



CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION PROCESS WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL



ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must...

- Be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Being a member of the Massachusetts fire service defined as follows.

A member of a municipal fire department in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, compensated or uncompensated, active, former or retired; **or...**

A member of a non-municipal organization whose sole function is to provide services equivalent to a municipal fire department to a municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, compensated or uncompensated, active former or retired; **or...**

An employee of the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services; Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry; Massachusetts Port Authority; Devens Fire Department; and the University of Massachusetts; active or retired. *; **or...**

A member of a full-time, civilian (non-military) member or full-time, state members of military fire departments on installations which are located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; **and**

performs fire suppression to include driver/operator, fire prevention, fire service training, or public fire education.

* Employees of the Department of Fire Services are defined as employees in the Haz-Mat Division, the Division of Fire Safety, and the Firefighting Academy. State Police personnel assigned to the Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit and the Hazardous Devices Unit are not considered full-time employees of the Department of Fire Services.

PREREQUISITES

Specific to the level of certification requested. Please check LMS description for prerequisites and reference text.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

The written examination will consist of 50-150 multiple choice questions given in a 60-180-minute period designed to examine the required knowledge in the current NFPA Standard edition JPR.

The references from which questions for this written examination will be drawn are as follows:

Will be in the LMS exam description along with the prerequisites for the level being requested

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following are sample questions to represent most of the **type** of questions a candidate will be asked to answer during the written examination.

1. For a candidate for this level of certification to be successful, he or she must do the following.
 - A. Take the examination process seriously.
 - B. Read all documentation carefully.
 - C. Study all references and applicable skill sheets closely.
 - D. All of the above.

2. Of the following, which would be a high pressure (over 75 psi) carrier?
 - A. MC 306
 - B. MC 312
 - C. MC 331
 - D. MC 307

3. Of the following, which is **not** a DOT hazard class?
 - A. Flammable gas
 - B. Oxidizer
 - C. Corrosive
 - D. Diesel fuel

ANSWERS

1. B 2. C 3. D

GRADING: The candidate must score a minimum of 70% on each section of the written examination to achieve a passing grade.

PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

The candidate will be examined in selected stations for the required skill in the current NFPA standard edition. The candidate will have access to all potential skills sheets on the [Massachusetts Fire Service Certification System website](#) that may be examined for which a sample will be evaluated. The candidate must be prepared to demonstrate all required skills. Notification of skills to be examined will be given only on the day of the practical examination.

GRADING: The candidate must score 70% or greater on each skill sheet with no failures on critical tasks to obtain a passing grade.

Time allowed to complete these skills will be based on real fireground conditions if not directly identified on the skill sheet. The sequence in which the tasks are presented on the skill sheets will fulfill the practical skill station objective. However, because of differences in equipment, such as SCBA, variation from the sequence on the skill sheets may be necessary. Examiners will determine if the deviation from the skill sheet is appropriate and safe.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Protective clothing will be inspected prior to any candidate participating in a practical psychomotor skills examination (non-fire, live-fire, Haz Mat, Driver Operator, Tech Rescue) to assure the clothing meets the minimum requirements established by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council (MFTC). MFTC reserves the right not to allow a candidate to participate in the examination for a lack of minimum protective clothing. There is no expectation that MFA or the site host will be able to lend protective clothing at the examination site.

The coat and trousers must be free of rips tears, and visible defects. They must also consist of an outer shell, moisture barrier, and thermal barrier. All fastening devices must be in place and operational. The protective hood, gloves, and boots must be free of rips, tears, and visible defects. Gloves must provide wrist protection. Rubber coated gloves shall not be allowed. Boots must be of proper length and NFPA compliant leather boots shall be allowed. Finally, the helmet must have a shell, an energy absorbing system, a retention system (including chin strap), ear flaps and some form of eye protection (Bourke eye shields are allowed). All components must be free from visible damage and operational. All Protective clothing must be less than ten (10) years old and have all tags present and legible.

Candidates must bring their own SCBA, and it must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Duration of at least 30 minutes
2. Capable of being operated in the positive pressure mode
3. NIOSH/MSHA approved
4. Spare air bottles must be from the same SCBA manufacturer as the unit
5. MFA/Site Host is not required to fill SCBA bottles and will not if the hydrostatic date is not current

SCBA will also be inspected prior to a candidate participating in any practical examination and the Council reserves the right to not allow a candidate to be examined with SCBA not meeting the above criteria.

As certification examinations utilize and examine SCBA practical skills, people wearing beards, sideburns or lengthy hair styles which may interfere with a proper facepiece seal will not be allowed to participate in any part of the practical examination.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The candidate must register and pay all fees for this level through the DFS Learning Management System no later than the deadline listed for the scheduled session. In addition, the attached **“Certification Examination Supplemental Documentation Form (Medical, PPE, Hazard and Affirmation)”** must be completed and received at the email address listed by the same deadline (also posted on the certification website, see above).

All correspondence with the candidate will be through the email address listed in their DFS Learning Management System profile. Please ensure the email address can receive attachments and other documentation files as they are frequently sent. You may also refer to your LMS account under “Student Records” in the “message” feature to review all LMS communications.

All portions of this certification level must be completed within twelve months from the initial practical and or written exam date. After twelve months, candidates will be required to reapply for certification as a new candidate for this level.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) – The Massachusetts Fire Training Council will make every attempt to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and taking written certification examinations. To request accommodation, please immediately contact the DFS Civil Rights Officer, Mary Travers, at (978) 567-3145, to determine accommodation you may receive. Candidates who have received accommodation in the past must also contact Ms. Travers to determine if any additional documentation is required. Each request will be handled confidentially.

MFTC has an appeal process and fraud/misrepresentation policy. Visit the certification “Frequently Asked Questions” section of the DFS Learning Management System website for details.



**Certification Examination
Supplemental Documentation Form
For Psychomotor Practical Skill
Examinations**



Email this completed form to: Certification.DFS-TM-Academy@mass.gov

Name _____ DFS Student ID# _____ Exam date _____

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

The above-named applicant for Fire Service Certification in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has no known medical or physical conditions which would prevent participation in any or all the physical activities which may be necessary for the required skills demonstrations of the current NFPA Standard JPR

Physician's Signature* Date _____ **OR** _____
Chief of Department Signature* Date _____

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING COMPLIANCE

In accordance with the Massachusetts Fire Training Council policy for Live Fire Training Exercises and Evolutions, this section must be completed for each candidate who registers for any certification examination including live fire evolutions.

I hereby attest the ensemble (ensemble includes helmet, protective hood, coat, trousers, gloves and boots) to be used by: _____ provided by: this department the candidate
(print candidate's name)

will always throughout the participation of the live fire evolutions, be less than ten (10) years old. In addition, I further attest that this ensemble also complies with the following standards:

- NFPA 1971: Standard on Protective Ensemble for Structural Firefighting and Proximity Fire Fighting
- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.156(e)(2)(iii)

Chief of Department Signature*: _____ Date _____

Candidate Signature*: _____ Date: _____

AFFIDAVIT FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING

I attest _____ has received training to meet the objectives of the following
(candidate's name)

of Awareness Level Personnel & Operations Level Responders to the current NFPA Standard.

Chief of Dept. or Training Officer Signature* _____ Date _____

* I understand my signature above is governed by the Fraudulent Misrepresentation Policy of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.