or business must  
15 submit an application to the State Fire Marshal, on a form  
16 provided by the State Fire Marshal containing the information  
17 prescribed, along with the application fee.

18 (c) A business applying for a license must have a  
19 designated certified person employed at the business location  
20 and the designated certified person shall be identified on the  
21 license application.

22 (d) A person or business applying for a license must show  
23 proof of having liability and property damage insurance in such

1 amounts and under such circumstances as may be determined by  
2 the State Fire Marshal. The amount of liability and property  
3 damage insurance, however, shall not be less than the amount  
4 specified in Section 35 of this Act.

5 (e) A person or business applying for a license must show  
6 proof of having workers' compensation insurance covering its  
7 employees or be approved as a self-insurer of workers'  
8 compensation in accordance with the laws of this State.

9 (f) A person or business so licensed shall have a separate  
10 license for each business location within the State or outside  
11 the State when the business location is responsible for any  
12 installation or repair of fire sprinkler systems performed  
13 within the State.

14 (g) When an individual proposes to do business in her or  
15 his own name, a license, when granted, shall be issued only to  
16 that individual.

17 (h) If the applicant requesting licensure to engage in  
18 contracting is a business organization, such as a partnership,  
19 corporation, business trust, or other legal entity, the  
20 application shall state the name of the partnership and its  
21 partners, the name of the corporation and its officers and  
22 directors, the name of the business trust and its trustees, or  
23 the name of such other legal entity and its members and shall  
24 furnish evidence of statutory compliance if a fictitious name  
25 is used. Such application shall also show that the business  
26 entity employs a designated certified person as required under

1 Section 20. The license, when issued upon application of a  
2 business organization, shall be in the name of the business  
3 organization and the name of the qualifying designated  
4 certified person shall be noted thereon.

5 (i) No license is required for a person or business that is  
6 engaged in the installation of fire sprinkler systems only in  
7 single family or multiple family residential dwellings up to  
8 and including 8 family units that do not exceed 2 1/2 stories  
9 in height from the lowest grade level.

10 (j) All fire protection system layout documents of fire  
11 sprinkler systems, as defined in Section 10 of this Act, shall  
12 be prepared by (i) a professional engineer who is licensed  
13 under the Professional Engineering Practice Act of 1989, (ii)  
14 an architect who is licensed under the Illinois Architecture  
15 Practice Act of 1989, or (iii) a holder of a valid NICET level  
16 3 or 4 certification in fire protection technology automatic  
17 sprinkler system layout who is either licensed under this Act  
18 or employed by an organization licensed under this Act.

19 (Source: P.A. 94-367, eff. 1-1-06.)

20 (225 ILCS 317/30)

21 Sec. 30. Requirements for the installation, repair,  
22 inspection, and testing of fire protection systems.

23 (a) Equipment shall be listed by a nationally recognized  
24 testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. or  
25 Factory Mutual Laboratories, Inc., or shall comply with

1 nationally accepted standards. The State Fire Marshal shall  
2 adopt by rule procedures for determining whether a laboratory  
3 is nationally recognized, taking into account the laboratory's  
4 facilities, procedures, use of nationally recognized  
5 standards, and any other criteria reasonably calculated to  
6 reach an informed determination.

7 (b) Equipment shall be installed in accordance with the  
8 applicable standards of the National Fire Protection  
9 Association and the manufacturer's specifications.

10 (c) The contractor shall furnish the user with operating  
11 instructions for all equipment installed, together with a  
12 diagram of the final installation.

13 (d) All fire sprinkler systems shall have a backflow  
14 prevention device or, in a municipality with a population over  
15 500,000, a double detector check assembly installed by a  
16 licensed plumber before the fire sprinkler system connection to  
17 the water service. Connection to the backflow prevention device  
18 or, in a municipality with a population over 500,000, a double  
19 detector assembly shall be done in a manner consistent with the  
20 Department of Public Health's Plumbing Code.

21 (e) This licensing Act is not intended to require any  
22 additional fire inspections at State level.

