Fire Protection Technology Program

Certification Policy and Procedure Manual

March 2013 Edition
MISSION STATEMENT

Collaborate and partner with emergency response agencies, organizations, associations and educational institutions to provide high quality pre-employment training and education, and professional development opportunities for career and volunteer emergency response personnel to meet industry needs for a skilled and diverse professional workforce.
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CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION

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Section 1-1: Purpose

1.1.1 The purpose of this “Certification Policy and Procedure Manual” is to establish Portland Community College’s (PCC) policies and procedures for certification of fire and emergency service personnel, within the State of Oregon. Certifications awarded through PCC DO NOT replace or override certifications awarded by the State of Oregon, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). PCC’s certification program provides a mechanism for fire and emergency service personnel to gain certification recognized outside the State of Oregon.

Section 1-2: Background

1.2.1 In March 2009, personnel from PCC’s Fire Protection Technology Program (FPT) met with a representative of DPSST and Chemeketa Community College (CCC) to discuss the possibility of PCC pursuing accreditation through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) for certifying fire fighters, in the State of Oregon. As a result of that meeting, it was agreed PCC would have the support of DPSST and CCC in pursuing IFSAC Certificate Assembly (CA) certification accreditation. Following this meeting, PCC approached the Northwest Association of Fire Trainers (NWAFT) for their support in this endeavor.

1.2.2 In April 2009, PCC submitted an application for membership to the IFSAC Certificate Assembly. Membership was granted by the Certificate Assembly Board of Governors (CABOG) at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City.

1.2.3 In May 2010, the PCC FPT program Advisory Committee discussed the pursuit of IFSAC accreditation. Members were in favor of moving forward with the process. As a result, the preparation of documents required to apply for accreditation was started.

1.2.4 In September 2012, the IFSAC CABOG voted to accredit PCC FPT, with an effective date of April 2012, to certify to the following levels:

- Fire Fighter I
- Fire Fighter II
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Hazardous Materials Operations, including Mission Specific Competencies for Personal Protective Equipment and Product Control
Section 1-3: Empowerment

1.3.1 Through a letter dated April 9, 2009, the DPSST gave support to PCC for pursuing IFSAC Certificate Assembly accreditation. In addition, NWAFT gave their support to the effort.

Section 1-4: Scope

1.4.1 The PCC fire fighter certification program is a voluntary program. There is no statutory requirement for fire fighters to be certified in the State of Oregon. If at such time this statutory requirement changes, only the DPSST, by Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) will be able to comply with the statute. The PCC program will remain voluntary. However, PCC’s fire fighter certification program fulfills the certification requirements imposed by the Department of Defense (DOD) and all branches of the United States Government when required for a position.
CHAPTER TWO – DEFINITIONS

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Section 2-1: Purpose

2.1.1 These definitions only apply to these policies and procedures and DO NOT in any way apply to the rules, regulations, practices, or procedures of any local fire service or organization.

2.1.2 All definitions which appear in the PCC FPT Certification Policy and Procedure Manual shall apply to the terms used in this policy and procedure manual. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings with the context in which they are used. Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning.

Section 2-2: Definitions

2.2.1 ACCREDITATION – The process by which a private, non-governmental, body evaluates an entity and formally recognizes it as having met certain predetermined criteria or standards.

2.2.2 APPLICANT – A person who has satisfied the requirements to be examined for certification or an entity that applies for recognition as an accredited academy.

2.2.3 AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION – An agency which regulates processes.

2.2.4 CANDIDATE – A person performing written and/or practical examination for certification.

2.2.5 CERTIFICATE – An award recognizing completion of training, attendance, participation, achievement, and etcetera. A certificate IS NOT certification.

2.2.6 CERTIFICATION – The confirmation that a person is certified as being able to competently complete a job or task as a result of passing an examination administered by an accredited entity.

2.2.7 CERTIFICATION PERIOD – A certification period denotes a 12 month time period within which all requirements for the certification level, for which the candidate is seeking, must be completed. A candidate’s certification period begins on the date when the Application for Certification is accepted by PCC FPT, not when the application is submitted.

2.2.8 CERTIFICATION APPEALS BOARD – A three member board who hear certification program appeals.

2.2.9 CERTIFIED – Applicants who have successfully met or exceeded cognitive and psychomotor objectives of the PCC fire service certification program.

2.2.10 CONTINUING EDUCATION – A course of instruction where continuing education units (CEUs) are awarded, as opposed to college credit.
2.2.11 **CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT (CEU)** – A unit of measure for non-credit activities.

2.2.12 **COURSE OF STUDY** – A course devoted to a fire or related emergency service topic that prepares candidates for a certification examination.

2.2.13 **DEMONSTRATE** – To show by performing; where practical, demonstration should be done by performing the skill as described. Demonstration may be done through simulation, explanation, illustration or a combination of these methods.

2.2.14 **EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION** – An organization located with the State of Oregon that responds to emergencies or disasters, including, but not limited to, private fire brigades, 9-1-1 communication centers, law enforcement agencies, and emergency medical service organizations.

2.2.15 **EVALUATOR** – See “Qualified Skill Evaluator”

2.2.16 **FIRE FIGHTER (FIREFIGHTER)** – A person whose work is fighting fires; a member of a fire service unit.

2.2.17 **FIRE SERVICE RELATED ACCREDITING BODY** – An organization that meets NFPA 1000, *Standard for Fire Service Professional Qualifications Accreditation and Certification Systems*, 2011 Edition (or current edition) and accredits entities empowered to grant certifications. Currently, the only recognized accrediting bodies are: IFSAC and Pro Board.

2.2.18 **FIRE SERVICE UNIT** – A public or private fire department or fire service organization of a federal, state, county, municipality, or special district whose responsibility includes fire protection, fire prevention, fire investigation, or fire training/education.

2.2.19 **FIT TEST** – A quantitative test to determine proper self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) face piece fit. A qualitative test DOES NOT meet the fit test requirement.

2.2.20 **INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE ACCREDITATION CONGRESS (IFSAC)** – Peer driven, self-governing accrediting body that accredits both fire service certification programs and post-secondary fire related higher education degree programs.

2.2.21 **JOB PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS (JPRs)** – JPRs describe the performance required for a specific job. A JPR is the assembly of three critical components: task to be performed; tools, equipment, or materials that must be provided to successfully complete the task; and evaluation parameters and/or performance outcomes. JPRs are used to establish the evaluation criteria for certification at a specific job level. Psychomotor skills are those physical skills that can be demonstrated or observed. Cognitive skills cannot be observed, but are rather evaluated by written assessment.

2.2.22 **LEAD PROCTOR** – The qualified person designated by PCC FPT to oversee a given written and/or skills certification examination process. Only one Lead Proctor will be designated for a written and/or skills certification test. Where both written and skills tests are conducted simultaneously, a single Lead Proctor will be designated to oversee both tests.

2.2.23 **NATIONAL BOARD ON FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (“Pro Board” or NPQB)** – Non-profit corporation that accredits organizations that use NFPA professional qualification standards with certification programs.

2.2.24 **NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA)** – Organization that publishes standards for fire service professional qualifications and other fire and life safety codes and standards created through a consensus process.
2.2.25 **NON-ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION** – Certification that has not yet been sanctioned by an accrediting body.

2.2.26 **NON-ACCREDITED ENTITY** – Any entity that has not been accredited by an accrediting body, e.g., IFSAC or Pro Board.

2.2.27 **NON-CERTIFIED** – Any applicant who does not possess a valid certification from an accredited entity, e.g., IFSAC or Pro Board.

2.2.28 **OREGON DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY STANDARDS AND TRAINING (DPSST)** – The department within the State of Oregon authorized by law to award fire service related state certification.

2.2.29 **OREGON EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY (OESA)** – A federal, state, county, municipality, or special district agency, within the State of Oregon, whose responsibility includes emergency services response.

2.2.30 **OREGON EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY (OSEA) MEMBER** – A person who is a member of record of an OSEA, regardless of the person’s State of residence.

2.2.31 **OREGON RESIDENT** – An individual who resides in the State of Oregon and holds a valid Oregon drivers license.

2.2.32 **OREGON POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION STUDENT** – A person who is currently enrolled in a course of instruction or program of study in an Oregon post-secondary institution.

2.2.33 **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES** – Formal guidelines promulgated by the PCC FPT program and/or the FPT Advisory Committee concerning the methods, procedures, and processes for implementing certification rules and administering the certification program.

