

# **COLORADO FIRE SUPPRESSION RULES**

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## **SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Colorado Fire Suppression System Program began on January 1, 1991. It was created by Senate Bill 90-4, which was signed into law on May 18, 1990. The purpose of the Colorado Fire Suppression Program is to ensure that life safety systems, installed in commercial and residential occupancies, are installed and maintained properly, according to nationally recognized standards. 24-33.5-1204.5, C.R.S. establishes the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to administer the fire suppression program and to establish fees and charges necessary to defray the anticipated costs of the program.

## **SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS**

The definitions provided in 24-33.5-1202, C.R.S., apply to these rules and regulations. The following additional definitions also apply:

- 2.1 **APPRENTICE:** - means an individual who installs sprinkler systems under the guidance and instruction of a registered Sprinkler Fitter.
- 2.2 **AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION (AHJ):** - means the Division, unless delegated to a Local Authority Having Jurisdiction having Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors certified to the appropriate level.
- 2.3 **CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION (OR REGISTRATION):** - means the document issued to a contractor under these Rules authorizing a contractor to conduct business in this state.
- 2.4 **COMPANY:** - means a corporation, partnership, firm or association, two or more persons having a joint or common interest, or any other legal or commercial entity.
- 2.5 **CEU:** - means continuing education units. Each 10 hours of related professional development activities equals one CEU.
- 2.6 **DEFICIENCY:** - means for the purposes of inspection, testing, and maintenance of Fire Suppression Systems, a condition that will or has the potential to adversely impact the performance of a system or portion thereof but does not rise to the level of an impairment.
- 2.7 **DIRECTOR:** - means the Director of the Division, or his designee.
- 2.8 **DIVISION:** - means the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
- 2.9 **FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM:** - means an assembly of any or all of the following: piping valves, conduits, dispersal openings, sprinkler heads, orifices, and other similar devices that convey extinguishing agents for the purpose of controlling, confining, or extinguishing fire, with the exception of multipurpose residential fire sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses that are part of the potable water supply, pre-engineered range hoods, duct systems, and portable fire extinguishers.
- 2.10 **FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM:** - means a Fire Suppression System consisting of integrated piping, valves, sprinklers, and water supplies designed to be activated by the heat of a fire and discharge water over the fire area.
- 2.11 **ICC:** - means the International Code Council.

- 2.12 **IMPAIRMENT:** - means a condition where a Fire Suppression System or unit or portion thereof is out of order, and the condition can result in the Fire Suppression System or unit not functioning in a fire event.
- 2.13 **INDIVIDUAL (OR PERSON):** - means a person, including an owner, manager, officer, employee, or individual.
- 2.14 **INSPECTION, TESTING, AND MAINTENANCE SERVICE:** - means a service program provided by a qualified contractor or qualified property owner's representative in which all components unique to the property's systems are inspected and tested at the required times and necessary maintenance is provided.
- 2.15 **INSTALLATION:** - means the initial placement of equipment or the extension, modification, or alteration of equipment after the initial placement.
- 2.16 **LOCAL AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION:** - means the fire chief, fire marshal or other designated official of a county, municipality, or special district that has fire code enforcement responsibilities.
- 2.17 **MAINTENANCE:** - means to sustain in a condition of repair that will allow performance as originally designed or intended.
- 2.18 **MAJOR ALTERATION:** - A change in the occupancy, hazard, water supply, storage commodity, storage arrangement, building modification, or other condition that affects the installation criteria of a suppression system.
- 2.19 **MULTIPURPOSE RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM:** - means a residential Fire Suppression System intended to serve both domestic and fire protection needs, utilizing a common piping system supplying both domestic plumbing fixtures and fire sprinklers which does not contain a cross connection control device in the system piping. This does not include Passive Purge Systems as defined by NFPA 13D. A multipurpose system may also be referred to as a combination system or network system.
- 2.20 **NICET:** - means the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies.
- 2.21 **NFPA:** - means the National Fire Protection Association.
- 2.22 **PERMIT:** - means a construction permit for a fire protection system issued by the Division or a certified Fire Suppression System Inspector once construction plans or shop drawings have been approved or approved with corrections. A permit allows a registered fire suppression contractor to install or modify Fire Suppression Systems, appurtenances, and equipment as shown on the approved drawings.
- 2.23 **PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER:** - means an individual licensed as an engineer and working within competence, training and/or education pertinent to the fire sprinkler industry.

- 2.24 RESPONSIBLE MANAGING EMPLOYEE (RME): - means an individual or person engaged by a fire suppression contractor who is currently a professional engineer or certified by the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) at a level III or level IV in fire protection engineering technologies, automatic sprinkler layout, or another nationally recognized organization approved by the Division..
- 2.25 RESIDENTIAL FIRE SUPPRESSION CONTRACTOR: - means a fire suppression contractor that, individually or through others, offers to undertake, represents itself as being able to undertake, or does undertake to sell, lay out, fabricate, install, modify, alter, repair, maintain, or perform maintenance inspections of a residential Fire Suppression System.
- 2.26 RESIDENTIAL FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM: - means a Fire Suppression System designed for or installed in a one- or two-family dwelling or townhouse that is not regulated by the Colorado board of plumbers.
- 2.27 SERVICE (OR REPAIR): - means to repair in order to return the system to proper operational condition.
- 2.28 SMALL PROJECT: - means any modification to an existing suppression system which has no adverse effect on the integrity of the existing fire protection system, including the hydraulic design, and which involves the addition or relocation of no more than 20 sprinkler heads.
- 2.29 SPRINKLER FITTER: - means a person other than an apprentice who is registered with the administrator and who installs fire sprinkler systems. "Sprinkler Fitter" does not include a person who performs maintenance and repair on Fire Suppression Systems as a part of being a direct employee or operator of the building. A Sprinkler Fitter does not include a person who performs work exclusively on cross-connection control devices or a person who performs work exclusively on an underground system. "Sprinkler Fitter" does not include a person performing work on his or her own home.
- 2.30 TOTAL PROJECT VALUATION: - means the construction cost of the project, including materials and labor, for which the permit is being issued. Such valuation of construction cost is equal to the cost of the project as demonstrated by detailed estimates provided by the Permit applicant.
- 2.31 UNDERGROUND SUPPLY LINE: - means the piping and appurtenances downstream from the system installed and maintained by the municipal water supply which supplies water to the Fire Suppression System.

**SECTION 3**  
**FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION**

3.1 Registration Required

3.1.1 Any individual or company that employs individuals who physically work on, design, test, inspect, or install any part of a Fire Suppression System, including underground supply lines from public water lines to system risers and backflow preventers, must be registered.

Exemptions:

1. Public utilities installing underground supply lines.
2. Building owners conducting maintenance on their fire protection systems under the provisions of NFPA 25 and filing reports with the local fire department having certified Fire Suppression System Inspectors or the Division. This exception does not apply to work conducted on system components that would require licensing, registration, or certification under any state or federal laws or regulations.
3. An individual who installs a system in his or her single family residence (owner occupied) that is designed by a registered contractor and installed in accordance with NFPA 13D standards, and meets all local requirements.
4. Individuals or companies installing pre-engineered range hoods and duct extinguishing systems.
5. Individuals or companies that install, maintain, repair, or test Multipurpose Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems or other systems that would be classified as plumbing under these Rules and the definitions specified by the Colorado State Board of Plumbers in CRS Title 12, Article 58.

3.2 Specific Registrations

3.2.1 Individuals or companies performing work in accordance with Section 3.1 on Fire Suppression Systems in commercial, civil, or residential occupancies must be registered as “FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM CONTRACTOR.”

3.2.2 Individuals or companies performing work in accordance with Section 3.1 on Fire Suppression Systems only in residential occupancies must be registered as “RESIDENTIAL FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM CONTRACTOR.”

- 3.2.3 Individuals or companies installing Underground Supply Lines from public water lines to system risers must be registered as "FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM CONTRACTOR – UNDERGROUND."
- 3.2.4 Individuals or companies conducting installation, maintenance, service or testing of backflow prevention devices installed on fire sprinkler systems must be registered as "FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM CONTRACTOR – BACKFLOW."

### 3.3 Registration Application Requirements

In order to register, each contractor operating in Colorado must understand, agree, and attest to the following:

- 3.3.1 That the applicant must carry general liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1 million that includes products and completed operations coverage related to the installation of Fire Suppression Systems.