23 (f) Inspections and testing of existing fire sprinkler  
24 systems and control equipment must be performed by a licensee  
25 or an individual employed or contracted by a licensee. Any  
26 individual who performs inspection and testing duties under

1 this subsection (f) must possess proof of (i) certification by  
2 a nationally recognized certification organization at an  
3 appropriate level, such as NICET Level II in Inspection and  
4 Testing of Water Based Systems or the equivalent, by January 1,  
5 2009 or (ii) satisfactory completion of a certified sprinkler  
6 fitter apprenticeship program approved by the U.S. Department  
7 of Labor. State employees who perform inspections and testing  
8 on behalf of State institutions and who meet all other  
9 requirements of this subsection (f) need not be licensed under  
10 this Act or employed by a licensee under this Act in order to  
11 perform inspection and testing duties under this subsection  
12 (f). The requirements of this subsection (f) do not apply to  
13 individuals performing inspections or testing of fire  
14 sprinkler systems on behalf of a municipality, a county, a fire  
15 protection district, or the Office of the State Fire Marshal.  
16 This subsection (f) does not apply to cursory weekly and  
17 monthly inspections of gauges and control valves conducted in  
18 accordance with the standards of the National Fire Protection  
19 Association.

20 A copy of the inspection report for an inspection performed  
21 pursuant to this subsection (f) must be forwarded by the entity  
22 performing the inspection to the local fire department or fire  
23 protection district in which the sprinkler system is located.  
24 The inspection report must include the NICET Level II  
25 Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems certification  
26 number or journeymen number of the person performing the

1 inspection.

2 (Source: P.A. 95-305, eff. 8-20-07; 96-256, eff. 1-1-10.)

3 (225 ILCS 317/35)

4 Sec. 35. Fees, renewals, continuing education, and  
5 required insurance.

6 (a) The fees for an original license and each renewal and  
7 for duplicate copies of licenses shall be determined by the  
8 State Fire Marshal by rule.

9 (b) Each license must be renewed every 2 years. Each  
10 licensee must complete 16 hours of continuing education in the  
11 2-year period following his or her renewal or initial licensure  
12 after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 97th  
13 General Assembly. Current licensure as a professional engineer  
14 or proof of current NICET certification in Level III or IV  
15 shall satisfy this requirement for designated certified  
16 persons. Continuing education offered through nationally  
17 recognized building and fire code organizations and their  
18 affiliates; nationally recognized fire sprinkler organizations  
19 and their affiliates; institutions of higher education;  
20 educational bodies specializing in automatic fire suppression  
21 system technology; as well as other entities approved by the  
22 State Fire Marshal shall be also acceptable. All continuing  
23 education entities seeking to be approved providers of  
24 continuing education shall make application to the State Fire  
25 Marshal and offer programs that:

1           (1) contribute to the advancement, extension, or  
2           enhancement of the professional skills or technical  
3           knowledge of the licensee in the practice of fire sprinkler  
4           contracting; and

5           (2) are developed and presented by persons with  
6           education or experience in the subject manner of the  
7           program.

8           (c) Any person who fails to file a renewal application by  
9 the date of expiration of a license shall be assessed a late  
10 filing charge, which shall be determined by the State Fire  
11 Marshal by rule.

12           (d) ~~(e)~~ All fees shall be paid by check or money order. Any  
13 fee required by this Act is not refundable in the event that  
14 the original application or application for renewal is denied.

15           (e) ~~(d)~~ Every application for an original license shall be  
16 accompanied by a certificate of insurance issued by an  
17 insurance company authorized to do business in the State of  
18 Illinois or by a risk retention or purchasing group formed  
19 pursuant to the federal Liability Risk Retention Act of 1986,  
20 which provides primary, first dollar public liability coverage  
21 of the applicant or licensee for personal injuries for not less  
22 than \$500,000 per person or \$1,000,000 per occurrence, and, in  
23 addition, for not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence for  
24 property damage. The insurance policy shall be in effect at all  
25 times during the license year and a new certificate of  
26 insurance shall be filed with the State Fire Marshal within 30

1 days after the renewal of the insurance policy.

2 (Source: P.A. 92-871, eff. 1-3-03.)

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
4 becoming law.