LONG BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAFETY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW
AN OVERVIEW OF THE
FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAFETY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The information presented here is intended to explain the Fire Protection & Life Safety Certification Program in terms of general procedures and policies. It is not a recital of the Code nor does it deal with specific procedures for testing fire protection equipment. This Certification Program is modeled after the successful Los Angeles City Fire Departments Chief’s Regulation No. 4 Unit Program and has been modified by the Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD).

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Fire Protection & Life Safety Certification Program is a prescribed method to maintain specified categories of fire protection equipment and systems in proper operating condition the way they were intended to operate when they were installed.

The Fire Protection & Life Safety Certification Program is intended to ensure maintenance of fire protection equipment and systems at the same level of operation as originally intended to operate when installed. The initial test procedure is intended to determine the operating condition of the equipment being tested. If defects are found during the initial test, repair and retest procedures are initiated by the Fire Department to restore that equipment to proper operating condition.

What is proper operating condition?

Proper operating condition is an elusive term. As used in the Certification Program it normally means, “as originally installed per applicable codes and policies at that time of installation.”

Sometimes it is found that the equipment was installed in a manner inconsistent with applicable codes and policies, and the original acceptance test did not uncover the discrepancy. Also, certain retroactive provisions may be applicable to the equipment. At the direction of the Fire Department, the Certification Program may be used to upgrade such equipment.

Is the Fire Protection & Life Safety Certification Program appropriate to cause repair of known defective equipment?

No, when a known repair is needed, it would be inappropriate to wait for the Certification Program testing to initiate repair of fire protection equipment known to be defective. The repair should be initiated immediately. Requiring a test to be performed could delay the repair process by 30 days. However, a fire protection & life safety certification test may be required upon completion of repair.

How does the Fire Protection & Life Safety Certification Program interface with the State Fire Marshal Program for automatic extinguishing systems?

In 1984, the State Fire Marshal mandated a program of maintenance and service for standpipe and automatic sprinkler systems, which is almost identical with the provisions of the Fire Protection & Life Safety Certification Program for those systems in the City of Long Beach. These provisions are commonly known as California Code of Regulations “Title 19 Testing.” California State Fire Marshal Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES) forms shall be used to record all inspection tests and maintenance activities in Title 19, CCR, Table 906.4(a). For Engineered and Pre-Engineered Fire Protection Systems, the forms in Table 906.4(b) shall be used to record the results of all inspections.
inspections, testing and maintenance. All other life safety systems shall utilize the Long Beach Fire Department testing form.

**CATEGORIES OF EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS**

What are the general categories of equipment and systems found in the Fire Protection & Life Safety Certification Program?

- Water delivery systems
- Electrical and communication systems
- Smoke management systems
- Other miscellaneous equipment

What is included in Water Delivery Systems?

- Fire pumps
- Dry standpipe systems (Class I standpipes)
- Wet standpipe systems (Class II standpipes)
- Combination standpipe systems (Class III standpipes)
- Combined standpipe-sprinkler systems
- Other automatic fire sprinkler systems

What is included in Electrical and Communication Systems?

- Basic fire alarm systems
- Complex fire/life safety systems, including activation of auxiliary functions
- Emergency communication systems (or Emergency Responder Radio Coverage systems)
  - For building occupants
  - For firefighters
- Central or remote supervisory station signaling systems
- Emergency generators and battery systems
- Other emergency lighting systems such as unit lighting

What is included in Smoke Management Systems?

- Pressurized stair shaft systems
- Mechanically ventilated smoke proof enclosures (known more commonly as “Smoke Towers”)
- Smoke evacuation systems

What is the Miscellaneous Equipment?

- Fire escape assemblies
- Automatic-closing fire assemblies
- Automatic elevators, fire service Phases I and II
- Gas detection systems
- Refrigerant discharge systems
- Fire hydrants (private)
- Engineered and pre-engineered fire extinguishing systems (ex. hood suppression systems)
TESTING INTERVALS

What are the standard testing intervals?

- Semi-annual
- Annual
- Five years

These intervals are the maximum allowable time between tests. More frequent testing may be requested at the discretion of the Fire Department. Title 19/NFPA 25 internals must be adhered to by the owner. Note: Title 19/NFPA 25 may require more frequent inspection, testing, and maintenance. However, the systems or equipment listed below need to be submitted electronically to the Long Beach Fire Department at the indicated intervals.

What equipment is required to have a semi-annual test, by code?

- Wet/dry chemical and specialty pre-engineered fire extinguishing systems.

What equipment is required to have an annual test, by code?