2.2.34 **PRACTICAL EXAMINATION** – Actual psychomotor assessment consisting of random JPR selection and conducted in accordance with certification policies and procedures, NFPA standards, and Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) rules.

2.2.35 **PROCTOR** – See “Qualified Lead Proctor”

2.2.36 **PROFICIENT** – The demonstration of skill/knowledge within the evaluation parameters identified in NFPA JPRs.

2.2.37 **QUALIFIED** – A person that has been trained in the certification process and meets all relevant requirements of the certification policies and procedures.

2.2.38 **QUALIFIED SKILL EVALUATOR** – An individual qualified to perform psychomotor assessments under the supervision of a Lead Proctor.

2.2.39 **QUALIFIED LEAD PROCTOR** – An individual qualified to administer certification tests including written and skills tests. To be a Lead Proctor, an individual must have attended Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator Training and have served as, a Skill Evaluator during a certification skills test.

2.2.40 **RECIPROCITY** – The recognition of certification, without any required testing, for those individuals who have been certified at a certification level by an IFSAC accredited entity within the past five (5) years. This recognition allows individuals to meet requirements identified in order to test at higher or different certification level. For example, a certificate with an IFSAC seal and number for Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responder including Section 6.6 of NFPA 472 from an entity outside Oregon would be accepted as meeting the requirement identified for Fire Fighter I.
2.2.42 **REFRESHER TRAINING** – A course of instruction, condensed over a short period of time, designed to provide training to persons for the purpose of preparing them for testing and/or renewal of certification.

2.2.43 **REVOCATION** – means to withdraw the certification of a fire service professional for mandatory grounds or ethical misconduct.

2.2.44 **REVOKE** – see revocation.

2.2.45 **SAFELY** – Means to perform the skill/task according to recommended safety practices and, where applicable, NFPA standards. In addition, the skill/task shall be performed so as not to cause injury to oneself or others.


2.2.47 **SCANTRON®** – Form used to mark answers from written test.

2.2.48 **SKILL EVENT ASSESSMENT SET** – A set of skill events representing at least 25% of the skills identified in the NFPA standard for the level being assessed and representing a diverse range of difficulty. For each accredited level, there are at least two skill event assessment sets.

2.2.49 **SKILL PACKET** – A compilation of materials assembled to verify/validate compliance with a particular level of accreditation.

2.2.50 **SPONSORED CANDIDATE** – A candidate that at the time of application is a current member of a fire department, emergency response organization or training institution within the State of Oregon. A candidate sponsored by a training institution is considered current if the candidate has been registered with the institution, for a course of study related to the certification level for which they are applying, within 12 months of the date of application.
CHAPTER THREE – CERTIFICATION APPEALS BOARD

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Section 3-1: Purpose

3.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish the administrative authority, responsibility, and policies for the Portland Community College Fire Service Certification Program Appeals Board (herein after referred to as the Board).

3.1.2 The general purpose of the Board is to hear appeals with regard to the certification program.

Section 3-2: Responsibilities

3.2.1 The Board has the general responsibility for:

➢ Adoption of certification program appeals policies and rules;
➢ Conduct appeals hearings with regard to the certification program;
➢ Decide on appeals with regard to the certification program;
➢ Conduct certification revocation hearings; and
➢ Decide on revocation of certification.

3.2.2 The Board shall have the responsibility to interpret certification program policies and procedures.

3.3.3 The Board shall have the final authority in all certification program appeals.

3.3.4 The Board shall have the final authority on revocation of certification.

Section 3-3: Organization

3.3.1 The Board shall consist of the following members:
(a) Representative of PCC Student Fire Fighters Association;
(b) Representative of the PCC Fire Protection Technology Advisory Committee;
(c) Representative of the PCC Fire Protection Technology Faculty and Staff;
(d) A citizen from within the PCC service area; and
(e) Representative of the fire service from within the PCC service area.

3.3.2 The manager of the fire service certification program shall serve on the Board as an Ex-Officio member. The manager does not have voting rights.

3.3.3 The PCC Cascade Campus President shall appoint members to the Board.

3.3.4 Appointment to the Board shall continue until the member leaves the position represented or upon resignation, in writing.
3.3.5 The Board shall elect a chairperson, hereafter known as the Chair. The certification program manager shall serve as the Secretary for the Board.

3.3.6 Meeting of the Board shall be held as needed to address appeals or matters concerning the appeals process. No meeting shall be held without a minimum of five (5) working days notice.

3.3.7 Meetings shall be held at PCC Cascade Campus. The certification program manager shall select the location and time for each meeting.

3.3.8 The Board Chair shall have the following responsibilities:
(a) Conduct and chair all Board meetings.
(b) Conduct meetings according to Robert’s Rules of Order.
(c) Appoint Board representatives to Board committees as needed.
(d) Handle other duties as needed.

3.3.9 The Board Secretary shall have the following responsibilities:
(a) Call meetings upon request or as needed.
(b) Establish meeting agendas.
(c) Record minutes at Board meetings.
(d) Ensure timely dissemination of all Board minutes, actions, and business.

3.3.10 Board members shall have the following responsibilities:
(a) Maintain ethical standards and confidentiality in all Board related matters.
(b) Represent the best interest of the Board.
(c) Attend scheduled meetings.
(d) Be prepared for all Board meetings by reviewing agendas and other related documents.
(e) Be fair and impartial in all appeals matters.

Section 3-4: Administration

3.4.1 At all meetings of the Board, no vote shall be cast and no decision made without a quorum of members present. If a quorum does not exist, issues may only be discussed for informational purposes. Issues must be carried over for vote until the next Board meeting. A quorum shall exist when three (3) of five (5) voting members are present.

3.4.2 A majority vote shall consist of a simple majority of the congruent vote of the voting members.

3.4.3 Notice of Board meetings shall be made public at least five (5) working days prior to the scheduled meeting. The notice shall include date, time, location, and agenda of the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the certification program manager to make appropriate notifications.

3.4.5 One-on-one discussion between Board members and/or individuals in the audience should be avoided. Discussion by a member should only take place when recognized by the Chair. All discussion shall be addressed to the Chair.

3.4.6 All meetings of the Board or appointed committees shall have recorded/written minutes which shall be approved by the Board.

3.4.7 The Board’s responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:
(a) Ruling on violations of policies by personnel holding certification;
(b) Adoption of rules related to certification appeals and revocation;
(c) Settling appeals submitted to the Board regarding certification processes; and
(d) Decide on revocation of certification.
3.4.8 The Board shall keep confidential rulings, discussions, and etcetera, involving personnel records or matters of a sensitive nature. The President may move the Board into executive session as necessary for personnel matters.

3.4.9 Any Board member who violates the trust under 3.4.8 may be asked to resign from the Board through a majority vote of the remaining Board members. Any such request for removal shall be immediately reported to the certification manager in writing.

3.4.10 In accordance with the Oregon Open Records Law as currently written, all records of the Board are deemed public. However, records on individual certifications and revocation are considered personnel records of the affiliated organization. It shall be the responsibility of the affiliated organization to release such personnel records.

Section 3-5: Revocation of Certification

3.5.1 The Board has the authority to revoke certification for any of the following reasons:
(a) The individual has been convicted in this state of a crime listed in ORS 137.700 or in any other jurisdiction of a crime that, if committed in this state would constitute a crime listed in 137.700.
(b) Conviction of felony or Class A misdemeanor “Attempt”, “Solicitation” or “Conspiracy” to commit a crime.
(c) Conviction of any crime that requires the individual to register as a sex offender.
(d) The individual has been “discharged for cause” from employment as a fire service professional. For purposes of this policy, “discharged for cause” means an employer initiated termination of employment for any of the following reasons after a final determination has been made.
   (1) Dishonesty
   (2) Disregard for the Rights of Others
   (3) Gross Misconduct
   (4) Incompetence to perform the essential tasks of a fire service professional
   (5) Misuse of Authority
   (6) Falsification of an official report
(e) Falsified any information submitted on the application for certification

3.5.2 When the Board revokes the certification of any individual under the provisions of these policies, the revocation will encompass all fire service certificates PCC has issued to that person.

3.5.3 Revocation Procedure.

3.5.3.1 Agency Initiated: When the entity utilizing an individual requests that the individual’s certification be revoked or denied, the entity must submit the request in writing to PCC, including the reason for the requested revocation and all factual information supporting the request.