Exemption: Government entities serving as contractors on their wholly owned properties.

- 3.3.2 That the applicant is a principal of the company as defined in Colorado Revised Statutes 24-33.5-1202(8.4), C.R.S., which has been recorded with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office.

Exemption: Government entities serving as contractors on their wholly owned properties.

- 3.3.3 That all information included on the application is correct.

- 3.3.4 That the applicant will notify the Division within thirty days of any changes that occur in the information provided, including but not limited to: a change in responsible managing employee or principal agent of the contractor; a change in address, telephone number, or e-mail address; or a change in insurance coverage.

- 3.3.5 That the applicant will comply with Colorado Revised Statutes governing Fire Suppression Systems; with all applicable rules, codes, and standards adopted by the Division; and with all codes, ordinances and resolutions adopted by municipalities, counties and fire protection districts in which they work.

- 3.3.7 That the applicant must not perform any installation or maintenance work on a Fire Suppression System in Colorado until such time as their registration has been formally issued by the Division.

### 3.4 Registration Application Procedures

- 3.4.1 An applicant must apply for registration in a format provided by the Division. Application instructions are available on the Division's website ([www.colorado.gov/dfpc](http://www.colorado.gov/dfpc)); from the Division's offices at 700 Kipling St, Suite 4100, Denver, CO 80215; or by telephone at 303-239-4100.
- 3.4.2 An applicant must submit the completed application along with the registration fee and all required supporting documentation prior to action by the Division. No cash payments will be accepted.
- 3.4.3 An applicant must submit documentation of general liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1 million that includes products and completed operations coverage related to the installation of Fire Suppression Systems. The documentation submitted must identify inclusion and exclusions of the coverage.
- 3.4.4 The Division will verify existence and/or good standing of the applicant with the Secretary of State.
- 3.4.5 The registration is valid from the time of issue to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year, unless earlier revoked or suspended. It must be renewed annually, on or before December 31st of each year. A grace period for renewal may be extended for thirty days after expiration, after which a late application fee will be assessed.
- 3.4.6 New applicants must submit a completed and notarized Affidavit of Legal Residency as required in 24-76.5-103(4)(b), C.R.S.

### 3.5 Specific Requirements for Fire Suppression System Contractors

- 3.5.1 A Fire Suppression Contractor must engage a Responsible Managing Employee,
- 3.5.2 Contractors without a RME on staff shall employ on staff an individual qualified in the layout, fabrication, installation, alteration, servicing, repair, and inspection of fire suppression systems. A registered sprinkler fitter may be utilized to meet this requirement.
- 3.5.3 Fire Suppression System Contractors regulated by these Rules must not allow a person to work on a fire sprinkler system who is not registered with the Division as a Sprinkler Fitter.

Exemption: Persons who are enrolled in a sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program and are under the direct supervision and immediate presence of a registered Sprinkler Fitter may perform work on a Fire Suppression System.

### 3.6 Specific Requirements for Residential Fire Suppression System Contractors

3.6.1 A Residential Fire Suppression System Contractor must engage a RME,

3.6.2 Contractors without a RME on staff shall employ on staff an individual with demonstrated knowledge of suppression systems to serve as primary technical point of contact for the contractor. A registered sprinkler fitter may be utilized to meet this requirement.

3.6.3 The applicant must provide to the Division documentation of successful completion of residential sprinkler system training, completion of NFPA 13D related coursework, or other residential suppression system training as approved by the Division.

Codes and Standards Assessment (CSA) Sprinkler Residential On-Site Competent Person Exam (ASR2) or Sprinkler Commercial/Residential On-Site Competent Person (ASCR2) satisfies this experience requirement.

3.6.3 For individuals installing CPVC or PEX piping systems, the applicant must provide a certificate of successful completion of the applicable training course by the manufacturer or their representative.

3.6.4 Before installing a pre-engineered residential Fire Suppression System, applicants must demonstrate that they are authorized and certified by the system manufacturer to install that specific residential Fire Suppression System.

### 3.7 Specific Requirements for Fire Suppression System Contractors-Backflow

3.7.1 A Fire Suppression System Contractor-Backflow must employ cross-connection control technicians holding valid certification from the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE), the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA), or the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC), in conformance with requirements set forth by the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

### 3.8 Specific Requirements for Fire Suppression System Contractors-Underground

3.8.1 There are no special requirements for this registration

### 3.9 Denial of Application

3.9.1 The Division may deny any application for registration for the following reasons:

1. False statements on the application form or in any of the attachments required for registration;



2. Failure to meet or complete all requirements specified within the application;
3. The applicant is currently barred from registration, certification, or licensure from another State agency, governing body, or local jurisdiction;
4. The applicant has been convicted of a crime which reflects upon the integrity of the applicant in operating within the capacity for which they are seeking registration;
5. The applicant has been terminated from employment from a registered fire suppression contractor, fire authority, or other governing body for engaging in negligent or unsafe work or construction practices.

### 3.10 Registration Renewal

- 3.10.1 Applications for renewal shall be submitted prior to expiration, subject to a 60 day grace period. Applicants submitting more than 60 days after expiration shall submit all documentation required of a new applicant in addition to documentation of continuing education in accordance with 5.4.2 and may be required to pay a late application fee as well as the renewal fee.
- 3.10.2 RMEs must demonstrate that they have maintained their appropriate certifications or licensure. Individuals qualified under 3.5.2 or 3.6.2 must demonstrate CEU's in accordance with Section 5.4.2.

## **SECTION 4 FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION**

### 4.1 Certification Required

- 4.1.1 Any installation, modification, alteration, or repair of a Fire Suppression System must be approved by a certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspector. Each county, municipality, or special district that has Fire Suppression Systems enforcement responsibilities must, as needed, provide certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors certified to the appropriate level.

#### Exemption:

1. Inspectors of multipurpose residential sprinkler systems must meet the requirements of the State Board of Plumbing and are not regulated by the Division.
- 4.1.2 Individuals performing plan reviews on Fire Suppression Systems other than residential sprinkler systems must be certified as Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Plan Reviewer.

4.1.3 Individuals performing inspections on Fire Suppression Systems other than residential sprinkler systems must be certified as Fire Suppression Systems-Inspector or Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Plan Reviewer.

4.1.4 Individuals performing plan reviews or inspections for compliance of residential sprinkler systems must be certified as Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Residential, Fire Suppression Systems-Inspector, or Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Plan Reviewer.

## 4.2 Certification Application Requirements

In order to become certified, each applicant must understand, agree and attest to the following:

4.2.1 That the applicant is employed by, or volunteers for, an authority having jurisdiction over the installation of Fire Suppression Systems.

4.2.2 That the applicant is responsible for inspection, testing, and/or plan review of Fire Suppression Systems within that jurisdiction.

4.2.3 That all information included on the application is correct.

4.2.4 That the certified individual will notify the Division within thirty days of any changes that occur in the information provided in the application.

4.2.5 That the certified individual will comply with all applicable codes and standards adopted by the Division and all codes, ordinances and resolutions adopted by municipalities, counties or fire protection districts for which they work.

4.2.6 That the certified individual will comply with Colorado Revised Statutes governing Fire Suppression Systems, and all rules adopted by the Division.

4.2.7 That the certification is valid for three years from the time of issue, unless earlier revoked or suspended and must be renewed prior to expiration.

4.2.8 New applicants must submit a completed and notarized Affidavit of Legal Residency as required in 24-76.5-103(4)(b), C.R.S.

## 4.3 General Requirements for all Certifications

4.3.1 An inspector must apply for certification in a format provided by the Division. Application instructions are available on the Division's website ([www.colorado.gov/dfpc](http://www.colorado.gov/dfpc)); from the Division's offices at 700 Kipling St, Suite 4100, Denver, CO 80215; or by telephone at 303-239-4100.