- All fire alarm and fire/life safety systems
- Emergency responder radio coverage systems
- Fire sprinkler monitoring/Central or remote supervisory station signaling system
- Emergency power and battery systems
- Smoke management systems in high-rise buildings
- Automatic elevators
- Fire protection assemblies: Automatic closing (doors, shutters, windows, trash chutes, etc.)

What equipment is required to have an annual test, per Fire Department policy and nationally recognized standards?

- Fire pumps
- 2 1/2 standpipe outlets equipped with pressure-regulating valves

What equipment is required to have a 5-year test?

- All water delivery systems
  Exceptions: Fire pumps and PRV standpipe outlets (yearly tests)
- Fire escapes assemblies
- Smoke control systems
- Refrigerant discharge systems
- Private fire hydrant systems

  NOTE: Special-extinguishing systems (except, automatic sprinkler systems). Follow test procedures as indicated in each relevant NFPA standard.

Who is involved in the initial test process?

Three groups are involved in the initial test process of the Certification Program:
The Fire Department
The party responsible for maintaining the equipment (generally referred to as the property owner)
The tester/test company

The Fire Department has the obligation and authority to make the owner maintain their fire protection equipment and systems.

The Owner has the responsibility to maintain their fire protection equipment and systems.

The Tester/Test Company has the responsibility for accurately testing and reporting the condition of the fire protection equipment and systems to the Fire Department.

NOTICE TO PERFORM INITIAL TEST

How is the test requirement for the Fire Protection & Life Safety Certification Program initiated?

The Certification Program testing can be initiated by the requirements of “Title 19”, a Fire Department Inspector, and or local fire station personnel. A written notice is issued to the building owner or responsible party to test specific equipment. The written notice is provided in person or via United States Postal Service (USPS). The test may also be initiated by a notice sent from The Compliance Engine (https://www.thecomplianceengine.com/).

What information is on the written notice?

- Address where the equipment and/or system is located
- Specific equipment needing a Fire Protection & Life Safety Certification
- Responsible party (usually the property owner)
- Date of notice

Can a test be initiated by other means?

The certification testing may be initiated by a renewal notice that is automatically sent from the LBFD online reporting system, The Compliance Engine. Also, the test may be initiated by building owners to maintain their systems or test companies assisting the property owners.

How is the Fire Prevention Bureau notified of the testing?

The owner or test company shall notify LBFD at least 72 hours in advance of the scheduled test date. The notification can be sent via fax to (562) 570-2566. Questions regarding the test or test procedures can be directed to the following sections:

- The High-Rise Section of Fire Prevention inspects all HIGH-RISE buildings. They may be contacted at (562) 570-2591.
- In the Harbor area contact the Harbor Section at (562) 570-2508.
- All other occupancies contact Fire Prevention at (562) 570-2563 for the appropriate Code Enforcement Inspector.
ROLE OF THE OWNER IN THE INITIAL TEST PROCESS

What is the role of the owner or responsible party in the initial test process?

Once the owner or responsible party receives a written notice to perform a test on their fire protection equipment or system(s), they must arrange to have the test performed within 30 days. Upon request, the Fire Department will provide a list of qualified test companies.

Once a test company has agreed to conduct the work, the owner must provide a copy of the notice (photocopies will suffice if necessary). If system(s) testing is required from multiple companies, the owner must provide each with a copy of the original notice. If a system description is needed, the owner should provide it to the test company.

Who can perform the required test?

California Licensed Contractors or certified testers who are specifically trained for the systems they are testing.

WITNESS OF THE FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAFETY CERTIFICATION TEST
BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

What is the Fire Department witnessing?

The Fire Department always has the option to witness the entire or any portion of any test. An Inspector may be present to observe the test is being conducted properly, determine if the test may require extra procedures, or use the test for training purposes.

Is there a fee for a Fire Department witness to be present at a test site?

No fee is charged during regular inspection hours. Regular inspection hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

An overtime inspection fee is charged for witnessing test(s) outside of regular inspection hours. Currently, the fee for an overtime inspection is a minimum of two hours as the prevailing rate or any portion thereof and prevailing rate per hour thereafter.

ROLE OF THE QUALIFIED TEST COMPANY IN THE INITIAL TEST PROCESS

Once the test company receives the job, what do they do?

The test company must obtain copies of the notices from the owner. Then, proper notification to the Fire Prevention Bureau with the intent to conduct the test should be made.

If inoperative equipment is found during the course of the test and immediate restoration to the proper operating condition is not possible, the Fire Department must be notified immediately. Proper documentation of all test results shall be made on Fire Prevention Requirement 12.001, California State Fire Marshal Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES) where applicable or company test forms acceptable to the Fire Prevention Bureau. California State Fire Marshal Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES) forms shall be used to record all inspection, tests and maintenance activities in accordance with Title 19, CCR, Table 906.4(a) and 906.4(b).
What are the obligations of the test company during the test?

