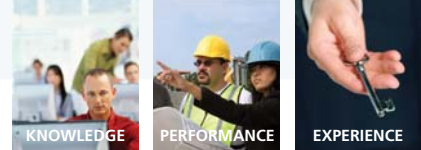




NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CERTIFICATION IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES®

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NICET IS CREATING NEW FIRE ALARM CERTIFICATION FOR INSPECTION & TESTING

Certification Program Will Add Credibility for the Specialized Technicians and Contractors that Perform Periodic Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia—February 20, 2015—NICET, the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, in cooperation with the AFAA, Automatic Fire Alarm Association, is pleased to announce that development is under way for its newest technician certification program— Inspection & Testing of Fire Alarm Systems.

This project has been many years in the making, and after an initial scope and scale discussion with key AFAA members and other industry leaders, NICET conducted a feasibility study in October of 2014. After reviewing the results of the study and carefully considering constituent comments, the NICET Board of Governors agreed to fast-track development and make this new program NICET's top priority for 2015. The aggressive schedule proposes a launch date in May, 2015.

The certification will recognize qualified technicians who perform periodic inspection and testing of existing fire alarm systems. *"It is imperative that highly-skilled engineering technicians perform these inspections to ensure systems continue to operate as designed to protect the safety of the public."* says NICET Chief Operating Executive Michael Clark. *"We also see this program enhancing the level of recognition for individuals that hold certification in our current Fire Alarm Systems program. And we will work with the industry and jurisdictions in an effort to ensure certified designers and installers who also perform periodic inspections will continue to be able do so with their current credential."*

Thousands of practitioners and industry leaders have participated in the initial study, job task analysis and question writing already. NICET is still accepting applications from qualified technicians who perform periodic inspection and testing of fire alarm systems to complete the question writing/review process and help set the passing scores. NICET has a critical need for individuals with less than two years in this specialty area. Please visit <http://www.nicet.org/fasit/> for the initial screening.

AFAA is providing support for the development and acceptance of this program, and has been the leading organization within the fire protection industry in calling for certification for individuals who perform periodic inspection and testing of fire alarm systems. Thomas P. Hammerberg, AFAA Technical Director, sees it this way: *"AFAA has been involved with NICET Fire Alarm Systems certification since it began in the late 1980's. While it is a great certification, we felt we needed to broaden the base from a "one-size fits all" certification. The logical beginning is for Inspection and Testing Personnel. This will raise the bar for individuals and companies who perform I&T work, and will help reduce unwanted alarms."*

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Inspection & Testing of Fire Alarm Systems will initially be a two level program. The first level is for individuals who perform periodic inspections and tests of basic fire alarm systems (basic fire alarm systems do NOT include the following: suppression interfaces, networked control units, smoke control interfaces, aspirating systems, multi-zone voice evacuation systems, high-rise applications, and job planning) and prepare related records and reports. The second level is for individuals who plan, perform, and coordinate periodic inspections and tests of complex fire alarm systems (complex systems may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: suppression interfaces, networked control units, smoke control interfaces, aspirating systems, multi-zone voice evacuation systems, Mass Notification Systems and/or high-rise applications) and prepare related records and reports. Like other NICET programs the certification requirements will include passing an exam or exams, properly documenting work experience, and verification of “performance measures” by a supervisor.

Additional information about NICET and its Fire Protection programs, including application forms, procedures, and fees, is available at www.nicet.org.

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About NICET

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), provides an independent and rigorous evaluation of knowledge and experience among individuals in the fields of engineering technology. Founded in 1961, NICET serves as a respected authority in many technical fields, and has certified more than 140,000 technicians and technologists. For more information, please visit www.nicet.org.

About AFAA

The Automatic Fire Alarm Association, founded in 1953, is the only not-for-profit trade association dedicated to the fire alarm industry. AFAA’s mission is to “Improve Fire and Life Safety” by active involvement in the codes and standards development process and provide quality training for the fire alarm industry. For more information, please visit www.afa.org.

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