3.5.3.2 PCC Initiated: Upon receipt of factual information from any source, and pursuant to these policies, PCC may request that the individual’s certification be revoked.
3.5.3.3 When PCC receives information, from any source, that an individual may not meet the established standards as set forth in 3.5.1 of these policies, the Board will review the request and the supporting factual information to determine if the request for revocation meets the requirements of 3.5.1.

(a) If the reason for the request does not meet the requirements for revocation the Board will notify the requestor.

(b) If the reason for the request does meet the requirements, but is not supported by adequate factual information, the Board will request further information from the initiator or conduct its own investigation of the matter.

(c) If the Board determines that an individual may have engaged in a misconduct listed in 3.5.1, the Board may conduct a revocation hearing.

(d) The Board will seek input from the affected individual, allowing him or her to provide, in writing, information for the Board's review.

(e) The Board in making a decision will consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances including, but not limited to the following:

1. When the misconduct occurred in relation to the individual’s service as a fire service professional (i.e., before, during, after);
2. Whether the individual served time in prison/jail;
3. Whether restitution was ordered, and if so, whether the individual met all obligations;
4. Whether the individual has ever been on parole or probation. If so, the date on which the parole or probation period expired or is set to expire;
5. Whether the individual has more than one conviction and if so, over what period of time;
6. Whether the misconduct involved domestic violence;
7. Whether the individual self reported the misconduct;
8. Whether the conduct involved dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;
9. Whether the conduct adversely reflects on the fitness of the individual to perform as a fire service professional;
10. Whether the conduct makes the individual otherwise unfit to render effective service because of the agency’s or public’s loss of confidence that the individual possesses the core values integral to the fire service profession; and
11. What the individual’s physical or emotional condition was at the time of the conduct.

3.5.3.4 If after considering the factual data, the individual’s written response, and any mitigating circumstances, the Board determines the requirements of 3.5.1 have been met, the Board will vote on revocation.

(a) If less than a majority of the Board vote for revocation, the case will be deemed closed and the individual’s certification(s) retained. The individual will be notified in writing, within 15 days, of the Board’s decision.

(b) If a majority of the Board vote for revocation, the individual’s certification(s) will be revoked. The individual will be notified in writing, within 15 days, of the Board’s decision to revoke the individual’s certification(s).
CHAPTER FOUR – CERTIFICATION

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Section 4-1: Purpose

4.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for the PCC, Fire Fighter Certification program.

4.1.2 The general purpose of the Fire Fighter Certification program is to measure the level of knowledge, skills, and abilities possessed by fire fighters seeking certification and to attest that these individuals meet nationally recognized standards.

Section 4-2: Certification Policies

4.2.1 Under State of Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS), the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) has the authority to certify fire service personnel in the State of Oregon. DPSST has delegated its authority to certify under IFSAC to PCC.

4.2.2 PCC is the sole entity for awarding certification through the IFSAC accreditation system and does not delegate its certifying authority to any political subdivision, local government entity, or state government agency.

4.2.3 PCC is solely responsible for establishing certification policies and procedures. No individual, entity, or interest group is permitted to establish certification policies and procedures or interpret policies and procedures as established by PCC.

4.2.4 It is the policy of the PCC Fire Fighter Certification program that the accreditation process will not affect the current certification status of any individual.

4.2.5 Certification written and skills testing under the IFSAC accreditation system is only conducted by PCC.

4.2.6 All applicants for certification, regardless of the level of certification sought, must meet the following criteria for certification:

4.2.6.1 The applicant must be at least 18 years of age prior to testing for the requested level of certification.

4.2.6.2 The applicant must be sponsored by a recognized fire department, emergency response organization, or training institution within the State of Oregon.

4.2.6.3 The applicant must meet the required prerequisites for the requested level of certification.
4.2.7 Certification testing will be made available to any individual who meets all the required criteria for certification, without regard to race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, marital status, height/weight ratio, disability, veteran status, age, or sexual orientation.

4.2.8 Certification will only be granted to a candidate who successfully passes the certification examination process for the level of certification sought and who meets the required criteria for the requested level of certification, including any applicable pre-requisites and/or co-requisites.

4.2.9 It is the policy and practice of PCC to certify personnel to the current edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards and other standards as adopted by the IFSAC Certificate Assembly.

4.2.10 It is the policy and practice of PCC to update certification testing to current NFPA standards within three years of the official adoption, of a standard, by the NFPA.

4.2.11 Once a certification level is attained, the individual retains that level of certification, without the necessity to recertify.

4.2.12 Certification can be revoked upon a vote of the Certification Appeals Board (Section 3-5: Revocation of Certification).

4.2.13 Certification guidebooks are available on-line at: http://www.pcc.edu/programs/fire-protection/ or can be picked up at Emergency Services office, Cascade Campus, PSEB 135.

4.2.14 Test banks shall be made available to IFSAC site teams for review at the time of the site visit.

   4.2.14.1 Test banks will only be available for review at PCC FPT offices.

   4.2.14.2 Test banks will not be permitted to be removed from PCC FPT offices.

4.2.15 Certification written and skills testing is based on a process of random selection to assess NFPA JPRs, prerequisite knowledge, prerequisite skills, and competencies, where the JPR format is not used, for each level accredited.

   4.2.15.1 Written tests will be randomly generated from the test bank for the level to be tested.

   4.2.15.2 Each randomly selected set of test items shall be of sufficient number to adequately cover the level being tested.

   4.2.15.3 Skill sheets will be randomly generated from all the skill sheets for the level to be tested.

   4.2.15.4 Each randomly selected set of skill sheets shall be of sufficient number to adequately cover the level being tested.

4.2.16 It is the policy of PCC to maintain written test banks and skill assessment sheets (where applicable) which test all JPRs, prerequisite knowledge, prerequisite skills, and competencies, where the JPR format is not used, for each level accredited.
CHAPTER FIVE – EXAMINATION PROCESS

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Section 5-2: Examination Policies
Section 5-3: Notification of Certification Examination Results
Section 5-4: Written Examination Policies
Section 5-5: Skill Examination Policies
Section 5-6: Certification Fee Structure

Section 5-1: Purpose

5.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for the PCC, Fire Fighter Certification program examination process.

5.1.2 The general purpose of the examination process is to measure the level of knowledge, skills, and abilities, possessed by a candidate seeking certification, in an equal, fair, and nondiscriminatory manner.

Section 5-2: Examination Policies

5.2.1 PCC will administer all examinations and they will be conducted equally, fairly, and without discrimination based on PCC certification policy 4.2.8.

5.2.2 PCC will make accommodation for disabilities within the limits of the NFPA standards for the level of certification sought.

5.2.3 Testing and certification are only available for Oregon residents and any employee of an Oregon public entity regardless of the employee’s state of residence, and any student enrolled in an Oregon public educational institution regardless of the student’s state of residence.

5.2.4 All certification testing will be conducted in the Portland metropolitan area, unless suitable arrangements can be made for testing in other areas of the state.

5.2.5 A request for a certification examination to be administered outside the Portland metropolitan area must meet the following requirements:

5.2.5.1 Certification examination requests must be received at least 30 days prior to the requested test date.

5.2.5.2 A certification examination request must include a statement regarding the certification and level of certification.

5.2.5.3 A certification examination request must include a request for both written and, when applicable, skills examination.

5.2.5.4 A certification examination request must include a statement of ability to conduct all skills examinations identified for the level of certification sought.
5.2.5.5 When requested to provide certification testing outside the Portland metropolitan area, PCC will certify the location prior to scheduling the examination. Certification of the location shall be based on PCC policies and procedures found in Chapter Nine: Facilities and Equipment Certification.

5.2.6 PCC will notify the requesting department/organization/institution whether or not they are approved for testing at least 15 days prior to the requested examination date.

5.2.7 Testing events will be scheduled as required. Examination dates and registration cut-off dates will be posted on PCC’s web site.

5.2.7.1 Upon request from IFSAC Administration, PCC will provide the date, time, and location of any certification testing.

5.2.8 PCC will publish written material for each accredited level regarding the standard and edition the certification examination is based on, prerequisites, written and skills test descriptions, preparation for examination, types of test items used in written tests, study references, and skills test criteria. The material shall be available on PCC’s web site and by request through the U.S. Mail.

5.2.9 Candidate applications must be received by the posted registration cut-off date. NO walk-in applications will be accepted for examinations.

5.2.10 Applicants will be notified at least 15 days prior to the requested examination date as to their acceptance for examination.

