

Seattle Fire Prevention Division

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New Systems Testing (Confidence Testing) Reporting Program in 2017

In mid-2017, the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) will implement an online fire and life safety systems testing oversight program or “confidence testing” program. Fire protection systems including fire alarms, sprinklers and suppression are among the most important components in any building with regards to preserving lives, protecting property, and enhancing firefighter safety. SFD has selected a private company, Brycer, to significantly improve SFD’s ability to track and drive code compliance through their online tool, The Compliance Engine www.thecomplianceengine.com. Accurate and timely inspection reporting, combined with this new tracking capacity, will reduce false alarms and expedite the repairs of fire protection systems, helping ensure the SFD mission of saving lives and protecting property for all who live, work, visit, or do business in Seattle. In Washington State, Bellevue, Mercer Island, Shoreline, Redmond, West Pierce County and Clark County have already implemented the program with the Compliance Engine. Here are some facts about the program in Seattle, which becomes mandatory on July 1, 2017.

- This change has no impact on a building owner’s ability to select an approved fire protection vendor.
- Systems test reports for tests of fire protection systems conducted within Seattle as included in Table 1 on the next will be required to be sent to SFD electronically via SFD’s third party vendor.
- Companies employing certified technicians will be required to register and utilize the third-party vendor’s single point online reporting system to file test reports to be accessed and reviewed by SFD.
- There will be no changes to the mandatory notification process for “red tagged” systems – technicians or impairment coordinators must still call the hotline and submit the impairment notification form to SFD immediately.
- SFD will host town hall meetings for systems testing companies on May 2nd 2017 and for building owners/property managers in May 3rd 2017 to provide more information. Please contact Karen Grove at Karen.Grove@seattle.gov if you would like more information on attending.
- There is a report filing fee of \$30 per report per testing period. Fees for re-testing repaired systems will also be \$30 per re-test. Multiple systems of the same type may be combined on one report. For example, a single wet system sprinkler report can contain information about all wet system sprinklers in the same building for one \$30 fee. The fee will offset the cost of hiring a dedicated Systems Testing Lieutenant to support the program and customers.
- Reporting forms will be available through The Compliance Engine and on SFD’s website at <http://www.seattle.gov/fire/FMO/confidenceTesting/ctforms.htm>.

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Table 1: Systems Test Reports Requiring Submittal to the Seattle Fire Department

Fire Protection System Type	Code/Standard	Frequency of Test to SFD
Alternative Extinguishing Systems (CO ² , clean agent, dry chem)	Seattle Fire Code 901.6	Annual
Automatic Sprinkler Systems - Wet	Seattle Fire Code 901.6	Annual
Automatic Sprinkler Systems - Dry	Seattle Fire Code 901.6	Annual
Emergency Alarm Systems (Haz Mat)	Seattle Fire Code 5003.2.9	Annual
Emergency Generators	Seattle Fire Code 604.3	Annual
Fire Alarm Systems	Seattle Fire Code 901.6	Annual
Fire Escapes	Seattle Fire Code 1104.16.5.1 SFD Admin Rule 11.01.14	Every five years
Fire Pumps	Seattle Fire Code 913.5 NFPA 25 Chapter 8	Annual
Rangehood	Seattle Fire Code 901.6	Every six months
Smoke Control Systems	Seattle Fire Code 901.6	Annual
Standpipe Systems	Seattle Fire Code 901.6	Every five years
Standpipe Systems – Marinas	Seattle Fire Code 901.6	Annual

For more information, see Administrative Rule 9.02.17 at

<http://www.seattle.gov/fire/FMO/firecode/adminRules.htm> or call our office at 206-386-1450 and email our office at SFD_FMO_SystemsTesting@seattle.gov. Thank you for your partnership in helping preserve lives and protecting property for all who live, work, visit, or do business in Seattle.