- 4.3.2 The applicant must submit the completed application along with the registration fee and all required supporting documentation prior to action by the Division. No cash payments will be accepted.
- 4.3.3 The application must be accompanied by a letter from the agency's chief executive or code official responsible for inspection and plan review of Fire Suppression Systems attesting:
  - 4.3.3.1 That the individual is currently employed by or volunteers with a county, municipality, special district, or state agency that has Fire Suppression System enforcement responsibility;
  - 4.3.3.2 That the agency is responsible for Fire Suppression System enforcement in their jurisdiction;
  - 4.3.3.3 That the individual has the responsibility to conduct Fire Suppression System plan reviews and/or inspections; and
  - 4.3.3.4 That the individual meets the qualifications (knowledge, skills and ability) to conduct Fire Suppression System plan reviews and/or inspections.
- 4.3.4 The applicant must provide evidence of certification, education and/or training directly related to plan review and/or inspections of Fire Suppression Systems appropriate for the certification being sought. Courses must be taught by recognized organizations or institutions including, but not limited to:
  - (a) Regionally accredited post-secondary institutions
  - (b) National Fire Protection Association
  - (c) International Code Council
  - (d) National Fire Academy
  - (e) American Fire Sprinkler Association
  - (f) National Fire Sprinkler Association
  - (g) Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee
  - (h) IFMA Fire Protection Institution
  - (j) State chapters of organizations or institutions listed above
- 4.3.5 For applicants seeking reciprocity, submit evidence of current and valid certification from another state or jurisdiction which is determined by the Division to be at least equivalent to the requirements of the Colorado Fire Suppression Program.
- 4.3.6 Limitations /Permissible Activities.
  - 4.3.6.1 A Certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspector may not also be a registered contractor.

4.3.6.2 A Certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspector may not contract directly with a registered contractor, contractor, or building owner for the provision of inspection services.

4.3.6.3A Certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspector may contract directly, or through his employer, with one or more municipalities, counties, fire protection districts or other local AHJ for the provision of inspection services.

#### 4.4 Requirements for Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Plan Reviewer

In order to become certified as a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Plan Reviewer, a person must meet at least one of the following conditions:

4.4.1 Satisfactorily complete a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Plan Reviewer certification examination administered by the Division.

4.4.2 Possess current and valid inspector certification in accordance with NFPA 1031 issued by a nationally recognized organization which includes Fire Suppression System plan review and inspection knowledge.

ICC Fire Inspector II or NFPA Certified Fire Inspector II certifications

--and--

Certified Fire Plans Examiner issued by ICC or NFPA meet this requirement.

4.4.3 Demonstrate to the Division that he or she has met equivalent qualifications including education, training, and experience, in the categories of fire suppression, fire sprinkler, or life safety.

A. Prerequisite Knowledge, Skill and Ability Required:

- (1) Plan review of Fire Suppression Systems;
- (2) Understand the application of NFPA Standards related to Fire Suppression Systems;
- (3) Sprinkler system identification and components, including quick response sprinklers, residential sprinklers, early suppression fast response sprinklers, and large drop sprinklers;
- (4) Sprinkler system installation requirements including spacing, obstruction rules, response time index and design densities;
- (5) Water supply and pressure requirements;
- (6) Hydraulic calculations;

- (7) Inspection, testing and maintenance procedures for sprinklers, standpipes, private fire service mains, fire pumps, and valves and controls;
- (8) System impairment, notification and correction;
- (9) Flow test and fire pump testing procedures;
- (10) Understanding the application of Colorado Law for Fire Suppression Systems; and
- (11) Understand the application of the International Building Code, International Residential Code, and International Fire Code to Fire Suppression Systems.

B. Acceptable equivalent qualifications are:

- (1) Associate Degree or above in fire science technology or fire prevention from a regionally accredited post-secondary institution which includes at least 6 semester credit hours in fire prevention code enforcement, plan review, or suppression system design;
- (2) Current registration in Colorado as an engineer specializing in fire protection;
- (3) Current registration as a NICET Level III or above in Water Based Layout;
- (4) At the Division's sole discretion, evidence of completion of courses that directly relate to plan review and inspections of Fire Suppression Systems delivered by a recognized organization or institution, as identified in Section 4.3.4.

4.4.4 Submit evidence of current and valid certification in another state or jurisdiction, which is determined by the Division to be at least equivalent to the requirements of the Colorado Fire Suppression Program.

#### 4.5 Requirements for Fire Suppression Systems Inspector

In order to become certified as a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector, a person must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- 4.5.1 Satisfactorily complete a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector certification examination administered by the Division.
- 4.5.2 Possess current and valid inspector certification in accordance with NFPA 1031 issued by a nationally recognized organization which includes Fire Suppression Systems inspection knowledge. ICC Fire Inspector II or NFPA Certified Fire Inspector II certifications meet this requirement.
- 4.5.3 Demonstrate to the Division that he or she has met equivalent qualifications, including education, training, and experience in the categories of fire suppression, fire sprinkler, or life safety.

A. Prerequisite Knowledge, Skill and Ability Required:

- (1) Understand the application of NFPA Standards related to fire suppression;
- (2) Sprinkler system identification and components, including quick response sprinklers, residential sprinklers, early suppression fast response sprinklers, and large drop sprinklers;
- (3) Sprinkler system installation requirements including spacing, obstruction rules, response time index and design densities;
- (4) Water supply and pressure requirements;
- (5) Inspection, testing and maintenance procedures for sprinklers, standpipes, private fire service mains, fire pumps, and valves and controls;
- (6) System impairment, notification and correction;
- (7) Flow test and fire pump testing procedures;
- (8) Understand the application of Colorado Law for Fire Suppression Systems; and
- (9) Understand the application of the International Building Code, International Residential Code, and International Fire Code to Fire Suppression Systems.

B. Acceptable equivalent qualifications are:

- (1) Currently registered as a NICET Level II in Water Based Layout.
- (2) At the Division's sole discretion, evidence of completion of courses that directly relate to plan review and inspections of Fire Suppression Systems delivered by a recognized organization or institution, as identified in Section 4.3.4.

4.5.4 Submit evidence of current and valid certification from another state or jurisdiction which is determined by the Division to be at least equivalent to the requirements of the Colorado Fire Suppression Program.

4.6 Requirements for Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Residential

In order to become certified as a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Residential, a person must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- 4.6.1 Satisfactorily complete a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Residential certification examination administered by the Division.
- 4.6.2 Possess current and valid inspector certification issued by a nationally recognized organization which includes residential Fire Suppression System plan review and inspection knowledge. ICC Fire Inspector II, ICC Residential Fire Sprinkler

Inspector/Plans Examiner, ICC Residential Fire Sprinkler Design/Installation, or NFPA Certified Fire Inspector II certifications meet this requirement.

- 4.6.3 Demonstrate to the Division that he or she has met equivalent qualifications, including education, training, and experience in the categories of fire suppression, fire sprinkler, or life safety.

Prerequisite Knowledge, Skill and Ability Required:

- (1) Understand the application of the NFPA 13D Standard related to the residential fire suppression industry;
- (2) Sprinkler system identification and components, including quick response sprinklers, residential sprinklers, freeze protection, pumps, water storage, and alarm devices;
- (3) Sprinkler system installation requirements including spacing, obstruction rules, response time index, pipe use, and design densities;
- (4) Water supply and pressure requirements including loss of pressure through water meters, cross-connection devices, and other appurtenances;
- (5) Inspection, testing and maintenance procedures for sprinklers, fire pumps, expansion tanks, freeze protection systems, valves, and controls;
- (6) Flow test and fire pump testing procedures;
- (7) Understand the application of Colorado Law for Fire Suppression Systems; and
- (8) Understand the application of the International Residential Code, and International Fire Code to Fire Suppression Systems.

Acceptable equivalent qualifications are:

- (1) Currently registered as a NICET Level II in Water Based Layout.
- (2) At the Division's sole discretion, evidence of completion of courses that directly relate to plan review and inspections of residential Fire Suppression Systems delivered by a recognized organization or institution, as identified in 4.3.4.

- 4.6.4 Submit evidence of current and valid certification from another state or jurisdiction which is determined by the Division to be at least equivalent to the requirements of the Colorado Fire Suppression Program.

#### 4.7 Fire Suppression System Inspector Written Examinations

- 4.7.1 Written Examinations offered by the Division will consist of multiple-choice questions derived from the Colorado fire suppression statutes, rules, codes, and standards adopted by the Division.

4.7.2 Candidates must correctly answer eighty percent (80%) of the questions on the examination to become certified.

4.7.3 Candidates who do not achieve a passing score may retake the examination after thirty (30) days have elapsed, upon re-application and payment of the testing fee.

4.8 Duration of Certification

4.8.1 Fire Suppression System Inspector certifications are valid for a period of three years from the date of issuance, unless earlier suspended or revoked.

4.8.2 Certified inspectors who are separated from employment may not perform plan review or inspection services unless they become employed with a new agency and provide a letter pursuant to Section 4.4.3.