5.2.11 An official, picture, ID is required for admittance to both written and skill certification examination events.

5.2.12 Where applicable, a sealed testing packet will be sent to the assigned Lead Proctor prior to the testing event.

5.2.12.1 All testing materials will be sent by a shipping method capable of tracking the location of the package.

5.2.13 The security of the test items and skill event assessment sheets is the responsibility of PCC until the examination packets are received by the Lead Proctor. After the packets are received, the Lead Proctor becomes responsible for maintaining security until the materials are returned to PCC.

5.2.13.1 If testing materials are shipped back to PCC, the shipping method must be capable of tracking the location of the package.

5.2.14 Written tests are not to be reproduced in the field unless approval is received from PCC.

5.2.15 PCC will periodically visit test sites to ensure compliance with testing guidelines and policies.

5.2.16 PCC will allow a designated representative of the Certificate Assembly Board of Governors to observe any certification examination, when provided at least 48 hours notice prior to the scheduled examination to be observed.

5.2.17 Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators are responsible to ensure cheating does not occur during certification examinations.

5.2.18 Candidates that fail the written and/or skills assessment components of the certification process must retake the component or components (written and/or skills assessment) failed.

5.2.18.1 Candidates are permitted one opportunity to retest each component.
5.2.19 Candidates that fail either the written or skills assessment retest will be considered to have failed the certification process.

5.2.19.1 Candidates that fail the certification process must wait one year from the time of application for the process failed before reapplying for certification at the level failed.

Section 5-3: Notification of Certification Examination Results

5.3.1 Examination results (written and/or skill) will be mailed to the candidate within 20 working days following the examination event.

5.3.2 Results will not be released by telephone or e-mail.

5.3.3 For results to be released to the candidate’s fire chief or training officer, the candidate must complete a PCC “Waiver to Release Results” form. If a completed and signed Waiver to Release Results is on file, the results will be mailed as indicated on the form. The only information released will be if the candidate received certification or not. No scores or pass/fail results will be release.

Section 5-4: Written Examination Policies

5.4.1 Written examinations shall be of a length to adequately assess the candidate’s knowledge for the level for which the candidate is seeking.

5.4.1.1 The test size, for each level for which PCC FPT is accredited, is identified in the guidebook for the accredited level.

5.4.2 A score of 70% or higher is required on written examinations to pass.

5.4.3 A score of 69% or less is considered a failing score.

5.4.4 In the event a candidate scores 69% or less on the written examination, on the first attempt, the candidate will be permitted one retest (second test) to successfully complete the written examination (score a 70% or higher).

5.4.5 It is the policy of PCC to maintain multiple versions of each written test for each level accredited.

5.4.6 Retest procedures for written examinations:

5.4.6.1 Candidates that fail the initial written examination are responsible for contacting PCC FPT to schedule a retest.

5.4.6.2 Candidates that do not successfully complete the initial written test will be charged a retest fee (see Section 5.6: Certification Fee Structure).

5.4.6.3 The retest (second test) must be taken between 21 days and six months following the original written examination date.

5.4.6.4 Failure to retest before the end of the six months will be deemed failure of the certification process.

5.4.6.5 Candidates that score of 69% or less on the retest (second test) will be considered to have failed the certification process.
5.4.7 Candidates that fail the certification process must wait one year from the original date of application in order to reapply for certification.

5.4.8 Written examinations shall only be scored by PCC FPT Certification Program personnel using Scantron® electronic scoring equipment.

5.4.8.1 Any test with a failing score will be checked by hand scoring to verify the test score.

5.4.9 Candidates scheduled to attend an examination event and who fail to show for the testing, will be scored as failing the test. The only exceptions are as follows:
   (1) the candidate calls PCC and cancels at least 24 hours in advance; or
   (2) the candidate provides documentation of illness, injury, family emergency, or sudden department conflict.

5.4.10 Once the testing begins, the test is considered closed and no late arriving candidates will be admitted. Late arriving candidates will be scored as failing the test.

5.4.11 If a candidate or candidates is called out of the test due to an emergency, the candidate or candidates will not be permitted to continue the test upon return. The test will not be scored and will not count as the first attempt. The candidate will need to reschedule to take the test.

5.4.11.1 If a candidate is called out of the test because of an emergency, and the candidate has completed the majority of the test, the candidate can request the test be scored. If the candidate scores 69% or less on the incomplete test, it will be recorded as failing and count as the first attempt.

5.4.12 Candidates who are scheduled to attend a test or retest, and do not show up for the test, will be scored as failing the test.

5.5.12.1 Exceptions to no show policy:
   (a) Candidate calls PCC FPT and cancels at least 24 hours in advance.
   (b) Candidate documents illness or injury with a physician’s note within 7 days following the missed examination.
   (c) Candidate documents family or work emergency within 7 days following the missed examination.

Section 5-5: Skills Examination Policies

5.5.1 Skill event assessment sets:

5.5.1.1 PCC FPT will use skill event assessment sets to evaluate candidate skills.

5.5.1.2 Skill event assessment sets shall represent at least 25% of the skills identified for an accredited level and shall represent a diverse range of difficulty.

5.5.1.3 There shall be at least two unique skill assessment sets for each level accredited.

5.5.1.4 Skill sets will be randomly selected for each certification skills examination.

5.5.2 All certification skill examinations shall be graded on a pass/fail basis.
5.5.3 Skill event assessment is based on “critical” and “non-critical” step assessment.

5.5.3.1 All “critical steps” and a majority of the “non-critical steps” are required to be “passed” to receive a passing mark for a skill assessment event.

5.5.4 All skill assessments evaluated must be passed before the candidate is considered to have passed the skills assessment portion of the certification examination.

5.5.5 Each candidate will be provided skill assessment sheets for each skill to be tested.

5.5.6 Candidates will be given two opportunities (1st attempt and 2nd attempt) to pass each skill event in the skills assessment portion of the certification examination.

5.5.7 Candidates that fail both opportunities (1st attempt and 2nd attempt) are considered to have failed the first skill assessment (initial test).

5.5.8 Retest procedures for skill examinations:

5.5.8.1 Candidates that fail two or fewer skill assessment events during the first skill assessment (initial test) are required to retest the failed skill events and a corresponding number of new, randomly selected, skill events.

5.5.8.2 Candidates that fail three or more skill events during the first skill assessment (initial test) are required to retest using an entirely new, randomly selected, skill event assessment set.

5.5.8.3 Candidates that fail the first skill assessment (initial skill test) are responsible for contacting PCC FPT to schedule a retest.

5.5.8.4 Candidates that do not successfully complete the skills assessment portion of the first skill assessment (initial test) will be charged as follows:
- for a retest of up to two skill stations, a fee per station will be charged (see Section 5.6: Certification Fee Structure);
- for retest requiring three or more stations, a fee will be charged for the entire retest (see Section 5.6: Certification Fee Structure).

5.5.8.5 The skill retest (second test) must be taken between 21 days and six months following the initial skills test.

5.5.8.6 Failure to retest before the end of the six months will be deemed failure of the certification process.

5.5.8.7 Candidates that fail any station during the skills retest (second test) will be considered to have failed the certification process.

5.5.9 Candidates that fail the certification process must wait one year from the original date of application in order to reapply for certification.
5.5.10 Initial skill assessment evaluation:

5.5.10.1 Failure to complete a “critical step” (identified in **bold**) during a skill assessment event will result in failure of the first attempt.

5.5.10.2 Failure to complete a majority (more than half) of the “non-critical steps” (identified in *italics*) during a skill assessment event will result in failure of the first attempt.

5.5.10.3 Candidates will be provided two attempts to pass each skill assessment event.

5.5.10.4 Candidates that fail the first attempt during the initial skill assessment will, immediately, be provided a second attempt to pass the skill assessment event.

5.5.10.5 Candidates that fail the second attempt will be considered to have failed that skill assessment event.

5.5.10.6 Candidates that fail one or more skill assessment events during the initial skill assessment test will be considered to have failed the skills assessment portion of the certification examination and are required to schedule a retest.

5.5.11 Retest procedures when two or fewer skill events are failed during the initial skill event assessment:

5.5.11.1 Candidates that fail two or fewer skill events during the initial skill assessment test will be provided one (1) attempt to pass each of the failed skill events from the initial skill assessment test.

5.5.11.2 Candidates that pass the one attempt provided for the previously failed skill event are required to pass an additional, randomly selected, skill event for each previously failed skill event.