The test company is expected to have the proper tools, equipment, and personnel on hand to perform all required test procedures for the fire protection equipment being tested. The test company must perform all test procedures required by the Certification Program or per Fire Department policy.

The Tester must test per the system description. They must be on-site throughout the entire test and personally attest to the accuracy of all test results.

What is a system description?

The intent of Certification Program is to test systems as they were designed, installed, and approved. Fire/life safety, smoke management, and emergency power systems have many design variables. To properly test such systems, it is necessary to have a system description of how they were designed, installed, and approved. It is the property owner’s responsibility to provide a system description of the system being tested. When they are unavailable, the test company shall note the lack of this as the first defect found on Fire Prevention Requirement 12.001.

What is meant by inoperative equipment?

The Certification Program states that the test company must notify the Fire Department within 24 hours if inoperative equipment is found. This is not intended to be applicable to minor deficiencies but to serious life and/or property endangerment problems. If a test company suspects such a problem, immediate contact to the Fire Department shall be made.

During regular business hours contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (562) 570-2563.

How are the test results documented?

Test results must be documented in an approved manner.

In general, building, system descriptions, and test procedures performed shall be listed as part of the initial test. If defects are found, a summary will be made (the summary should end with, “No other defects found”) or if no defects were found, a statement to that effect will be made.

Refer to Pages 10 and 11, for examples of acceptable formats for Fire Prevention Requirement 12.001 with test results. Testers may also use their own forms, as approved by the Fire Prevention Bureau, except for water based fire protection systems and engineered/pre-engineered systems, which shall use the appropriate AES form.

What are the requirements for getting the results to the Fire Department?

The test company shall submit all test reports to The Compliance Engine at https://www1.thecomplianceengine.com.

REVIEW OF RESULTS BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

What is the obligation of the Fire Department upon receipt of the test report of the test result?
The Fire Department reviews the test results as soon as possible within The Compliance Engine. If no defects are found and the information is entered correctly, the test results are accepted and the information remains in the system.

If corrections are required, the Fire Department reviews the report on The Compliance Engine and a notice is sent via mail or email to correct the deficiencies to the responsible party.

REPAIR, RETEST AND EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION PROCESS

What is the obligation of the property owner to repair defective equipment?

Property owners are advised of their responsibility for the corrections on the original notice. If defects are found, correction(s) shall commence forthwith and shall be completed as soon as possible within 30 days of the initial test.

Ideally, the property owner has already made the needed repairs and the Fire Departments delivery of the notice with the results listed is only a formality. The Fire Department’s delivery is made to satisfy possible legal ramifications.

Who may make the repairs?

Only California contractors who are specifically licensed for the applicable systems (i.e. C-16 fire sprinklers, C-10 fire alarms) may repair the defective equipment. The property owner has no obligation to use the same test company for repairs; in fact, it may be considered a potential conflict of interest. Keep in mind, that major repairs may require plan submittal and approval from the Fire Department.

Once repair is complete, what is the obligation of the owner?

Upon completion of the equipment repair(s), the owner arranges a retest with a test company.

Does the owner need to use the same test company?

No. The owner may use any California contractor who is specifically licensed for the applicable systems (i.e. C-16 fire sprinklers, C-10 fire alarms).

What is the role of the test company on the retest?

The test company contacts the Fire Department in the same manner as for the initial test, schedules the retest three full working days prior, and conducts the retest to determine that the equipment is fully operable.

How does the test company certify the condition of the equipment?

The “Retest if Needed” box of Fire Prevention Requirement 12.001 is completed by the test company when the equipment is fully operable. By signing that portion of the form, the test company certifies that, “To the best of my knowledge the equipment is fully operable”. The test company may also use their own form, as approved by the Fire Prevention Bureau, which indicates all repairs have been made and the system is fully operational.
A “Title 19” placard shall be placed on the main fire sprinkler riser/risers, if this certification was utilized to meet the requirements of “Title 19” testing. For engineered and pre-engineered systems, the tags shall be of the hanging type with the option of a self-adhesive type. Tags shall be placed on the agent supply tank enclosure or manual pull device for pre-engineered and engineered fixed systems.

**How is the retest/certification process completed?**

The test company shall submit all test reports to The Compliance Engine at https://www1.thecomplianceengine.com.
## CITY OF LONG BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

### FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAFETY EQUIPMENT

**PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE**

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**FP Requirement 12.001**

**Inspection Hours**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPONSIBLE PARTY/BUILDING OWNER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NAME</strong> (Last, First, MI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMITH, JOHN J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Firm or D.B.A.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACME BUILDING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **MAILING ADDRESS:** (Street) 123 NORTH MAIN STREET (City) YOUR CITY (State) XX (Zip) 12345 (PHONE) (123) 555-5555 ext. 1001
- **TEST SITE ADDRESS:** (Street) 456 SOUTH TEST SITE STREET (City) LONG BEACH (State) CA (Zip) 90800 (PHONE) (562) 555-5555 ext.