4.9 Certification Renewal

4.9.1 Renewal of certification is the responsibility of the certified individual. An individual who was certified as a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector prior to January 1, 2015 may perform all of the responsibilities of a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Plan Reviewer until the certification is expired. Upon application for renewal he or she will be certified as a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector-Plan Reviewer.

4.9.2 Certification renewal requires an application accompanied by the following:

- A. A letter in accordance with section 4.4.3.
- B. Documentation of 2.4 CEU's within the previous three (3) years relevant to the field of fire suppression as indicated in Table 4.9.2.
- C. Payment of the required renewal fee.

4.9.3 CEUs will be granted for professional development activities as indicated in table 4.9.3. Applicants are responsible to obtain certificates or other proof of attendance for each activity.

**Table 4.9.3**

1) Participation as a student in a seminar related to Fire Suppression Systems conducted by a qualified organization. (See Section 4.3.4)	0.1 per clock hour of attendance
2) Fire code or building code overview classes.	0.4 maximum Per course



3) Active service on a committee or board with a fire sprinkler association or organization.	0.5 per committee or board
4) Attendance at NFPA and/or ICC code development hearings related to Fire Suppression Systems.	1.0 per 3-year period
5) Completion of a college level course related to Fire Suppression Systems offered through a regionally accredited post-secondary institution.	1.0 per credit hour earned, 3.0 max per 3-year period.
6) Active certification by ICC or NFPA to the appropriate level.	1.5 per 3-year period
7) Working as a certified fire suppression inspector, conducting plans review and/or inspections of fire sprinkler systems for at least one year during each renewal period (must be documented through a formal letter from agency's chief executive or code official responsible for inspection and plan review of Fire Suppression Systems.)	1.0 per 3-year period

4.9.4 Applications for renewal shall be submitted prior to expiration, subject to a 60 day grace period. Applicants submitting more than 60 Days after expiration may be required to pay a late application fee as well as the renewal fee.

#### 4.10 Certification Number

4.10.1 Inspectors must place their certification number on all completed inspection and plan review reports.

#### 4.11 Denial of Application

4.11.1 The Division may deny any application for certification for the following reasons:

1. False statements on the application form or in any of the attachments required for registration;
2. Failure to meet or complete all requirements specified within the application;
3. The applicant is currently barred from registration, certification, or licensure by another State agency, governing body, or local jurisdiction;
4. The applicant has been convicted of a crime which reflects upon the integrity of the applicant in operating within the capacity for which they are applying; or
5. The applicant has been terminated from employment from a registered fire suppression contractor, fire authority, or other governing body for engaging in negligent or unsafe work or construction practices.

**SECTION 5**  
**SPRINKLER FITTER REGISTRATION**

5.1 Registration Required

5.1.1 No person may act, assume to act, or advertise as a Sprinkler Fitter who is not currently registered with the Division.

5.1.2 A Sprinkler Fitter may work on Fire Suppression Systems only under the employ of a registered Fire Suppression System contractor. A Sprinkler Fitter may be self-employed provided that he or she is also registered as a Fire Suppression System contractor.

5.2 Registration Application Requirements

5.2.1 In order to become registered, an applicant must submit the completed application along with the registration fee and all required supporting documentation prior to action by the Division. No cash payments will be accepted.

5.2.2 The applicant must provide proof of at least one of the following:

Successful completion of an accredited sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program recognized by the United States Department of Labor or state apprenticeship agency, in accordance with the requirements of 29 C.F.R. 29.1 et seq., or other similar apprenticeship program approved by the administrator;

--or--

Current authorization to practice as a Sprinkler Fitter in another state or jurisdiction that has substantially similar or greater requirements than the requirements established in this rule;

--or--

Documentary evidence demonstrating the performance of at least eight thousand (8,000) hours of practical work experience on Fire Suppression Systems within the past five (5) years;

--or--

Demonstration of similar competency as a Sprinkler Fitter as determined by the Division.

- 5.2.3 The applicant must attest that all information included on the application is correct.
- 5.2.4 The applicant must notify the Division within thirty days of any changes that occur to the information provided including, but not limited to, a change in principal agent of the contractor, a change in physical address, telephone number, or e-mail address.
- 5.2.5 The applicant will comply with Colorado Revised Statutes governing Fire Suppression Systems; with all applicable rules, codes, and standards adopted by the Division; and with all codes, ordinances and resolutions adopted by municipalities, counties and fire protection districts in which they work.
- 5.2.6 The applicant may not perform any installation or maintenance work on a Fire Suppression System in Colorado until such time as their registration has been formally issued by the Division.
- 5.2.7 The applicant must pass a Division approved examination. In addition to tests offered by the Division, the following examinations are approved for compliance with the examination requirement:
  - 1. STAR Fire Sprinklerfitting Mastery Exam
  - 2. CSA Sprinkler Commercial On-site Competent Person Exam (ASCR2)
  - 3. City of Denver's Fire Sprinkler Systems Installer Examination

Examinations specified in these rules taken to comply with another jurisdiction's registration requirements may be accepted by the Division if the exam was taken within one (1) year of the application date.

- 5.2.8 The applicant must submit a copy of their current driver's license or Colorado Identification Card.
- 5.2.9 The applicant must pay all fees associated with the registration.

### 5.3 Duration of Registration

- 5.3.1 The registration period for new and renewal registrations will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> each year regardless of when the registration was issued, unless earlier suspended or revoked. There will be no pro-rating of registration fees. A grace period for renewal may be extended for thirty days after expiration, after which a late application fee will be assessed.

### 5.4 Registration Renewal

- 5.4.1 Renewal of certification is the responsibility of the certified individual. Registrants requesting a renewal of their sprinkler fitter registration must

complete an application, provide documented continuing education, and pay a renewal fee.

5.4.2 Registrants must document at least 2.4 CEU's earned subsequent to July 1 of the previous year relevant to the field of fire suppression as indicated in Table 5.4.2

**Table 5.4.2**

1) Participation as a student in a seminar related to Fire Suppression Systems conducted by a qualified organization. (See Section 4.3.4)	0.1 per clock hour of attendance
2) Fire code or building code overview classes.	0.4 maximum Per course
3) Attendance at NFPA and/or ICC code development hearings related to Fire Suppression Systems.	1.0 max
4) Active service on a committee or board with a fire sprinkler association or organization.	0.5 per committee or board
5) Completion of a college level course related to Fire Suppression Systems offered through a regionally accredited post-secondary institution.	1.0 per credit hour earned. 3.0 max
6) Work experience as a registered Sprinkler Fitter during the registration period (must be documented through formal letter from employer, contractor, project owner, steward, project manager, or business manager for whom the project was performed).	01. CEU per 100 hours worked. 1.6 max.

5.4.3 In years that the Division adopts a new edition of the fire code or standards, a Sprinkler Fitter will be required to provide proof of passing one of the examinations specified in Section 5.2.7. A fee will be assessed for those taking an exam offered by the Division.

5.4.4 Applications for renewal shall be submitted prior to expiration, subject to a 60 day grace period. Applicants submitting more than 60 days after expiration shall submit all documentation required of a new applicant in addition to documentation of continuing education in accordance with 5.4.2 and may be required to pay a late application fee as well as the renewal fee.

## 5.5 Denial of Application

5.5.1 The Division may deny any application for registration for the following reasons:

1. False statements on the application form or in any of the attachments required for registration;

2. Failure to meet or complete all requirements specified within the application;
3. The applicant is currently barred from registration, certification, or licensure by another State agency, governing body, or local jurisdiction.
4. The applicant has been convicted of a crime which reflects upon the integrity of the applicant in operating within the capacity for which they are applying;
5. The applicant has been terminated from employment from a registered fire suppression contractor, fire authority, or other governing body for engaging in negligent or unsafe work or construction practices.

## **SECTION 6 FIRE SUPPRESSION CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

### 6.1 Credentials

6.1.1 Registered contractors must provide their registration number on all plan review applications and correspondence.

6.1.2 To ensure that only qualified persons are conducting plan reviews or inspections, the contractor must request the certification number of any local inspector reviewing or inspecting their job.

6.1.2.1 If in doubt, a contractor may verify a local person's credentials on the Division's website or by mail or phone (See Section 13).

### 6.2 Requirements for Plan Submittal

6.2.1 Fire Suppression Systems must not be installed or modified unless plans have been approved by a certified Fire Suppression System Inspector-Plan Reviewer in accordance with this section.