5.5.11.3 Candidates will be allowed two (2) attempts to pass each randomly selected skill event.

5.5.11.4 Candidates that pass each of the previously failed skill events and the randomly selected skill events shall be considered to have passed the skills assessment portion of the certification examination.

5.5.11.5 Candidates that fail a skill event failed during the initial skill event assessment or a randomly selected skill event will be considered to have failed the certification process.

5.5.12 Retest procedures when three or more skill events are failed during the initial skill event assessment:

5.5.12.1 Candidates that fail three or more skill events during the initial skill assessment test are required to pass an entirely new, randomly selected, skill event assessment set.

5.5.12.2 Candidates will be provided two attempts to pass each skill assessment event.

5.5.12.3 Candidates that fail both attempts will be considered to have failed that skill assessment event.

5.5.12.4 Candidates that fail a skill assessment event during the retest will be deemed to have failed the certification process.
5.5.13 Candidates that fail the certification process must wait one year from the original date of application in order to reapply for certification.

5.5.14 Candidates who are scheduled to attend a test or retest, and do not show up for the test, will be scored as failing the test.

5.5.14.1 Exceptions to no show policy:
(a) Candidate calls PCC FPT and cancels at least 24 hours in advance.
(b) Candidate documents illness or injury with a physician’s note within 7 days following the missed examination.
(c) Candidate documents family or work emergency within 7 days following the missed examination.

Section 5-6: Certification Fee Structure

5.6.1 PCC uses the following fee structure for Certification:

5.6.2 Application Fees:

5.6.2.1 Fire Fighter I, written examination - $14.00
5.6.2.2 Fire Fighter I, skills examination - $207.00
5.6.2.3 Fire Fighter II, written examination - $14.00
5.6.2.4 Fire Fighter II, skills examination - $136.00
5.6.2.5 Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel, written examination - $11.00
5.6.2.6 Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders, written examination - $14.00
5.6.2.7 Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders, skills examination - $52.00

5.6.3 Retest Fees:

5.6.3.1 Fire Fighter I, written examination retest – $10.00
5.6.3.2 Fire Fighter I, skills examination retest for up to two skill stations - $15.00 per station
5.6.3.3 Fire Fighter I, skills examination retest requiring an entire new set of skills - $145.00
5.6.3.4 Fire Fighter II, written examination retest - $10.00
5.6.3.5 Fire Fighter II, skills examination retest for up to two skill stations - $15.00 per station
5.6.3.6 Fire Fighter II, skills examination retest requiring an entire new set of skills - $100.00
5.6.3.7 Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel, written examination retest - $10.00
5.6.3.8 Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders, written examination retest - $10.00
5.6.3.9 Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders, skills examination retest - $15.00 per station
5.6.4 Reciprocity Evaluation Fees:

5.6.4.1 Reciprocity Evaluation (for each level evaluated) - $25.00
CHAPTER SIX – LEAD PROCTORS AND SKILL EVALUATORS

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Section 6-2: Responsibilities
Section 6-3: General Guidelines for Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators
Section 6-4: Criteria for Lead Proctor
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Section 6-6: Guidelines for Test Administration
Section 6-7: Lead Proctor and Skill Evaluator Evaluation
Section 6-8: Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator Training

Section 6-1: Purpose

6.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators in the PCC, Fire Fighter Certification program.

6.1.2 The general purpose of Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators is to provide trained and nonbiased personnel for the administration of written and skills examination components of the certification process.

Section 6-2: Responsibilities

6.2.1 It is the Lead Proctor responsibility to make certain all paperwork for a testing event is in order before the event begins, all necessary equipment and props are ready for the event, determine if there are any potential cases where a Lead Proctor/ Skill Evaluator should recuse their self from assessing a candidate or from the entire process, and all paperwork is submitted to PCC FPT within 5 days following an event.

6.2.1.1 The Lead Proctor is responsible for making the on-site determination as to the resolution of any conflicts arising during a certification examination event.

6.2.2 The Lead Proctor is responsible for supervising the administration of written and/or skills examinations, including test security, submittal of all records and reports, and ensuring all certification procedures are followed.

6.2.3 A Skill Evaluator is responsible for assessing the assigned psychomotor skill event, as a component of the certification examination process. Skill Evaluators function under the direction of the Lead Proctor.

Section 6-3: General Guidelines for Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators

6.3.1 To qualify and be certified as a Lead Proctor and/or Skill Evaluator, personnel must meet the following criteria:
(a) be certified at the level being evaluated and
(b) have attended PCC FPT Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator training within the past 2 years.
6.3.2 PCC FPT will select the Lead Proctor and Skill Evaluators for each certification examination from a list of certified Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators. Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators are not eligible to serve when any of the following occur:
   (a) candidates are from the same department;
   (b) the Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator knows a majority of the individuals to be tested;
   (c) the Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator instructed any portion of the course candidates took to prepare for the certification examination; or
   (d) the Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator is aware of any situation that could pose an ethical dilemma.

6.3.3 Anytime policy and/or procedure changes are made, Lead Proctors and/or Skill Evaluators will be notified in writing and updates for manuals will be provided.

6.3.4 The Lead Proctor and/or Skill Evaluator must recuse their self from the evaluation of any candidate when the candidate is more than a mere acquaintance of the Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator, for example, the Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator went through a fire academy with the candidate or the candidate worked for the Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator at one point in time.

6.3.5 All Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators have the responsibility for ensuring the objectivity and integrity of the certification examination process.

6.3.6 All Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators must follow established policies and procedures, including written (form FFCP-002) and skill (form FFCP-001) test administration instructions, when conducting a certification examination.

Section 6-4: Criteria for Lead Proctors

6.4.1 All Lead Proctors are required to comply with all rules, guidelines, policies, and procedures in place for the examination or examinations being administered.

6.4.2 Lead Proctors are responsible for maintaining test security throughout the certification examination process.

6.4.3 Lead Proctors are responsible for preventing cheating during the certification examination process. Lead Proctors may take any steps necessary to prevent cheating from occurring.

6.4.4 Lead Proctors are responsible for resolving on-site appeals made during the certification examination process.

6.4.5 Lead Proctors are responsible for certifying the facilities and equipment to be used for certification.

6.4.6 Lead Proctors are responsible for establishing safety protocols for all certification skill event examinations.

6.4.7 Lead Proctors are responsible for reading, verbatim, all written and skills testing instructions (PCC forms – FFCP 001 & FFCP 002) prior to testing.

6.4.8 If a candidate fails a skill event, the Lead Proctor shall designate a different Skill Evaluator to assess the second attempt to pass the skill event.
Section 6-5: Criteria for Skill Evaluators

6.5.1 All Skill Evaluators are required to comply with all rules, guidelines, policies, and procedures in place for the examination or examinations being administered.

6.5.2 Skill Evaluators are responsible for preventing cheating during the skills examination. Skill Evaluators may take any steps necessary to prevent cheating from occurring.

6.5.3 Skill Evaluators are not permitted to explain how to perform a skill event. If asked by a candidate for clarification, the Skill Evaluator can repeat the “Read to Candidate” directions identified on the skill event sheet for the skill being assessed.

6.5.4 If a candidate fails a skill event, the Lead Proctor shall designate a different Skill Evaluator to assess the second attempt to pass the skill event.

6.5.5 Candidates retesting (second or third skills test) the skills assessment portion of the certification examination will be assessed by a Skill Evaluator other than one who previously assessed the candidate.

Section 6-6: Guidelines for Test Administration

6.6.1 Prior to the certification examination, the Lead Proctor shall verify that the material is correct for the level to be tested and that there are sufficient materials for administering the test.

6.6.2 The Lead Proctor shall certify the facility and equipment to be used for administering the certification examination (see Chapter Nine: Facilities and Equipment Certification).

6.6.3 Once all test candidates are present, the Lead Proctor must determine if there is any potential conflict of interest or ethical issue with any of the assigned Skill Evaluators. Refer to 6.3.2.

6.6.4 All written examinations for Certification are to be conducted according to Fire Fighter Certification Program (FFCP) form FFCP-002.

6.6.5 All skills examinations for Certification are to be conducted according to Fire Fighter Certification Program (FFCP) form FFCP-001.

6.6.6 Failure to follow test administration policies:

6.6.6.1 Proctors/evaluators that fail to follow test administration guidelines will receive a written warning for the first offense and will be placed on probation for 6 months.

6.6.6.2 Proctors/evaluators that fail to follow test administration guidelines while on probation will be removed from the certified proctor/evaluator list for one year.

6.6.6.3 Proctors/evaluators that knowingly violate test administration guidelines will be permanently removed from the qualified proctor/evaluator list and will have all certifications permanently revoked.
Section 6-7: Lead Proctor and Skill Evaluator Evaluation

6.7.1 All Proctors and Skill Evaluators shall be evaluated periodically or as determined by the certification manager.

6.7.2 Lead Proctor and Skill Evaluator evaluations shall be conducted using the Lead Proctor and Skill Evaluator Evaluation form. All evaluations shall be recorded by the candidates on Scantron® Forms.

6.7.3 Each Lead Proctor and Skill Evaluator shall be evaluated separately.

6.7.4 After completing the evaluation survey, candidates shall place the Scantron® Forms in the envelope provided. The last candidate to complete the survey shall seal the envelope.

6.7.5 Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators ARE NOT to handle evaluations after candidates have completed them.

6.7.6 If there are obvious signs of tampering or the seal on the envelope has been broken before the certification kit has been returned to PCC FPT, the evaluations will be invalid and the Lead Proctor and Skill Evaluators will be scored as receiving ZERO.

6.7.7 The results of the evaluation survey will be given to the individual Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator within 30 days.

6.7.8 Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators that receive an evaluation of 2 or less out of 5 on two evaluations within one calendar year shall be removed from the qualified list for one year and are required to attend training again before being reinstated.

6.7.9 Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators removed from the qualified list 2 times within a 5 year period shall be permanently barred from serving as a Lead Proctor or Skill Evaluator.

6.7.10 Each person’s results will be maintained in their personnel file for 5 years.

Section 6-8: Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator Training

6.8.1 Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators shall participate in certification test administration training at least once every two years.

6.8.2 Lead Proctor and Skill Evaluator training shall include the following:
   1. Certification policies and procedures
   2. Written test administration procedures
   3. Skill test administration procedures
   4. Procedures for conducting Lead Proctor/Skill Evaluator evaluations
   5. Record keeping requirements
   6. Ethics

6.8.3 Changes to certification policies and procedures, written test administration procedures, and/or skill test administration procedures will be sent to Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators by e-mail and U.S. Postal mail.
CHAPTER SEVEN – REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATIONS

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Section 7-1: Purpose

7.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for accommodating candidates requiring accommodations in the certification examination process.

Section 7-2: Responsibilities

7.2.1 PCC FPT is responsible for making all reasonable accommodations necessary to enable the candidate to take written and/or skills examinations.

7.2.2 Lead Proctors and Skill Evaluators are responsible for following the accommodations as directed by PCC FPT.

Section 7-3: Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations

7.3.1 Candidates may make a request for accommodations for certification examinations.

7.3.2 Candidates must make the request for accommodations in writing to PCC FPT at least 14 days prior to the certification examination for which accommodations are being requested.

7.3.3 Requests for accommodations must be accompanied by documentation from the candidate’s physician or PCC’s office of Disability Services.

7.3.4 Candidates requesting accommodations must meet all other requirements and prerequisites for the level of certification being requested.

7.3.5 PCC FPT will make accommodations within the limits of the Job Performance Requirements (JPR) identified in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) professional qualifications for the level of certification being requested, e.g., if the NFPA JPR indicates the job requires a person to climb a ladder, the candidate will be required to climb a ladder.

7.3.6 If the request is approved, the candidate will be notified in writing as to the accommodations that will be permitted.
CHAPTER EIGHT – CERTIFICATES AND SEALS

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Section 8-1: Purpose
8.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for creating certificates and registering IFSAC numbered seals.

Section 8-2: Responsibilities
8.2.1 Upon satisfactory completion of the certification examination process, PCC FPT is responsible for creating the certificate.

8.2.2 PCC FPT is responsible for affixing a numbered and registered IFSAC seal to the certificate.

Section 8-3: Distribution of Certificates
8.3.1 Certificates will be mailed to successful candidates within 30 days following completion of both written and skills examinations.

8.3.2 Certificates may be picked up in person by the successful candidate at the PCC FPT office on Cascade Campus 14 days following completion of both written and skills examinations. The candidate must provide photo identification to pick up a certificate.

8.3.3 A copy of the certificate with the seal affixed will be maintained in the applicant’s file.
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Section 9-1: Purpose

9.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for the certification of facilities and equipment to be used in the administration of written and skills certification examinations.

Section 9-2: Responsibilities

9.2.1 The Lead Proctor is responsible for certifying the facilities provide adequate, safe, and secure space for administration of the testing to be conducted.

9.2.2 The local entity sponsoring the certification examination is responsible for certifying the facilities and equipment meet all applicable NFPA safety and health standards, OR-OSHA requirements, and applicable local codes/ordinances.

9.2.2.1 When facilities and/or equipment do not comply with applicable requirements, the local entity is responsible for providing documentation indicating where noncompliance occurs. The local entity should document noncompliance with any of the following:
   a) local entity policies and procedures
   b) compliance with OR-OSHA, Environment Protection Agency (EPA), and/or Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
   c) Equal Employment Opportunity Act
   d) Affirmative Action Policies
   e) Americans with Disabilities Act
   f) Age Discrimination in Employment Act

9.2.3 The Lead Proctor is responsible for determining if all protective clothing and SCBA to be used during skills examination meet or exceed all relevant NFPA standards.
Section 9-3: Certification of Facilities and Equipment

9.3.1 All facilities shall be assessed prior to a certification examination to ensure compliance the following:
   9.3.1.1 Compliance with applicable NFPA standards and OR-OSHA requirements
   9.3.1.2 Sufficient and appropriate space for testing (skills and/or written)

9.3.2 All equipment shall be assessed prior to certification skills examination to ensure the following:
   9.3.2.1 Equipment is appropriate for skills testing and safe to use
   9.3.2.2 Sufficient quantity for testing

9.3.3 Failure to achieve certification of facilities and equipment will result in cancellation of the certification examination (skills and/or written).

9.3.4 Each candidate’s personal protective equipment (PPE), including protective clothing, SCBA, and Personal Alert Safety System (PASS), required for the certification skills examination shall be assessed prior to the examination to ensure they comply applicable NFPA standards, function properly, and are serviceable, i.e., no tears, no holes, proper fit, etcetera.

9.3.5 A candidate whose PPE is deemed unsatisfactory will not be permitted to participate in the certification skills examination component.
   9.3.5.1 A candidate whose PPE is deemed unsatisfactory for the skills examination component will be permitted to participate in the written examination component.
   9.3.5.2 Any candidate who is not permitted to participate in the certification skills examination due to unsatisfactory PPE must reschedule for another examination as soon as possible.
   9.3.5.3 No additional fee will be charged for rescheduling due to unsatisfactory PPE.

9.3.6 If a candidate’s PPE is damaged during the testing process and deemed unsatisfactory to continue the skills examination process must reschedule for another examination as soon as possible.
   9.3.6.1 Any candidate who must reschedule as a result of damage to PPE incurred during the skills examination will only be required to complete the number of skill events, randomly selected, and not completed during the skills examination where the PPE was damaged.
   9.3.6.3 No additional fee will be charged for rescheduling due to PPE damaged during skills testing.

Section 9-4: Suspension of Testing

9.4.1 The Lead Proctor has the authority to suspend an examination event for any of the following reasons:
   (a) Safety issues with equipment that arise after testing begins.
   (b) Safety hazards not present when testing began.
   (c) Weather related safety concerns.
9.4.2 If an examination is suspended, candidates that have not completed the examination prior to suspension of testing will be rescheduled for another examination event as soon as possible and at no expense.

9.4.2.1 Candidates testing as a result of suspension of testing will only be required to complete the number of skill events not completed prior to suspension of testing. For example, if a candidate only needs to complete one skill, the candidate will only be required to complete one skill during the next examination. That skill must be different from the ones completed prior to suspension of testing.

9.4.2.2 If a candidate failed a skill event prior to suspension of testing, the candidate will be required to retest the failed skill (candidate will be provide one attempt) plus one randomly selected skill. In addition, the candidate will be required to complete the number of skills not tested as a result of suspension of testing. These skills will be randomly selected.
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CHAPTER TEN – RECIPROCITY

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Section 10-1:  Purpose
Section 10-2:  Responsibilities
Section 10-3:  Reciprocity

Section 10-1: Purpose

10.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for awarding reciprocity to candidates certified by entities other than PCC FPT.

Section 10-2: Responsibilities

10.2.1 PCC FPT is responsible for determining reciprocity on an individual case-by-case basis.

10.2.2 The candidate is responsible for submitting all required applications and documentation to PCC FPT for use in determining if reciprocity will be awarded.

