

Maintenance Qualifications:

Testing and maintenance of any fire or life safety system must be completed by individuals who meet the code requirements of “qualified” to perform these tasks. While each code verbiage may be slightly different, the OSFM recognizes these individuals who have been trained and/or certified by a manufacturer or nationally recognized organization as qualified to work on their fire and life safety system(s).

NFPA 72, The National Fire Alarm Code, identifies who are qualified to work on these systems:

10.2.2.5* Service Personnel Qualifications and Experience

10.2.2.5.1 Service personnel shall be qualified and experienced in the inspection, testing and maintenance of the fire alarm systems. Qualified personnel shall include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- (1) Personnel who are factory trained and certified for fire alarm system service of the specific type and brand of system.
- (2) Personnel who are certified by a nationally recognized fire alarm certification organization acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.
- (3) Personnel who are registered, licensed, or certified by a state or local authority
- (4) Personnel who are employed and qualified by an organization listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory for the servicing of fire alarm systems.

The code clarifies the intent of these requirements in Annex A:

- A.10.2.2.5.1(1) Factory training and certification is intended to allow an individual to service equipment only for which she/he has specific brand and model training.
- A.10.2.2.5.1(2) Nationally recognized fire alarm certification programs might include those programs offered by the International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) and National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET). Note: These organizations and the products or services offered by them have not been independently verified by the NFPA, nor have the products or services been endorsed or certified by the NFPA or any of its technical committees.

NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, 2008 edition, also defines who is qualified to test or perform maintenance of these systems:

4.1.2.1 Inspection, testing, and maintenance shall be implemented in accordance with procedures meeting those established in this document and in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

4.1.2.2 These tasks shall be performed by personnel who have developed competence through training and experience.

It is the opinion of the OSFM that NFPA 25 has the same intent for personnel qualification as that of NFPA 72 regarding the testing, inspection, and maintenance of any fire or life safety system.