



Fire Marshal's Alert!

December 1, 2005

State Fire Marshal Announces New Fire Industry Licensing Test Administration Procedures

The State Fire Marshal is pleased to announce that starting February 1, 2006, the administration of all licensing tests, currently conducted in Austin by the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), will be performed by Thomson Prometric. Thomson Prometric is an independent private firm with extensive experience administering licensing examinations throughout the United States. Thomson Prometric currently provides this service for several Texas state agencies. There will be a slight increase in the test fee, but most of the changes in the testing administration will have a positive impact for the applicants:

- Change from one test location in Austin to over 20 locations around Texas.
- Change from paper and pencil testing to testing on a computer.
- Change from waiting several days for the test results/analysis to immediate written notification of pass/fail at the test site.
- Change from testing only on Wednesdays to testing Monday to Friday 8am-6pm or Saturday 8am-1pm.
- Change from paying test fees by check to payment by other methods such as credit cards.
- Change from mailing in requests for test dates to immediate on-line scheduling.

Prior to submitting a license application to the SFMO, the applicant must pass the applicable test administered by Thomson Prometric. Beginning January 2, 2006, applicants may conveniently schedule a test by selecting the date, time and location on-line at the Thomson Prometric Web site: experioronline.com. The test fee and all other arrangements will be handled directly through Thomson Prometric. A telephone help number and specific test information will also be posted on their Web site. After taking the test and before leaving the test site, you will receive two official copies of your test results/analysis. Your picture will be on this document. An applicant will be limited to taking any one type of test once per week and no more than three times within 12 months.

Applicants for a license must still apply directly to the SFMO for the desired license on the application forms (*click on the specific industry in the right hand menu at the Web site listed below*) provided by the SFMO and pay the applicable license fee. The only change is that the application must be accompanied by the original test results/analysis document from Thomson Prometric indicating the applicant has successfully passed the applicable test(s) for the license.

January 25, 2006, will be the last date SFMO administers a test. Please refrain from submitting any test applications or test fees to the SFMO after that date.

The SFMO is pleased to offer this service through Thomson Prometric to better serve our customers. If you have any immediate questions you may contact Jacqueline Davis in the SFMO licensing department at (512-305-7934) or any other SFMO licensing technician.

FireMarshal@tdi.state.tx.us (e-mail) <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fmli.html> (Web site)