



## EQUIVALENCY APPLICATION

### CLASSIFICATION OF FIRE SERVICE POSITIONS

Once the state, local department, or jurisdiction has classified all its ranks, appointments, and qualifications, a certificate of equivalency shall be issued to all incumbents, which will allow them to participate in future progression within the system.

Personnel shall be granted an equivalent certification upon request, when validated by the Chief of the Department. This certificate of equivalency shall be valid only within the jurisdiction of issuance.

Currently, no continuing education requirements or testing requirements have been adopted for this equivalency process.

### PROCESS

The state shall allow for any department to classify the existing positions within their individual departments for individuals who were fully qualified in the Fire Service prior to April 1995 when the Fire Protection Bureau was accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). These classifications shall be submitted to Fire Standards, Accreditation, and Certification under the signature of the Fire Chief or Chief Executive Officer of the department.

Fire Standards, Accreditation, and Certification shall issue a certificate of equivalency to each individual within the department who is qualified by the Chief and meets the timeframe for equivalency.

To enter into equivalency, the individual should be designated as qualified by the Fire Chief on any level prior to April 1995. The Fire Chief may designate all of the ranks in his/her department at the level the individual is competent at prior to April 1995.

**Example 1:** John Smith qualified as FFI, FFII, Hazardous Materials Operations, Fire Officer I all prior to April 1995. He would apply for equivalency on these levels.

In this example, the individual may choose to test at Instructor I and Fire Officer II without testing at the FFI, FFII, and Hazardous Materials Operations levels once equivalency is established.

**Example 2:** Paul Jones qualified as FFI prior to April 1995.

This individual should apply for equivalency for FFI. The individual may then choose to test at FFII, Hazardous Materials Operations, and subsequent levels without testing for FFI once equivalency is established.

The Fire Chief may also designate the subsequent levels that the person may have attained prior to that particular level becoming accredited.

**Example 3:** Loreen Anderson – FF I prior to April 1995, FF II prior to April 2000, Hazardous Materials Operations prior to April 2000.

In this example the individual may apply for equivalency on FFI, FFII, and Hazardous Materials Operations. Once equivalency is established, the candidate may then test at Fire Officer I level.



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**Example 4:** Bill Webster – FFI prior to April 1995, FFII and Hazardous Materials Operations prior to April 2000, Instructor I prior to April 1996.

In this example, the individual may apply for equivalency on FFI, FFII, Instructor I, and Hazardous Materials Operations. Once equivalency is established, the candidate may test at Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II, and Instructor II.

**Example 5:** Kelly Lane – Firefighter I prior to April 1995, Instructor I prior to April 1996.

The candidate may apply for equivalency on both levels, as they were attained prior to those levels becoming accredited. The individual may also choose to actually test at both levels, even though she has qualified for equivalency. Equivalency is not a certification and does not preclude the testing at the level if the individual chooses to do so. The testing would allow the person (if successful) to actually attain a certification good within the IFSAC entities across the country who recognize the Washington State certification program. However, the candidate, once tested at Firefighter I and Instructor I, should continue to test at the higher levels of certification. A candidate cannot test at Firefighter I and then ask for equivalency on Firefighter II. The candidate needs to stay within the testing process. This candidate may choose to test at the FFII, Hazardous Materials Operations, and Instructor II level using the equivalency on Firefighter I and Instructor I to get into the higher-level tests.

At a minimum, the individual should be qualified by the Fire Chief on a level prior to April 1995 when we were accredited by IFSAC. The Fire Chief then may designate the individual at the subsequent levels that apply. Each subsequent level must be successfully completed prior to the date that the specific level became accredited by IFSAC. Levels and Qualification dates are as follows:

| Level                                             | Qualification Date     |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Firefighter I                                     | Prior to April 1995    |
| Instructor I                                      | Prior to April 1996    |
| Fire Investigator                                 | Prior to January 1999  |
| Public Fire and Life Safety Educator              | May 1999               |
| Firefighter II and Hazardous Materials Operations | Prior to April 2000    |
| Instructor II                                     | Prior to April 2000    |
| Land Based Marine Firefighter (Awareness)         | Prior to November 2001 |
| Fire Officer I                                    | Prior to June 2002     |
| Fire Officer II                                   | Prior to July 2002     |

The Fire Chief may send a letter with the attached completed form to:

WSP Fire Protection Bureau  
Fire Standards, Accreditation and Certification Program  
PO Box 42642  
Olympia WA 98504-2642



**FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU  
STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION  
PO Box 42642  
Olympia WA 98504-2642  
(360) 596-3945 FAX: (360) 596-3936**



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*Please fill out this form and have your Fire Chief or Training Officer fill out information needed, sign, and return to the Fire Protection Bureau, Standards and Accreditation, PO Box 42642, Olympia, WA 98504-2642, or fax to: (360) 596-3936. For questions, call (360) 596-3945. When qualified, the candidate will receive an equivalency certificate to allow testing on the next higher level. The equivalency certificate is only valid in the local jurisdiction, and it does not represent IFSAC certification.*

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date (month, day, year) \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 of SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Levels Applying For \_\_\_\_\_

Department Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

To be eligible for equivalency, the candidate must have entered the Fire Service and be fully qualified on an NFPA standard prior to April 1995. Please indicate the date you completed training and qualified for NFPA 1001 FF1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***This portion to be filled out by Department Chief or Training Officer:***

I have reviewed training records and certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has met the NFPA standards for levels and dates below: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's Name

| Proficiency Level<br>(Levels in this table must be completed in sequence) | Qualified Training Completed | NFPA Standard                   | Met or Not Met                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Firefighter I                                                             | April 1995                   | NFPA 1001, 1992 edition         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hazardous Material Operations                                             | April 2000                   | NFPA 472, 1997 edition          | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Firefighter II                                                            | April 2000                   | NFPA 1001, 1997 edition         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fire Officer I                                                            | June 2002                    | NFPA 1021, 1997 edition         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Instructor I                                                              | April 1996                   | NFPA 1041, 1992 edition         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fire Officer II                                                           | July 2002                    | NFPA 1021, 1997 edition         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Instructor II                                                             | April 2000                   | NFPA 1041, 1996 edition         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marine Firefighting -- Land Based                                         | November 2001                | Washington State Standard, 2001 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public Fire & Life Safety Educator I                                      | May 1999                     | NFPA 1031, 1993 edition         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fire Investigator                                                         | January 1999                 | NFPA 1033, 1993 edition         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief's Name (print)  
(or Training Officer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date