

# Seattle Fire Prevention Division

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## New Certification Requirements for Personnel Working on Automatic Extinguishing Systems in the 2018 Washington State Fire Code

### Effective July 1, 2021: NAFED Certification is Required to Design, Install, Test or Maintain Automatic Extinguishing Systems Other Than Automatic Sprinkler Systems

The 2018 Fire Code introduces a new requirement for personnel that design, install, test, or maintain chemical-based fire-extinguishing equipment used in kitchens. The State Building Code Council recently granted a 120-day extension of the requirement, which means it will take effect in June 2021. Technicians who hold Seattle Fire Department E-1, E-2, E-3, and E-4 certifications will need to meet these requirements and present the appropriate NAFED/ICC certification at the time of testing or renewal. We encourage all impacted personnel and their employers to start taking steps now to gain the NAFED certification. Note that the 2018 Fire Code contains an error that appears to limit this requirement to extinguishing systems in kitchens only, however we expect rule-making to remove the language limiting the requirements to kitchens during 2021, and technicians working on these systems in all locations will need to prepare to meet this requirement.

### 2018 Washington State Fire Code Language – For Your Reference

**IFC 904.1.1 Certification of service personnel for fire-extinguishing equipment.** Service personnel performing system design, installation or conducting system maintenance or testing on automatic fire-extinguishing systems, other than automatic sprinkler systems, shall possess the appropriate International Code Council/National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors (ICC/NAFED) certification.

**IFC 904.1.1.1 Pre-engineered kitchen fire-extinguishing systems.** A current ICC/NAFED certification for pre-engineered kitchen fire-extinguishing systems is required when performing design, installation, inspection/testing or maintenance of kitchen suppression systems.

**IFC 904.1.1.2 Engineered fire suppression systems.** A current ICC/NAFED certification for engineered fire suppression systems is required when performing design, installation, inspection/testing or maintenance on kitchen suppression systems.

**IFC 904.1.1.3 Pre-engineered industrial fire-extinguishing system.** A current ICC/NAFED certification for pre-engineered industrial fire-extinguishing system is required when performing design, installation, inspection/testing or maintenance on kitchen suppression systems.

**For more information about NAFED certification** and their joint program with ICC, visit [nafed.org](http://nafed.org). You may also contact the State Building Code Council at [sbcc.wa.gov](http://sbcc.wa.gov), if you have questions about the adoption of codes in the state of Washington.

**For more information about the Seattle Fire Department Certification Program**, please visit our website at <http://www.seattle.gov/fire/business-services/certification-testing> or email us at [SFD\\_FMO\\_Certification@seattle.gov](mailto:SFD_FMO_Certification@seattle.gov).