Exemptions:

1. Pre-engineered range hoods and duct extinguishing systems.
2. Any work defined as "plumbing" by the Colorado Board of Plumbing or C.R.S. 12-58-102.

6.2.2 Plans, product data sheets, and hydraulic calculations must be submitted to the AHJ prior to the installation, fabrication, modification, or alteration of any Fire Suppression System in the State of Colorado.

Exemptions:

1. Hydraulic calculations are not required for small projects unless, in the opinion of the AHJ, the hydraulic design of the existing system may be affected by the scope of work.
  2. Hydraulic calculations are not required for residential, prescriptive pipe-schedule systems if designed in accordance with adopted standards.
- 6.2.3 If a local AHJ employs a Fire Suppression System Inspector-Plan Reviewer, required documents must be submitted in accordance with local rules.
- 6.2.4 If a local AHJ does NOT employ a Fire Suppression System Inspector-Plan Reviewer, the required documents must be submitted to the Division for review.
- 6.2.4.1 Submittal requirements are posted on the Division's website. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that all necessary documents are provided before a review can commence.
- 6.2.4.2 Once the plans are reviewed and acted upon by the Division, the contractor must send one set of approved plans to the local AHJ.
- 6.2.5 Plans and hydraulic calculations must bear the signature of a P.E. or NICET level III or above. This signature attests that the plans have been reviewed and meet the intent of the standard.

Exemptions:

1. No signature is required for small projects unless, in the opinion of the AHJ, the hydraulic design or integrity of the existing fire protection system may be affected by the scope of work.
  2. Residential prescriptive pipe-schedule design do not require a signature if in accordance with adopted standards.
- 6.2.6 Hydraulic Calculations.
- 6.2.6.1 Flow tests on water supply systems must be less than one year old, unless approved by the Fire Suppression System Inspector-Plan Reviewer.
- 6.2.6.2 When calculating water supply requirements for new installations, deduct ten percent (10%) to a maximum of ten (10) psi from the static and residual pressure. Show the actual flow and reduction on hydraulic calculation sheets.

Exemption:

1. 13D Systems (One and two family dwellings) unless required by the local AHJ.

#### 6.2.7 Special rules for small project submittals.

6.2.7.1 In lieu of full-sized drawings, an AHJ may allow the submittal of a scale drawing of the proposed project on 8½ x 11 inch paper, including product data sheets, calculations, and all information required by the applicable NFPA standard. The certified Fire Suppression System Inspector has the right to require additional information as may be necessary to fully evaluate the project.

6.2.7.2 A signed letter on the registered contractor's letterhead must be submitted explaining the scope of work and a statement that tenant finish, remodel, or additions do not affect the hydraulic demand design or integrity of the existing fire protection system.

### 6.3 General Requirements for Installation of Fire Suppression Systems

6.3.1 One set of plans and product data sheets, approved by the Fire Suppression System Inspector-Plan Reviewer, must remain on the job site for use by the inspector. No deviations from the approved plans are allowed unless approved by the Fire Suppression System Inspector-Plan Reviewer.

Exemption:

1. Minor modifications required to adapt to unexpected on-site conditions which do not affect a system's integrity or hydraulic design.

6.3.2 All components, including aboveground and underground piping must be accessible for inspection by a Fire Suppression Systems Inspector. Whenever any installation subject to inspection is covered or concealed prior to being inspected, the inspector must have the authority to require that such work be exposed for inspection.

6.3.3 A "Contractor's Material and Test Certificate for Aboveground Piping" or "Contractor's Material and Test Certificate for Underground Piping", as appropriate, must be completed with all test results documented and copies provided by the contractor to the owner and Fire Suppression Systems Inspector.

6.3.4 Required hydrostatic, operational, and flush testing must be witnessed and signed by a certified Fire Suppression System Inspector. At the discretion of the inspector, all or part of the test may be witnessed by the general contractor or another responsible, independent party.

6.3.5 Contractors may not allow persons to work on Fire Suppression Systems who are not registered with the Division as Sprinkler Fitters.

Exemptions:

1. Persons who are enrolled in a Sprinkler Fitter apprenticeship program and are under the direct supervision and immediate presence of a registered Sprinkler Fitter.
2. Persons working under the auspices of Fire Suppression Contractors-Underground, Fire Suppression System Contractors-Backflow, or Fire Suppression Systems Contractors- Residential.
3. Persons performing only maintenance and repair on Fire Suppression Systems.
4. Persons working on residential plumbing appliances, fixtures, appurtenances, or multipurpose residential fire sprinkler systems in one- or two-family dwellings or townhomes.

6.3.6 Installation of underground fire protection system supply lines.

6.3.6.1 Underground supply lines installed between the public water main and the Fire Suppression System riser must be installed in accordance with NFPA Standard 24 or NFPA Standard 13, chapter 10, Underground Piping.

6.3.6.2 Underground supply lines must be installed by registered Fire Suppression Contractors-Underground.

6.3.6.3 The Fire Suppression Systems Inspector may require flushing of the aboveground sprinkler piping if required tests for the underground piping cannot be documented.

6.3.7 Installation of backflow preventers.

6.3.7.1 Backflow preventers must be installed by registered Fire Suppression Contractors-Backflow.

6.3.7.2 For new installations, the backflow preventer may not be installed until Contractor's Material and Test Certificate for Underground Piping has been completed.

6.4 Requirements for Contractors Performing Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance



- 6.4.1 Businesses conducting inspections on Suppression Systems shall be Registered Fire Suppression System Contractors.
- 6.4.2 Registered Fire Suppression System Contractors must complete and maintain inspection reports, in accordance with the applicable NFPA standard, for each inspection, test, or maintenance performed on any Fire Suppression System in the State of Colorado.
- 6.4.3 Registered Fire Suppression System Contractors shall ensure that only qualified individuals perform inspections.
- 6.4.4 Inspection reports must be maintained for a period of no less than five years or as required by a local AHJ, whichever is greater.
- 6.4.5 Copies of inspection reports must be submitted to the AHJ unless the contractor is notified in writing that they do not wish to receive such reports. Impairment reports in accordance with 6.4.7 must be submitted regardless of whether the AHJ has notified the contractor that they do not wish to receive inspection reports. If possible, reports should be sent to the AHJ through telephonic or other electronic means, such as facsimile or e-mail. If the AHJ does not have electronic communication capabilities, a report shall be deemed delivered when mailed through the US Postal Service to the AHJ.
- 6.4.6 Tagging of Fire Suppression Systems.
  - 6.4.6.1 Systems installed, altered, or inspected after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 must have a color coded tag or collar physically placed on the Fire Suppression System which identifies the responsible contractor by name, registration number, and contact information (phone number and address). Tags must not be removed unless replaced by a registered Fire Suppression System Contractor who has done a subsequent inspection. Such tag must be placed and remain in the main or primary system control or riser room and must comply with the following parameters:
    - (A) New Installations and **Major** Alterations – Must be marked with a White Tag of heavy cardboard or water resistant (plasticized) paper with the word “INSTALL” printed in all caps and in a font no smaller than 24 points on it. Such tag must be marked to show the date of the final acceptance of the System or alteration and if a Sprinkler Fitter conducted the final acceptance test, his registration number. These tags must remain attached to the System for the life of the System.
    - (B) Upon completion of all annual inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements in accordance with NFPA 25, systems with No Deficiencies or Impairments - Must be marked with a Green Tag of

heavy cardboard or water resistant (plasticized) paper with the word “OPERATIONAL” printed in all caps and in a font no smaller than 24 points on it. Such tag must be marked to show the date of the inspection of the System and the registration or certification number of the Sprinkler Fitter or the name of the person conducting the inspection test. These tags must remain attached to the System until replaced after the next annual inspection is conducted.

