Seattle Fire Prevention Division

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Certification for Smoke Control and Dampers Under RCW 19.27.720 (v03212025)

In the early 2020s, the Washington State legislature created new certification requirements for personnel that work on smoke control systems and fire dampers, smoke dampers, and fire/smoke dampers. The new State requirements are contained in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 19.27.720 and sharply limit the number of existing certification programs that are acceptable in Washington. As a result, building owners are reporting a shortage of private sector technicians who are legally allowed to perform this work. The Washington State Association of Fire Marshals has advocated to broaden the qualifications in RCW 19.27.720 to allow a wider range of trades and unions to demonstrate acceptable qualifications. However to date the Legislature has not amended RCW 19.27.720.

The Seattle Fire Department (SFD) follows this State law as we administer our certification program. We are supportive of efforts to increase certification pathways that are open to all personnel who can demonstrate skills and knowledge to perform this work legally and safely.

Seattle Certifications and State Law

- **Smoke Control** SFD certifies personnel who inspect, test and repair smoke control systems (certification type SC-ITM) and those who do ITM work and installation (certification type SC-1). SFD requires applicants to present proof of compliance with RCW 19.27.720 in order to obtain SFD smoke control certification.
- **Dampers (Smoke/Fire/Combo)** SFD does not have a certification for fire dampers, smoke dampers, or combination fire/smoke dampers. We will check for State-compliant certifications in the field or when forms are submitted to us.

Options to Obtain a Certification Acceptable Under RCW 19.27.720

SFD is aware of the following certifications that are accredited through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) International Organization for Standards (ISO) 17024 and therefore compliant with RCW 19.27.720.

Smoke Control

- **International Certification Board (ICB)** Pathway for members of sheet metal/HVAC unions or employees of contractors who have signed collective bargaining agreements with these unions. For more information please see www.icbcertified.org.
- **Life Safety Certifications – in BETA testing** This certification will have multiple pathways available, for example a pathway that builds on NICET, electrical, mechanical, and others. Expected timing: mid-year 2025. Expected pricing will be approx. $675. BETA testers who pass the tests have the benefit of obtaining this new certification as soon as it is available. To become a BETA tester or for more information please contact talia@lifesafetycertifications.com or cmoye@lifesafetycertifications.com.

Dampers (Smoke/Fire/Combo)

- **International Certification Board (ICB)** Limited to dues paying members of sheet metal/HVAC unions or employees of contractors who have signed collective bargaining agreements with these unions. www.icbcertified.org
- **Safenetix Level 1 Fire and Smoke Damper Inspector Certification** Open to all unions and non-represented workers. www.safenetix.com/certifications. Pricing is approximately $1,500 as of 2024.
- **National Inspection Training Certification (NITC)** Under development as of 2024. NITC is developing a Dampers Certification available without regard to union affiliation. This will meet requirements in RCW 19.27.720. Expected price is under $500, as of 2024. For information, contact Heather Winfrey at heather@seattlepipetrades.org.