Section 10-3: Reciprocity

10.3.1 PCC FPT will only grant reciprocity for those levels which PCC FPT is accredited.

10.3.2 Reciprocity will only be granted for certification levels issued through an IFSAC accredited entity and where written and (where applicable) skills testing were performed in granting the original certification for which the candidate is seeking reciprocity.

10.3.3 Candidates seeking reciprocity must submit a Request for Reciprocity application with all required documentation at least 21 days prior to the certification examination for which the candidate applied.

10.3.4 Candidates seeking reciprocity shall fulfill the following requirements:
   (a) Candidates must be a current resident of Oregon, member of an Oregon fire department/district/agency, or student in an Oregon public institution of high education.
   (b) Submit a completed Request for Reciprocity.
   (c) Pay a non-refundable processing fee for Evaluation of Reciprocity (see Section 5.6: Certification Fee Structure).
   (d) Provide proof of certification from an IFSAC accredited entity and proof it was awarded within the past five (5) years.

10.3.5 After reviewing the Request for Reciprocity application, PCC FPT will notify the candidate regarding the results of the application. If reciprocity is granted, a letter will be issued to the candidate verifying reciprocity.

10.3.6 A separate Request for Reciprocity application is required for each level of certification for which the candidate is seeking reciprocity.

10.3.7 Candidates granted reciprocity will be issued a letter, with a PCC FPT reciprocity number affixed to the letter, recognizing certification from an IFSAC accredited entity outside Oregon.
10.3.8 PCC FPT will not issue a PCC FPT certificate of certification for any level attained through the reciprocity process and will not affix an IFSAC seal or number to the reciprocity letter.

10.3.9 Candidates issued a letter granting reciprocity will be allowed to challenge the certification examination for the next higher level or at a level requiring prerequisite certification in order to test.

10.3.10 Falsifying of documents submitted as part of the reciprocity application process will result in denial of reciprocity and the candidate will be permanently barred from the certification process.
CHAPTER ELEVEN – CERTIFICATION APPEALS PROCESS

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Section 11-1: Purpose
Section 11-2: Responsibilities
Section 11-3: Appeals Policies and Procedures

Section 11-1: Purpose
11.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for the certification appeals process.

Section 11-2: Responsibilities
11.2.1 The Lead Proctor is responsible for on-site decisions.
11.2.2 The PCC FPT certification program manager is responsible for appeals not resolved on-site, appeals arising from the application process, and appeals arising from the certification process.
11.2.3 The PCC Certification Appeals Board is responsible for appeals not resolved by the PCC FPT certification program manager.

Section 11-3: Appeals Policies and Procedures
11.3.1 Issues that arise during the testing process will be addressed by the Lead Proctor.
   11.3.1.1 Candidates that wish to appeal the decision of a Skill Evaluator shall make the appeal verbally to the Lead Proctor.
   11.3.1.2 Decisions by the Lead Proctor made during the testing process are final.
11.3.2 Appeals of decisions made as a result of the application process or the certification examination process must be made in writing within 30 days of the date of certification examination.
11.3.3 All appeals, with the exception of those made on-site, must include the following:
   (a) Name of person initiating request for appeal
   (b) Examination date
   (c) Type of examination
   (d) Reason for the appeal
11.3.4 The PCC FPT certification program manager will make a decision on the appeal based on a review of the candidates written appeal, report by the Lead Proctor for the examination being appealed (where applicable), and any relevant documentation.
11.3.5 If the candidate disagrees with the decision of the PCC FPT program manager, the candidate may appeal to the Certification Appeals Board.

11.3.5.1 Appeals to the Certification Appeals Board must be submitted in writing, within 14 days of when the decision by the PCC FPT certification program manager was handed down.

11.3.5.2 The Certification Appeals Board will make a decision based on the policies and procedures as identified in this document. (see Chapter Three: Certification Appeals Board.)

11.3.5.3 All decisions by the Certification Appeals Board are final.

11.3.6 Decisions by the Certification Appeals Board will be reviewed by the PCC FPT certification program manager. Where it is determined corrections or revisions are required in policies, procedures, test banks, or skill sheets, the certification program manager will take steps immediately to correct the problem.
CHAPTER TWELVE – CANDIDATE RECORDS

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Section 12-1: Purpose
Section 12-2: Responsibilities
Section 12-3: Record keeping

Section 12-1: Purpose

12.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for recording and keeping documents associated with the certification process.

Section 12-2: Responsibilities

12.2.1 PCC FPT is responsible for maintaining all records associated with the certification process.

12.2.2 IFSAC Administration is responsible for maintaining the certification registry.

Section 12-3: Record Keeping

12.3.1 It is the policy of PCC FPT to maintain an electronic summary record for each candidate that includes the following information:
   (a) Name
   (b) Birth date
   (c) Candidate identifier number
   (d) Address
   (e) Candidate certification records, including test date for each level attempted and date of certification for each level where certification was awarded, and IFSAC seal number for each level where certification was awarded
   (f) Equivalency and Reciprocity decisions (if applicable)
   (g) Appeal decisions (if applicable)

12.3.2 On an annual basis, PCC FPT will send IFSAC Administration the following information:
   (a) List of names of candidates tested since previous report
   (b) International Registry Tracking Identifier for each candidate tested (see 12.3.2.1)
   (c) Certification level records
   (d) IFSAC Seal Number for each candidate certified at each level
   (e) Date of certification for each candidate at each level
12.3.2.1 International Registry Tracking Identifier System:
A. If the individual has four or more letters in their last name, the system is as follows:
   (a) First letter of the individual’s first name
   (b) First four letters of the individual’s last name
   (c) Individual’s birth date in the following format: MMDDYYYY
       ➢ Example: for an individual named Paul Smith with a birth date of March 2, 1975, the identifier would be entered as follows: “psmit03021975”
B. If the individual has fewer than four letters in their last name, the system is as follows:
   (a) First letter of the individual’s first name
   (b) All letters of the last name with “o” (not zero) completing the four letters
   (c) Individual’s birth date in the following format: MMDDYYYY
       ➢ Example For Two Letter Last Name: for an individual named Paul Ha with a birth date of March 2, 1975, the identifier would be entered as follows: “phao03021975”
       ➢ Example For Three Letter Last Name: for an individual named Paul Poe with a birth date of March 2, 1975, the identifier would be entered as follows: “ppoeo03021975”

12.3.3 The following statistical information will be generated and maintained:

12.3.3.1 Written Examination:
   (a) Level of testing
   (b) Date of testing
   (c) Location of testing
   (d) Number of candidates tested
   (e) Median average score
   (f) High score and low score
   (g) Test used

12.3.3.2 Skills Examination:
   (a) Level of testing
   (b) Date of testing
   (c) Location of testing
   (d) Number of candidates
   (e) Number of Skill Evaluators
   (f) Number of candidates who pass and number who fail
   (g) Skill sheets used

12.3.4 Test event records are kept for three (3) years.

12.3.5 Candidate summary records are kept indefinitely.
CHAPTER THIRTEEN – TEST BANKS

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Section 13-1: Purpose
Section 13-2: Responsibilities
Section 13-3: Written Test Banks
Section 13-4: Validity and Reliability of Test Banks
Section 13-5: Test Item Challenges

Section 13-1: Purpose

13.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for maintaining test banks.

Section 13-2: Responsibilities

13.2.1 PCC FPT is responsible for keeping and maintaining secure written test banks.

13.2.2 The Lead Proctor is responsible for maintaining security of the written test when in his/her possession as part of the certification examination process.

Section 13-3: Written Test Banks

13.3.1 PCC FPT will maintain a test bank for each IFSAC certification level for which PCC FPT is accredited.

13.3.2 PCC will identify the standard and edition being tested for each level accredited.

13.3.3 Test banks shall test the same standard and edition as the accredited level.

13.3.4 Test banks will be revised as needed to comply with changes to NFPA standards.

13.3.5 PCC FPT will use commercially available test bank software for creating written exams.

13.3.6 PCC FPT will evaluate all test banks for validity and reliability before using them in the certification process.

13.3.7 PCC FPT will keep several examination versions for each test bank that are randomly created by the test bank software for each IFSAC certification level PCC FPT is accredited.

13.3.8 When a commercially available test bank is used, PCC FPT will create or edit test items to cover any areas of the NFPA standard the test bank does not address.