- (C) Systems inspected in accordance with NFPA 25 with Deficiency(ies) - Must be marked with a Yellow Tag of heavy cardboard or water resistant (plasticized) paper with the word “DEFICIENCY” printed in all caps and in a font no smaller than 24 points on it. Such tag must be marked to show the date of the inspection of the System and the registration or certification number of the Sprinkler Fitter or the name of the person conducting the inspection test. These tags must remain attached to the System until the deficiency is repaired or shall be removed in accordance with (F).
- (D) Systems inspected in accordance with NFPA 25 with Impairment(s) - Must be marked with a RED Tag of heavy cardboard or water resistant (plasticized) paper with the word “IMPAIRMENT” printed in all caps and in a font no smaller than 24 points on it. Such tag must be marked to show the date of the inspection of the System and the registration or certification number of the Sprinkler Fitter or the name of the person conducting the inspection test. These tags must remain attached to the System until all impairments have been corrected or shall be removed in accordance with (F).
- (E) Systems with deficiencies or impairments that have been corrected – Must be marked with a BLUE Tag of heavy cardboard or water resistant (plasticized) paper with the word “REPAIR” printed in all caps and in a font no smaller than 24 points on it. Such tag must be marked to show the date of the repair of the System and the registration or certification number of the Sprinkler Fitter or the name of the person correcting the deficiency or impairment. These tags must be attached to the YELLOW or RED tag and shall identify the deficiency or impairment corrected. REPAIR tags may be attached to DEFICIENCY tags after any deficiency has been repaired. REPAIR tags may only be attached to IMPAIRMENT tags once all impairments have been corrected or shall be removed in accordance with (F).
- (F) All INSPECTION, DEFICIENCY, IMPAIRMENT, and REPAIR tags must be removed by the person performing a subsequent annual inspection in accordance with NFPA 25. INSTALL tags must not be removed.

- 6.4.7 Records and reports of inspections, testing and maintenance must be maintained by the system owner, on the premises of the System, for a period of no less than five (5) years. Such records must be made available for review at the request of the Division or the local AHJ.
- 6.4.8 Records of inspections, testing, or maintenance conducted outside of a full Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance Service must contain a notice to the System owner or responsible party advising of the limitations of the work conducted in relation to the overall responsibilities of the System owner.
- 6.4.9 Any contractor, Sprinkler Fitter, or inspector who finds a Fire Suppression System with impairments must provide a copy of the reports or records associated with that finding to the local responding fire department and the appropriate AHJ for the Fire Suppression System within 24 hours. Impairment reports must be provided regardless of whether the AHJ has notified a contractor that they do not wish to receive inspection reports in accordance with 6.4.3.

## 6.5 Complaint Reporting

- 6.5.1 Registered contractors and their employees who identify significant or repeated design or installation deficiencies or other violations of these rules by coworkers, other contractors, or certified Fire Suppression System Inspectors or Plan Reviewers must report them to the Division in accordance with the complaint procedures identified in Section 10.
- 6.5.2 Contractors reporting such complaints must provide to the Division copies of submittal documents, inspection reports, photographs, or other evidence supporting the complaint.
- 6.5.3 Failure to report identified significant or repeated design or installation deficiencies or other violations of these rules may lead to disciplinary action against contractors and/or their employees.

## **SECTION 7 FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM INSPECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

### 7.1 Credentials

- 7.1.1 Certified Fire Suppression System Inspectors and Plan Reviewers must provide their certification number on all Fire Suppression System plan reviews, permits, and inspection reports.
- 7.1.2 To ensure that only qualified contractors are performing work on sprinkler systems, Plan Reviewers must require the registration number of any contractor submitting plans for review.

- 7.1.3 To ensure that only qualified Sprinkler Fitters are installing or modifying sprinkler systems, Fire Suppression System Inspectors must require the registration number of the journeyman overseeing a project, prior to beginning an inspection.
- 7.1.4 Credentials may be verified on the Division's website or by mail or phone (See Section 13).
- 7.2 Requirements for Plan Review
  - 7.2.1 Plan Reviewers must verify that submitted documents include all information necessary to ensure that plans are designed in accordance with the appropriate standards.
  - 7.2.2 Plan Reviewers may ask for any additional information beyond that required by adopted standards when necessary to verify the effectiveness and appropriateness of a proposed sprinkler design.
- 7.3 Requirements for Performing Inspections
  - 7.3.1 Fire Suppression System Inspectors must verify that work is performed in a workmanlike manner and in accordance with the approved plans.
- 7.4 Record Keeping
  - 7.4.1 Municipalities, counties, fire protection districts, and other state or local authorities employing certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors must maintain records of all plan reviews and inspections conducted by each inspector and plan reviewer during their three year certification periods and for at least three (3) years after a project is completed, or in accordance with other applicable regulations or statutes, whichever is longer. Said records must be made available for review by the Division, upon request.
- 7.5 Complaint Reporting
  - 7.5.1 Certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors or Plan Reviewers who identify significant or repeated design or installation deficiencies or other violations of these Rules by contractors, Sprinkler Fitters, coworkers, or other certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors or Plan Reviewers must report them to the Division in accordance with the complaint procedures identified in Section 10.
  - 7.5.2 Certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors or Plan Reviewers reporting such complaints must provide to the Division copies of submittal documents, inspection reports, photographs, or other evidence supporting the complaint.

- 7.5.3 Failure to report significant or repeated design or installation deficiencies or other violations of these Rules may lead to disciplinary action against the certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors or Plan Reviewer.
- 7.5.4 Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors or Plan Reviewers who are subject to complaints must not retaliate in any way against a complainant. A finding of retaliation may lead to loss of certification.

## **SECTION 8 SPRINKLER FITTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **8.1 Credentials**

- 8.1.1 Registered Sprinkler Fitters must keep a copy of their State issued registration with them when performing work on a Fire Suppression System and must present it to a certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspector or AHJ at their request.
- 8.1.2 To ensure that only qualified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors are performing plan reviews or inspections of Fire Suppression Systems, Sprinkler Fitters may ask for their certification number.
- 8.1.3 Credentials may be verified on the Division's website or by mail or phone (See Section 13).

### **8.2 Requirements for Installation, Modification, and Repair**

- 8.2.1 A registered Sprinkler Fitter will be responsible to perform his or her duties in a workmanlike manner.
- 8.2.2 A registered Sprinkler Fitter must not leave a Fire Suppression System out of service in an occupied building without consulting with and meeting the fire watch requirements of the AHJ.
- 8.2.3 Sprinkler Fitters will be responsible for the work of any apprentices under their authority. A Sprinkler Fitter may supervise no more than three apprentices at any one time. A Sprinkler Fitter must not leave apprentices unsupervised and must be immediately available on site.

### **8.3 Complaint Reporting**

- 8.3.1 Registered Sprinkler Fitters who identify significant or repeated design or installation deficiencies or other violations of these rules by contractors, other Sprinkler Fitters, coworkers, or certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors or

Plan Reviewers must report them to the Division in accordance with the complaint procedures identified in Section 10.

- 8.5.2 Registered Sprinkler Fitters reporting such complaints must provide to the Division copies of submittal documents, inspection reports, photographs, or other evidence supporting the complaint.
- 8.5.3 Failure to report significant or repeated design or installation deficiencies or other violations of these rules may lead to disciplinary action against the registered Sprinkler Fitter.
- 8.5.4 Registered Sprinkler Fitters who are subject to complaints must not retaliate in any way against a complainant. A finding of retaliation may lead to loss of registration.

## **SECTION 9 CODES AND STANDARDS ADOPTED**

- 9.1 The following codes are adopted by the Division for the design, installation, and maintenance of Fire Suppression Systems within the State of Colorado:
  - 9.1.1 International Building Code, 2015 Edition, First Printing: May 2014 (Copyright 2014 by International Code Council, Inc. Washington, D.C.).
  - 9.1.2 International Fire Code, 2015 Edition, First Printing: May 2014 (Copyright 2014 by the International Code Council, Inc. Washington, D.C.).
  - 9.1.3 International Residential Code, 2015 Edition, First Printing: May 2014 (Copyright 2014 by the International Code Council, Inc. Washington, D.C.).  
This code is published by the International Code Council (ICC), 5203 Leesburg Pike Suite 600, Falls Church, VA 22041-3405. Copies of the incorporated material can be purchased from the ICC at the address shown above.
  - 9.1.4 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, 2015 Edition, First Printing: May 2014 (Copyright 2014 by International Code Council, Inc.).
  - 9.1.5 NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, 2012 Edition, First Printing: September 2011 (Copyright 2011 by National Fire Protection Association).
- 9.2 The following standards are adopted by the Division for the design, installation, and maintenance of Fire Suppression Systems within the State of Colorado:
  - NFPA 4 Standard for Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety System Testing 2015 Edition (Copyright 2015 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).

- NFPA 11 Standard for Low, Medium, and High Expansion Foam 2010 Edition (Copyright 2009 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 12 Standard for the Installation of Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems 2011 Edition (Copyright 2010 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 12A Standard for the Installation of Halon 1301 Fire Extinguishing Systems, 2009 Edition (Copyright 2008 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, 2013 Edition, (Copyright 2012 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 13D Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One and Two Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes, 2013 Edition (Copyright 2012 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 13R Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Low-Rise Residential Occupancies, 2013 Edition (Copyright 2012 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 14 Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems, 2013 Edition (Copyright 2013 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 15 Standard for Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection, 2012 Edition (Copyright 2011 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 16 Standard for the Installation of Foam-Water Sprinkler and Foam-Water Spray Systems, 2011 Edition (Copyright 2010 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 17 Standard for Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems, 2013 Edition (Copyright 2013 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 17A Standard for Wetting Agents, 2011 Edition (Copyright 2010 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 20 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection, 2013 Edition (Copyright 2012 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).

- NFPA 22 Standard for Water Tanks for Private Fire Protection, 2013 Edition (Copyright 2012 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 24 Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances, 2013 Edition (Copyright 2012 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 25 Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, 2014 Edition (Copyright 2013 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, 2013 Edition (Copyright 2012 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 409 Standard on Aircraft Hangars, 2011 Edition (Copyright 2010 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 418 Standard for Heliports, 2011 Edition (Copyright 2010 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 423 Standard for Construction and Protection of Aircraft Engine Test Facilities, 2010 Edition (Copyright 2009 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 750 Standard on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems, 2015 Edition (Copyright 2014 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 1142 Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Firefighting, 2012 Edition (Copyright 2011 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 2001 Standard on Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems, 2012 Edition (Copyright 2011 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).
- NFPA 2010 Standard for Fixed Aerosol Fire-Extinguishing Systems, 2015 Edition (Copyright 2014 by National Fire Protection Association Inc.).

9.3 The Division will maintain copies of the complete texts of the adopted codes and standards, which are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Interested parties may inspect the referenced incorporated materials and/or obtain copies of the adopted codes for a reasonable fee by contacting the Fire and Life Safety Section Chief at the Division, 690 Kipling St, Lakewood, CO, and/or The State Depository Libraries. Copies of the adopted codes and standards are available



from the organization originally issuing the codes and standards: the International Code Council, Inc., through the International Code Council Regional Office Bookstores, reached by calling 888-ICC-SAFE or on the web at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org), and the National Fire Protection Association, reached by calling 800-344-3555 or on the web at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

- 9.4 In the event that a new edition of a code or standard is adopted, the code or standard current at the time of permit application will remain in effect through the work authorized by the permit.
- 9.5 This rule does not include later amendments or editions of the incorporated material.
- 9.6 In the case of conflicting requirements between any code or standard adopted, the Division, in its sole discretion, will determine which provisions will apply.
- 9.7 Municipalities, counties, fire protection districts and other units of local government having the authority to do so, may adopt codes, standards, ordinances and/or resolutions governing the design and installation of Fire Suppression Systems that may be different than those adopted by the Division.
  - 9.7.1 Municipalities, counties, fire protection districts and other local authorities employing certified Fire Suppression System Inspectors may enforce locally adopted codes, standards ordinances and/or resolutions governing the design and installation of Fire Suppression Systems, to the extent permitted by the adopting ordinance or resolution.
  - 9.7.2 Conflicts between the codes and standards adopted by the Administrator and those adopted by a local government will be resolved in the following manner:
    - A. In cases where the local AHJ employs certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors and Plan Reviewers, the local government requirements will apply.
    - B. In cases where the local AHJ employs certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors but the Division conducts plan reviews, the Division's adopted codes and standards will apply.
    - C. In cases where the local AHJ does not employ certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors or Plan Reviewers, the Division's adopted codes and standards will apply.

## **SECTION 10 COMPLAINTS**

This Section concerns the reporting, investigation, and resolution of complaints alleging violation of any provision of 24-33.5-1206 through 1206.7 C.R.S or these Rules.

10.1 Complaints alleging violation of any provision of C.R.S. 24-33.5-1206.1 through 1206.7, or any Rule adopted by the Division must be filed with the Division's Fire & Life Safety Section Chief.

10.1.1 The Division may act on anonymous complaints or those made by complainants who desire to remain anonymous. However, individuals submitting complaints should be aware that such complaints are public records and may be available to the public for inspection in accordance with the Colorado Public Records Act 24-72-201, C.R.S. et seq.

10.1.2 Individuals or companies certified or registered through the Division in accordance with Sections 3, 4, and 5 of these rules are required to report significant or repeated design or installation deficiencies, other violations of any provision of 24-33.5-1206.1 through 1206.7 C.R.S., or these Rules.

10.1.3 The Fire & Life Safety Section (F&LSS) Chief will investigate or cause to be investigated the information contained in the complaint. If evidence can be found to substantiate that a violation has occurred, the F&LSS Chief will proceed pursuant to Sections 10.2 through 10.8.

10.1.4 If the investigation identifies evidence of fraud or other criminal activity, a case will be referred to the law enforcement agency(ies) having jurisdiction. Referral does not prevent the Division from pursuing action under these Rules.

10.1.5 Should the Director determine that it is necessary to conduct a hearing, the Division will utilize the services of the Colorado Division of Administrative Hearings to conduct a hearing in accordance with the Colorado Administrative Procedure Act, 24-1-101, et seq. C.R.S.

10.2 Penalties

10.2.1 The F&LSS Chief may assess a penalty and/or fine for any conduct determined, after investigation, to constitute a violation of these Rules.

10.2.2 Any assessed penalty and/or and fine will be in addition to any other civil or criminal penalties that may be prescribed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

10.2.3 Nothing in these Rules should be construed to understand that penalties must follow progressive discipline.

10.3 Warnings

10.3.1 A Warning may be issued to individuals and/or companies for a single, substantiated, violation of these rules which, in the opinion of the F&LSS Chief, does not rise to the level of a significant violation.

10.3.2 Examples of violations which may lead to a warning (list is not exclusive):

1. Failure to provide registration or certification number on documents as required in Sections 6 through 8;
2. Failure of a Sprinkler Fitter to maintain a copy of his or her registration on the job site;
3. Operating with an expired certification or registration (within the grace period).

10.3.3 Warnings will be delivered by e-mail to the address provided on the certification or registration application.

10.3.4 Warnings issued to Sprinkler Fitters or Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors will be copied to the registered contractor or local AHJ for which they work.

10.3.5 E-mailed warnings will be sent with a delivery receipt requested.

#### 10.4 Letters of Admonition

10.4.1 A Letter of Admonition will be issued for a single, substantiated violation which, in the opinion of the F&LSS Chief, constitutes a significant violation but which does not constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare. Letters of Admonition may also be issued to individuals and/or companies receiving multiple warnings during any twelve month period.

10.4.2 Examples of violations which may lead to a letter of admonishment (list is not exclusive):

1. Receiving more than one warning during any twelve month period;
2. Failure to report significant or repeated design or installation deficiencies as required by Sections 6.5, 7.5, or 8.3;
3. Operating with an expired certification or registration (outside of the grace period).

10.4.3 Nothing will be construed to require subsequent violations be related to the nature of the previous violation.

10.4.4 Letters of Admonition will be delivered by certified mail to the address provided on the certification or registration application.

10.4.5 Letters of Admonition issued to Sprinkler Fitters or certified Fire Suppression System Inspectors will be copied to the registered contractor or local AHJ for which they work.

## 10.5 Suspensions

10.5.1 A registration or certification may be suspended for a single, substantiated violation of these rules which, in the opinion of the F&LSS Chief, constitutes a serious violation but which does not constitute a serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. Suspensions will also be issued to individuals and/or companies for repeated violations as indicated in Sections 10.3 and 10.4.

10.5.1.1 Individuals or companies not currently certified or registered through the Division in accordance with Sections, 3, 4, and 5 of these rules but operating in violation of these rules shall be subject to denial of their application for certification or registration.

10.5.2 Examples of violations which might lead to suspension or denial (list is not exclusive):

1. Receiving a warning subsequent to receiving of a Letter of Admonition during the prior twelve month period;
2. Failure or refusal to stop work or leave a job site upon request of the certified inspector;
3. Failure to notify the Division of any changes that may affect the person's current registration or certification status;
4. Employment of non-registered Sprinkler Fitters by a registered contractor;
5. Expiration of a required, qualifying document or examination during the registration or certification period.