- **OCCUPANCY TYPE:** HIGH RISE OFFICE BUILDING
- **NUMBER OF STORIES:** 25
- **YEAR BUILT:** 1975
- **CONSTRUCTION TYPE:** NON COMBUSTIBLE
- **SQUARE FOOTAGE:** 12345

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**INITIAL TEST (FIRE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE NOTIFIED 72 HOURS PRIOR TO TEST)**

- **DATE(S) OF TESTING:** 01/01/2015
- **TESTING AGENCY:** ABC TESTING COMPANY
- **LICENCE NO.:** 123456 C-16
- **PHONE:** (310) 555-5555 ext. 200
- **ADDRESS OF TESTING AGENCY:** (Street) 123 TESTING CO STREET (City) TESTING CITY (State) XX (Zip) 90000

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**SYSTEM TESTED AND DESCRIPTION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. FIRE ALARM SYSTEM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CERTIFIED:</strong> YES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**NOTEWORTHY CHARACTERISTICS, BUILDING DESCRIPTION, SYSTEM DESCRIPTION, PROCEDURES PERFORMED, AND DEFECTS FOUND IN EQUIPMENT TESTED (IF NONE, SO NOTE):**

A. LBFD NOTIFICATION OF THE FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAFETY CERTIFICATION TEST WAS MADE VERBALLY OR FAXED TO THE FIRE INSPECTOR OR FIRE STATION (PERSON CONTACTED) ON (DATE).

B. REFER TO THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED PAGES FOR:

1. BUILDING DESCRIPTION
2. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION
3. TESTING PROCEDURES
4. TEST RESULTS

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**HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT LISTED ABOVE HAS BEEN FULLY TESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE AND THAT THE RESULTS ARE ACCURATELY LISTED ABOVE AND THE EQUIPMENT IS FULLY OPERABLE EXCEPT AS NOTED:**

- **TESTER'S NAME:** JOE TESTER
- **DATE:** 01/01/2015
- **TESTER'S SIGNATURE:** Joe Tester
- **FIRE DEPARTMENT WITNESS (Signature & Assignment):**

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**RETEST IF NEEDED (FIRE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE NOTIFIED 72 HOURS PRIOR TO TEST)**

**HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ALL NECESSARY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE EQUIPMENT LISTED ABOVE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE AND THE EQUIPMENT IS FULLY OPERABLE:**

- **TESTER'S NAME:**
- **DATE:**
- **TESTER'S SIGNATURE:**
- **FIRE DEPT. WITNESS (SIGNATURE & ASSIGNMENT):**

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE:**
- **RANK:**
- **ASSIGNMENT:**
- **PHONE #:**
- **DATE:**
DATE(S) OF TESTING  | TEST SITE ADDRESS  | (City)  | (State)  | (Zp)  | FIRM OR D.B.A.
-------------------|--------------------|---------|----------|-------|----------------
01/01/2015  | 456 SOUTH TEST SITE ST  | LONG BEACH  | CA  | 90800  | ACME BUILDING

EQUIPMENT TESTED AND DESCRIPTION:
FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

NOTEWORTHY CHARACTERISTICS, BUILDING DESCRIPTION, SYSTEM DESCRIPTION, PROCEDURES PERFORMED, AND DEFECTS FOUND IN EQUIPMENT TESTED (IF NONE, SO NOTE):

1. BUILDING DESCRIPTION

1.1 BUILDING DESCRIPTION: Type, size, use and age of building.

2. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION:

2.1 Type, size, manufacture and any pertinent information about the fire protection system, type of devices associated with system and sequence of operations (auxiliary functions) performed by system or devices.

3. TEST PROCEDURES:

3.1 Procedures used to test fire protection system, devices and auxiliary functions performed.

4. TEST RESULTS:

4.1 List of defects found on fire protection system.

4.2 Notation made on fire protection system.

4.3 Recommendations made on fire protection system.

4.4 End report with "NO OTHER DEFECTS FOUND"

TESTER'S NAME  | DATE  | TESTER'S SIGNATURE  | TESTING AGENCY
----------------|-------|---------------------|----------------
JOE TESTER  | 01/01/2015  | Joe Tester  | ABC TESTING COMPANY

ADDRESS OF TESTING AGENCY:
123 TESTING CO STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE