



## FIRE ALARM LICENSE & TEST INFORMATION

### USE OF THIS INFORMATION

This bulletin is an abbreviation of the fire alarm statute and rules and provides general information concerning the fire alarm licenses. If there is any conflict between this document and the statute and rules, the statute and rules will take precedence.

### FOR ASSISTANCE AND QUESTIONS

**Texas State Fire Marshal's Office**  
**P. O. Box 149221**  
**Austin, TX 78714-9221**  
*or call and ask for the*  
**Fire Alarm Licensing Technician**  
**(512) 305-7935**

*additional information and forms may be found on our web site at*  
<http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire>

### TYPES OF REGISTRATIONS (for firms)

A firm cannot be registered without a licensed employee.

#### **Alarm Certificate of Registration (ACR)**

Each firm engaged in the business of fire detection devices or systems must have an ACR. The extent of work, allowed by the firm (planning, certifying, leasing, selling, servicing, installing, monitoring, or maintaining fire detection devices or systems), is limited by the license held by their employees.

#### **Alarm Branch Office Certificate of Registration**

Each separate office location performing the same business as the firm holding the ACR must have a branch office certificate of registration.

#### **Alarm Certificate of Registration - Single Station (ACR-SS)**

Each firm engaged in the business of planning, certifying, leasing, selling, servicing, installing, monitoring, or maintaining exclusively single station devices, must have an ACR-SS.

### TYPES OF LICENSES (for individuals)

An individual cannot be issued a license until employed by a registered firm.

#### **Fire Alarm Planning Superintendent**

A registered firm that employs a licensed Fire Alarm Planning Superintendent is permitted to sell, plan, install, certify, service, and monitor all types of fire alarm or detection devices or systems. *(This licensee must pass the NICET Level III test and the Fire Alarm Statute & Rules TFM11 test.)*

#### **Fire Alarm Technician**

A registered firm that employs a licensed Fire Alarm Technician is permitted to sell, install, certify, service, and monitor all types of fire alarm or detection devices or systems. Planning must be done by another type qualified firm. *(This licensee must pass the Fire Alarm Technical TFM12 test and the Fire Alarm Statute & Rules TFM11 test.)*

#### **Fire Alarm Monitoring Technician**

A registered firm that employs a licensed Fire Alarm Monitoring Technician is only permitted to monitor residential or commercial fire alarm or detection devices or systems. *(This licensee must pass the Fire Alarm Monitoring TFM14 test and the Fire Alarm Statute & Rules TFM11 test.)*

#### **Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent**

A registered firm that employs a licensed Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent is permitted to sell, plan, install, certify, service, and monitor fire alarm or detection devices or systems in one- and two-family dwellings. A Residential Alarm Superintendent can also perform all the functions of a Fire Alarm Technician. *(As a minimum, this licensee must pass the Fire Alarm Technical TFM12 test or NICET Level II, the Fire Alarm Residential TFM13 test, and the Fire Alarm Statute & Rules TFM11 test.)*

#### **Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent – Single Station**

A registered firm that employs a licensed Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent - Single Station is only permitted to sell, plan, install, certify, and service single station heat or smoke detectors which are not connected to any other detection device or system, in one- or two-family dwellings. *(As a minimum, this licensee must pass the Fire Alarm Residential TFM13 test, and the Fire Alarm Statute & Rules TFM11 test.)*

A licensed individual may not perform the above services unless they are an employee or agent of a registered firm.

WORK PERMITTED BY TYPE OF LICENSE												REQUIRED TESTS <sup>2</sup>					
Type of License	Commercial						1 & 2 Family Dwelling						Tests				
	Sell	Plan	Install	Certify <sup>1</sup>	Service <sup>3</sup>	Monitor	Sell	Plan	Install	Certify <sup>1</sup>	Service <sup>3</sup>	Monitor	Fire Alarm Statute & Rules TFM11	NICET III	Fire Alarm Technical TFM12	Fire Alarm Residential TFM13	Fire Alarm Monitoring TFM14
Fire Alarm Planning Superintendent	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Fire Alarm Technician	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X <sup>4</sup>		
Fire Alarm Monitoring Technician						X						X	X				X
Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X <sup>4</sup>	X	
Residential Fire Alarm Supt.-Single Station Only							X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	

<sup>1</sup> Certify means to certify that the system meets Article 5.43-2, not to certificate or placard the system as meeting central station requirements.

<sup>2</sup> The technical testing requirements (other than Statute & Rules TFM11) may be waived for a Texas licensed professional engineer.

<sup>3</sup> "Service" includes inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or testing.

<sup>4</sup> Or NICET Level II.

### SCHEDULING A TEST

State Fire Marshal tests are administered through Thomson Prometric. You may schedule your test online at anytime using their Internet Registration and Scheduling Service at [www.experioronline.com](http://www.experioronline.com). To use this service, follow these steps:

- Go to [www.experioronline.com](http://www.experioronline.com) and select **For Test Takers**.
- Choose **Texas** from the list of states provided.
- Under **Fire Marshal**, click on **Fire Alarm License Exams**.
- Select **Online Registration and Scheduling** to create your own user ID and password.
- Follow the step-by-step instructions to complete the registration process. Please have your MasterCard or Visa available for online payment of examination fees.
- Complete the process by immediately scheduling your examination appointment online.

### TEST DESCRIPTION

All tests consist of questions that require true-false or multiple choice answers. Questions may refer to a drawing, chart, or figure included with the test.

The technical test questions are based on the adopted standards. There are no questions based on specific manufacturer's equipment other than generally referenced by an NFPA standard.