10.5.3 Nothing will be construed to require subsequent violations to be related to the nature of previous violations.

10.5.4 Notices of suspension or denial will be issued as Letters of Admonition in accordance with Section 10.4.

10.5.5 Suspensions or denials will be for a period of no more than 1 month or the remainder of the current registration or certification period, whichever is less.

10.5.6 Any violation which, in the opinion of the F&LSS Chief, constitutes a serious threat to public health, safety, or welfare will result in immediate suspension or denial of a registration or certification pending a revocation hearing pursuant to Sections 10.6 and 10.8.

## 10.6 Revocations

10.6.1 A registration or certification may be revoked for a single, substantiated violation of these rules which, in the opinion of the Director, constitutes a serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. Registrations or certifications may also be revoked for repeated violations of Sections 10.3 through 10.5.

10.6.1.1 Individuals or companies not currently certified or registered through the Division in accordance with Sections, 3, 4, and 5 of these rules but operating in violation of these rules shall be subject to denial of their application for certification or registration.

10.6.2 Examples of violations which might lead to revocation or denial (list is not exclusive):

1. Receiving a Letter of Admonition subsequent to a suspension within the prior twelve month period;
2. Fraud or material deception in obtaining or renewing a registration or certification;
3. Professional incompetence as manifested by poor, faulty, or dangerous workmanship;
4. Engaging in conduct that is likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public in the course of professional services or activities;
5. Negligently performing any services regulated by the Division;
6. Retaliation by a certified inspector against a complainant;
7. Using another individual's or company's credentials to obtain or perform work regulated by these rules.

10.6.3 Nothing will be construed to require subsequent violations to be related to the nature of previous violations.

10.6.4 Notices of revocation or denial will be issued as Letters of Admonition in accordance with Section 10.4.

10.6.5 Revocations or denials will be for a period of no less than the remainder of the current registration or certification period or one (1) year, whichever is greater.

10.6.6 All revocations or denials will result in immediate suspension of a registration or certification pending a revocation or denial hearing pursuant to Section 10.8.

## 10.7 Fines

10.7.1 In addition to the penalties identified Sections 10.4 through 10.6, the F&LSS Chief may assess a fine for any conduct determined to constitute a violation of these Rules. The fines will be as follows:

1. A letter of admonition or suspension may be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000.

2. A revocation will be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000.
3. Any subsequent violation of similar magnitude will be assessed a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000 and will be subject to immediate suspension pursuant to a revocation hearing.

10.8 Hearings

- 10.8.1 All hearings will be conducted in accordance with the Colorado Administrative Procedure Act, 24-1-101, et seq. C.R.S.
- 10.8.2 The Director may conduct a hearing to determine the facts of a complaint and to determine the appropriate penalty for a violation.
- 10.8.3 A hearing will be conducted whenever a registration or certification is subject to revocation.
- 10.8.4 Any contractor, Sprinkler Fitter, or inspector who feels aggrieved by the decision, order, or actions of the Division in accordance with this Section may request a hearing.
- 10.8.5 The decision, order, or actions of the Director following the hearing will be considered the final agency action.
- 10.8.6 Any contractor, Sprinkler Fitter, or inspector who feels aggrieved by the decision, order or actions of the Director following final agency action may seek judicial relief pursuant to the provisions of 24-4-106, C.R.S.

**SECTION 11  
FEES AND CHARGES ESTABLISHED**

11.1 Services other than Fire Suppression System plan review and inspection fees:

11.1.1 Annual Registration of Fire Suppression System Contractors	\$100
11.1.2 Sprinkler Fitter – new application	\$75
11.1.3 Sprinkler Fitter – renewal application	\$50
11.1.4 Replacement of lost or damaged registration or certification	\$10
11.1.5 Technical assistance to other agencies including travel to and from job site	<del>\$100</del> <u>50</u> /hr

- 11.1.6 Certification or Renewal of Fire Suppression System Inspectors:
  - Document review \$30
  - Reciprocity of equivalent ICC or NFPA certifications \$10

11.1.7 Late renewal fee \$25

11.1.8 Examination (or review of reciprocal exam) \$30

11.1.9 ~~FEMA hotel or motel c~~Compliance inspection fee ~~per hotel or motel per~~ fire alarm and Fire Suppression System \$100

11.2 Fire Suppression System plan review and inspection fees:

11.2.1 Plan review, construction permit, and inspection fees are calculated based on the total project valuation:

A. Fees for projects with a total project valuation of \$5,000.00 or less will be subject to a flat fee of ~~\$800.00~~240.00.

B. Fees for projects with a total project valuation of greater than \$5,000.00 will be subject to a base fee of ~~\$800.00~~240.00 plus a fee equal to ~~.0006~~.0018 times the total project valuation.

~~11.2.1.1~~ The ~~building~~ inspection component of the fee in Section 11.2.1 includes ~~one inspection per required signature line on the issued permit and inspection card~~ and allocation of site visits to complete the necessary inspections in accordance with the table below. In the event that additional inspections by the Division are necessary or requested, additional fees may be assessed as outlined in 11.2.5.

<del>Under 50,000 sq.ft.</del>	<del>5 site visits</del>
<del>50,001-100,000 sq.ft</del>	<del>10 site visits</del>
<del>100,001-200,000 sq. ft.</del>	<del>5 site visits/each additional 100,000 sq. ft.</del>

~~11.2.1.2~~ The Fire and Life Safety inspection component of the fee in 11.2.1 includes ~~one inspection per required signature line on the issued permit and inspection card. In the event that additional inspections by the Division are necessary or requested, additional fees may be assessed.~~

11.2.1.3~~2~~ Division inspection fees do not include costs associated with inspections conducted the by local AHJ or third-party inspectors.

11.2.1.4~~3~~ If the submitted total project valuation appears to be below market value for the project, the Division reserves the right to request documentation from the permittee to verify the total project valuation.

The permittee has the right to mark documents submitted to verify the total project valuation as proprietary information.

- 11.2.2 The Division will review the fire suppression cash fund balance periodically and may reduce or increase the amount of the fees charged, if necessary, pursuant to section 24-75-402 (3) and 24-75-402 (4), C.R.S.
- 11.2.3 A fee calculator posted on the Division website enables determination of total fees (plan review and permit fees) prior to submittal of a project. ~~Additional inspections, beyond the included inspections, will be assessed a fee of \$400.00 per four-hour block of inspector time including travel. All applications received on or after August 1st, 2015 are subject to the fee structure in these Rules. All prior fee structures are restructured pursuant to these Rules.~~
- 11.2.4 Half of the fees must be submitted prior to commencement of plan review and the remaining half must be submitted prior to permit issuance. Inspections will not be performed until the required fee has been paid. Additional inspection fees must be submitted prior to issuance of any associated Certificate of Compliance or completion of the permit.
- 11.2.5 The Division may assess a ~~\$400–200 re-inspection~~ fee for each additional inspection in excess of the number allocated by the table in 11.2.1. per four-hour block of inspector time including travel for each inspection or re-inspection when such portion of work for which the inspection is called is not completed or when corrections previously called for are not made. Upon request of the permittee, one re-inspection fee per project may be waived at the discretion of the Division. This re-inspection fee is intended to control the practice of calling for inspections before the work is ready for such inspection or re-inspection. Re-Additional inspections exceeding 4 hours in length, including travel time, will be charged \$10050 for each additional hour or portion thereof.
- 11.2.6 The Division may assess an additional off-hours inspection fee of \$200 for inspections requested outside of normal business hours.
- 11.2.6.1 Normal inspection hours are Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.
- 11.2.6.2 Off-hours inspections are scheduled on an "as-available" basis. The Division is not obligated to provide inspections outside of normal operating hours if an inspector is not available.
- 11.3 The above fees and charges apply only for Division services. Local jurisdictions having certified Fire Suppression Systems Inspectors may establish their own permit, plan review and inspection fees, and other charges.



- 11.4 Fees may be waived or modified when appropriate at the discretion of the Director or his designee. Request for waiver or modification shall be in writing.

## **SECTION 12 SEVERABILITY**

- 12.1 If any provision of these Rules or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of these Rules which can be given effect without the invalid provisions. To this end, all provisions of these Rules are declared to be severable.

## **SECTION 13 INQUIRIES**

- 13.1 Questions, clarification, or interpretation of these Rules should be addressed in writing to: Fire & Life Safety Section Chief, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, 700 Kipling St, Suite 4100, Denver, CO 80215. Telephone number: (303) 239-4100.