13.3.9 Each test bank shall have no less than one test item for each requisite knowledge statement identified in the NFPA standard for each IFSAC certification level for which PCC FPT is accredited.

13.3.10 To the extent practical, all components listed under requisite knowledge for each NFPA JPR, or as a cognitive competency where the JPR format is not used, shall be measured through objective written testing. This shall be done for each certification level for which PCC FPT is accredited.
13.3.11 Each test bank shall contain twice the number of test items as will be tested.

13.3.12 Each randomly selected test shall include the standard and edition being tested.

13.3.13 Test Security:

13.3.13.1 Access to the test bank shall be limited to the certification program manager through password protection.

13.3.13.2 All test banks shall only be maintained on the certification program manager’s computer.

13.3.13.3 Storage of test development materials and associated electronic storage devices shall only be maintained in a locked file cabinet in the certification program manager’s office.

13.3.13.4 Access to the tests banks shall use a password system, e.g., a password must be used to access the computer to access the test banks.

13.3.13.5 All hard copy tests shall be kept in a locked file cabinet unless the test is in use or under review by authorized personnel. Access to the file cabinet is limited to the certification program manager and the FPT administrative assistant.

13.3.13.6 One copy of each outdated test used as part of the certification process shall be kept on file, in a locked file cabinet, for a period of three (3) years.

13.3.13.7 Extra tests and tests over three (3) years old shall be shredded for disposal.

13.3.13.8 Outdated versions of each test bank shall be maintained and password protected for a period of three (3) years. After three (3) years, the test bank shall be deleted.

Section 13-4: Validity and Reliability of Test Banks

13.4.1 All test items in the test banks shall be referenced to both the applicable NFPA standard and the reference manual adopted by PCC FPT.

13.4.2 All test items shall be reviewed by subject matter experts to insure they, in fact, test the applicable NFPA standard (validity).

13.4.3 Test scores and test items shall be reviewed after each test to assess the validity and reliability of the test.

13.4.3.1 Test items found to be inconsistent with recommend test item construction practices shall be revised or removed from the test bank.

13.4.3.2 Test items found to be “not valid” based on the NFPA standard, shall be revised or removed from the test bank.

13.4.4 All written tests and test items shall be evaluated to measure consistency in assessment (reliability). This shall include average, high, and low score for the test.

13.4.5 All written test items on each test shall be assessed to determine how many test takers scored incorrectly for each test item. The number of test takers that scored incorrectly shall be compared to the number of test takers.
13.4.6 PCC will maintain the following from each test:
   (a) Number of persons taking the test
   (b) Distribution of test scores (high and low score)
   (c) Average test score

Section 13-5: Test Item Challenges

13.5.1 A candidate can challenge any test item included in the test.

13.5.2 Challenges to test items must be submitted in writing before the candidate leaves the testing area.

13.5.3 Challenges must include the following:
   (a) Name of person submitting the challenge.
   (b) Test item number for the item or items being challenged.
   (c) Rationale for the challenge.

13.5.4 Challenges to a test item or items will be reviewed by the certification manager for resolution.

13.5.5 A candidate can appeal the decision by the certification manager, with regard to resolution of the challenge, to the certification board.

13.5.6 Decisions by the certification board, with regard to a challenge, are final.
CHAPTER FOURTEEN – SKILL ASSESSMENTS

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Section 14-1: Purpose
Section 14-2: Responsibilities
Section 14-3: Skill Test Sheets
Section 14-4: Validity and Reliability of Skill Sheets

Section 14-1: Purpose

14.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for maintaining skill assessment sheets.

Section 13-2: Responsibilities

14.2.1 PCC FPT is responsible for keeping and maintaining skill assessment sheets for all accredited levels.

14.2.2 The Lead Proctor is responsible for maintaining test security during skills assessment portion of the certification examination process.

Section 14-3: Skill Test Sheets

14.3.1 PCC FPT will maintain skill sheets for each IFSAC certification level for which PCC FPT is accredited.

14.3.2 Skill Sheets will be revised as needed to comply with changes to NFPA standards.

14.3.3 To the extent practical, all components listed under requisite skill and the JPR for each NFPA JPR, or as a performance competency where the JPR format is not used, shall be measured through performance skill testing. This shall be done for each certification level for which PCC FPT is accredited.

14.3.4 Where NFPA standards are not written in JPR format for an accredited level, PCC FPT will, to the extent practical, measure identified psychomotor skills through objective performance evaluation.

14.3.5 One copy of each outdated skill sheet used as part of the certification process shall be kept on file, for a period of three (3) years.

Section 14-4: Validity and Reliability of Skill Sheets

14.4.1 PCC FPT will evaluate all skill sheets for validity and reliability before using them in the certification process.

14.4.2 All skill sheets shall be referenced to both the applicable NFPA standard and the appropriate training manual adopted by PCC FPT.
14.4.3 All skill sheets shall be reviewed by subject matter experts to insure they, in fact, test the applicable NFPA standard (validity).
CHAPTER FIFTEEN – NOTIFICATION OF TESTING

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Section 15-1: Purpose
Section 15-2: Responsibilities
Section 15-3: Notification Procedures

Section 15-1: Purpose

15.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish policies and procedures for providing notification of certification examinations, including notice to prospective candidates and IFSAC.

Section 15-2: Responsibilities

15.2.1 PCC FPT is responsible for providing notice of scheduled certification examination events. This notice shall occur through the PCC web site.

15.2.2 PCC FPT is responsible for providing IFSAC a list of scheduled testing events, including dates, location, level, and contact information.

Section 15-3: Notification Procedures

15.3.1 PCC FPT will maintain a schedule, on-line, indicating the date, location, and levels of certification to be tested for all certification examination events.

15.3.1.1 Entities requesting a certification examination must submit an Application for Examination at least three (3) months prior to the examination date desired.

15.3.2 On an annual basis or when requested by IFSAC Administration, PCC FPT will provide IFSAC Administration with a schedule indicating upcoming certification examinations. The list shall include dates, level or levels to be tested, and Lead Proctor contact information.

15.3.2.1 With 48 hours notice, PCC FPT will permit a representative of the Certificate Assembly Board of Governors to observe any certification examination process.
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CHAPTER SIXTEEN – CODE OF ETHICS

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Section 16-1: Purpose
Section 16-2: Responsibilities
Section 16-3: Code of Ethics
Section 16-4: Sanctions

Section 16-1: Purpose

15.1.1 The purpose of this section is to establish a Code of Ethics for the Portland Community College, Fire Protection Technology Program, Fire Fighter Certification System.

Section 16-2: Responsibilities

15.2.1 Every person certified within this system and every participant in the operation of the certification program is responsible for representing and conducting themselves in a professional and ethical manner as a member of the Oregon Fire Service.

Section 16-3: Code of Ethics

16.3.1 Recognize that I serve in a position of public trust that imposes responsibility to use publicly owned resources effectively and judicially.

16.3.2 I will not use my public position to obtain advantages or favors for friends, family, personal business ventures, or myself.

16.3.3 Conduct both my personal and official life so as to inspire the confidence of the public.

16.3.4 Regard it my duty to know my work thoroughly and continually strive to learn more about my profession.

16.3.5 Make no claim to professional qualification which I do not possess.

16.3.6 Use information gained from my position only for the benefit of those I am entrusted to serve and never for personal benefit.

16.3.7 Avoid situations whereby my decisions of influence may have an impact on personal financial interests.

16.3.8 Seek no favor and accept no form of personal reward for influence or official action.

16.3.9 Carry out policies established by PCC, my organization, and elected officials to the best of my abilities.

16.3.10 Refrain from financial investments or business that conflicts with, or are enhanced by, my official position.
16.3.11 Put aside any personal opinions, biases, and beliefs when interacting with the community I serve.

16.3.12 I will not cheat or plagiarize, or participate in cheating or plagiarism.

16.3.13 Furnish false information with the intent to deceive any organization, person, or agency.

16.3.14 Forge, alter, or misuse documents or records whether in written or electronic form.

16.3.15 Use or access without authorization files, data, or equipment.

16.3.16 I will not abuse, harass, intimidate, or threaten by any means a candidate, staff member, visitor, invited guest, or member of the public I serve.

16.3.17 I will not steal, misuse, or maliciously damage PCC or private property entrusted to me.

16.3.18 I will follow published policies and procedures.

**Section 16-4: Sanctions**

16.4.1 Removal from participation in the certification program on a temporary or permanent basis.

16.4.2 Revocation of certification on a temporary or permanent basis.