### TEST SCORES

A score of 70% is necessary to pass the test. After completion of the test you will receive two score reports. One of these reports must be submitted with your license application.

A brief synopsis of the results is included in your score report.

### TEST RESTRICTION

An applicant may only schedule each type of test once a week and no more than three times within a twelve-month period.

### TEST REFERENCES

#### Fire Alarm Statute & Rules TFM11 Test<sup>5</sup>

All questions on this test are based on the Texas Insurance Code, Article 5.43-2, "Fire Detection and Alarm Devices" and the Fire Alarm rules, 28 TAC § 34.600. This book may be downloaded from our web site at: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fmlialarm.html>, then click on "Statute and Rules".

#### Fire Alarm Technical TFM12 Test<sup>3,5</sup>

Most questions on this test are based on the fire alarm sections contained in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards adopted in the rules. See the rules to determine the latest edition date of the adopted standard.

The Fire Alarm Technical Test includes the following standard in its entirety (except the chapter on Household Fire Alarms).

NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code<sup>1</sup>

The Technical Qualifying Test includes only Articles 760, 300 and other article(s) referenced therein of the following standard.

NFPA 70 National Electrical Code Art. 760 & 300<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 13 Sprinkler Systems<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 13D Dwelling Sprinkler Systems<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 13R Residential Sprinkler Systems<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 15 Water Spray Fixed Systems<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 16 Deluge Foam-Water Sprinkler Syst.<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 17 Dry Chemical Extinguishing Syst.<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 17A Wet Chemical Extinguishing Syst.<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 25 Maintenance of Water-Based Syst.<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 90A Air Conditioning and Ventilating Syst.<sup>1</sup>

The Fire Alarm Technical Test questions are based on the adopted standards. There may be questions based on practical knowledge of general electrical wiring practices or principles of electricity. There are no intentionally "trick" questions.

**TEST REFERENCES (continued)**

Questions on the Fire Alarm Technical Test include but are not limited to the following subjects.

1. Identifying the correct applicable NFPA standard
2. Definition of types of equipment and circuits
3. Selection of the proper type wire and cable
4. Operating principles of various type detectors
5. Location and limitation for the spacing of:
  - Detection devices
  - Notification devices
6. Principles, requirements, installation, and use of:
  - Detection circuits
  - Supervisory circuits
  - Notification circuits
7. Requirements & frequency for testing of alarms

**Fire Alarm Residential TFM13 Test <sup>3,5</sup>**

This test is based only on information contained in the chapter on "Household Fire Alarm Systems", of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) publication number 72, "National Fire Alarm Code"<sup>1</sup>.

Questions on the Fire Alarm Residential Test include but are not limited to the following subjects relating to household fire alarm systems.

1. Detector type, location, and spacing
2. Required quantity of detectors
3. Single and multiple station detector requirements
4. Power supplies
5. Maintenance and tests

**Fire Alarm Monitoring TFM14 Test <sup>3,5</sup>**

All questions on this test are based on the two following standards. See the rules to determine the latest edition date of the adopted standard.

- NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code <sup>1</sup> (*Only the chapter on Supervising Station Fire Alarm Systems and other chapters referenced therein.*)
- UL 827 Central-Station Alarm Services <sup>4</sup>

**NICET Level II or III Test <sup>2,3</sup>**

This is a series of tests administered by the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET). A copy of NICET's notification letter confirming the applicant's successful completion of the testing requirements for certification at the required level (II or III) in Fire Protection Engineering Technology, Fire Alarm Systems, must be provided to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

**FOOTNOTES**

<sup>1</sup>These publications can be purchased through the National Fire Protection Association, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, Tel 1-800-344-3555 or by visiting [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

<sup>2</sup>These tests are administered and scheduled by the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), 1420 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or by visiting <http://www.nicet.org/candidates/programs/firealarm.cfm>.

<sup>3</sup>The technical test requirements (other than Statute and Rules TFM11) may be waived if the applicant is a Texas licensed professional engineer.

<sup>4</sup>This publication can be purchased by contacting Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062-2096, Tel 1-800-704-4050, or [www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com).

<sup>5</sup>These tests are administered through Thomson Prometric.

**EMPLOYEE LICENSE FEES**

Type of License	Initial	Renewal (2 year)
Alarm Planning Supt.	\$ 120	\$ 200
Alarm Technician	\$ 120	\$ 200
Monitoring Technician	\$ 120	\$ 200
Residential Supt.	\$ 120	\$ 200
Residential Supt. – SS	\$ 120	\$ 200
Duplicate License	\$ 20 (e.g. replace lost license)	
Revised License	\$ 20 (e.g. change employer)	

Late fees are assessed as required by the statute and rules.

Except for overpayments resulting from mistakes of law or fact, all fees are non-refundable.

**COMPANY REGISTRATION FEES**

Certificate of Registration	Initial	Renewal (2 year)
Main Office	\$ 500	\$1000
Branch Office (each)	\$ 150	\$ 300
Single Station Only	\$ 250	\$ 500
Revised Registration	\$ 20 (e.g. change of address)	

Late fees are assessed as required by the statute and rules.

Except for overpayments resulting from mistakes of law or fact, all fees are non-refundable.

**OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**

The following must be submitted to apply for a Certificate of Registration:

- Certificate of Registration application
- Certificate of Insurance for bodily injury and property damage
- Additional documents (if applicable):
  - corporate charter, etc.
  - assumed name certificate
  - certificate of account status (on franchise taxes)
- Name of designated full-time employee who is or will be licensed
- Registration fee

**OBTAINING AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSE**

The following must be submitted to apply for a license:

- License Application for Individuals
- Score reports showing successful completion of exam requirements.
- License fee