



Washington State Patrol

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

*Serving Washington Since 1901*

## Fire Sprinkler Licensing and Certification Enforcement

Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal Humberto Rodriguez  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Esther Hernandez

October 2022





Washington State Patrol

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

## RCW 18.160

### Fire Sprinkler System Contractors Law

- Effective 1992
- Driven by the states Fire Sprinkler System Contracting Industry



## Contractor Licensing

- Any company or person engaging in work related to a fire protection sprinkler system must be licensed by the state
- All contractors must have in their full time employ a Certificate of Competency Holder certified at the same level and time

## Certificate of Competency (CoC) Holders

- Individuals certified to work for a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor for various aspects of work performed
- Cannot work for more than one licensed contractor at a time



## Contractor Licensing Levels

- **Level 1** – work related to residential structures under the purview of NFPA 13 – D
- **Level 2** – work related to all residential structures under the purviews of NFPA 13 – D and NFPA 13 – R
- **Level 3** – work related to any sprinkler system under the purviews of NFPA 13 – D, NFPA 13 – R, and NFPA 13
- **Level U** – installation and repair of the dedicated underground fire service main under the purview of NFPA 24
- **Level I&T** – Inspection and Testing of water based sprinkler systems per NFPA 25. Limited to wet and dry pipe systems – no repair

## CoC Certification Levels

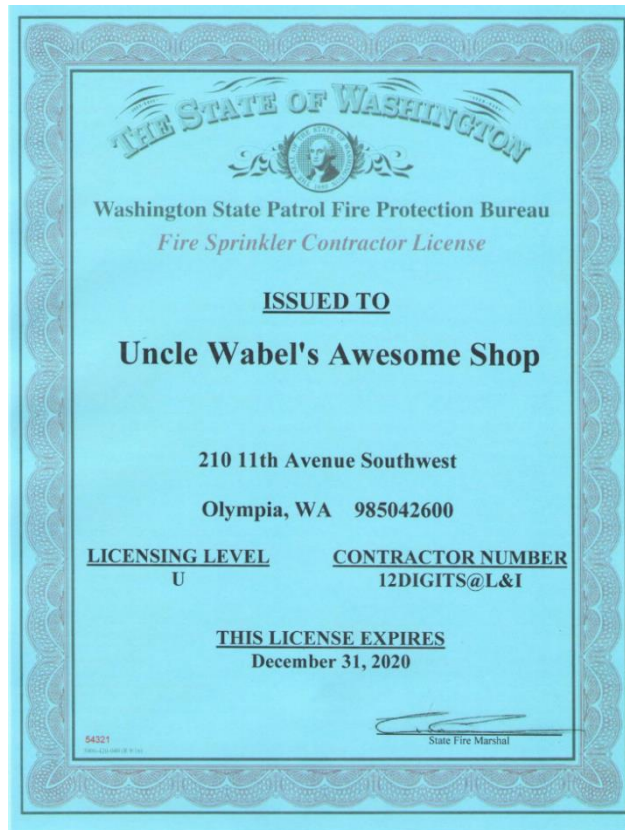
- **Level 1** – Design of fire protection sprinkler systems under the purview of NFPA 13 – D
- **Level 2** – Design of fire protection sprinkler systems under the purviews of NFPA 13 – D and NFPA 13 – R
- **Level 3** – Design of fire protection sprinkler systems under the purviews of NFPA 13 – D, NFPA 13 – R, and NFPA 13
- **Level U** – Installation and repair of the dedicated underground fire service main under the purview of NFPA 24
- **Level ITT** – Inspection and Testing of water based sprinkler systems per NFPA 25



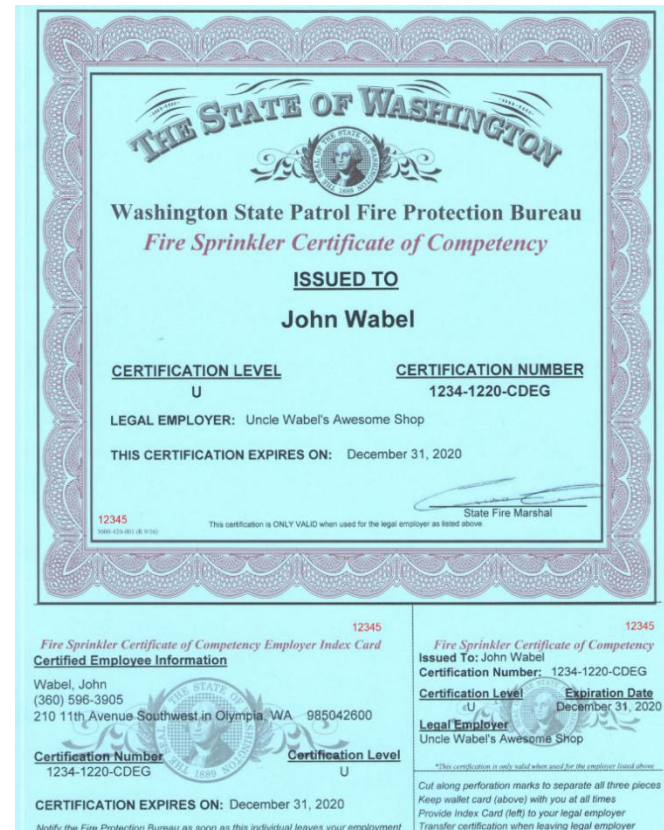
Washington State Patrol

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

## Contractor License



## Certificate of Competency





Washington State Patrol

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

## Certification Seal

**WASHINGTON STATE  
CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY  
FIRE PROTECTION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS**

John Wabel  
1234-1220-CDEG Level U  
Uncle Wabel's Awesome Shop  
12DIGITS@L&I

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date**  
**Expires**  
DEC 31, 22



Washington State Patrol

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

## RCW 18.270

### Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification Law

- Effective 2009
- Driven by the states Fire Sprinkler Pipe Fitting Industry



## Fitter Certification Levels

- **Residential** – Installation, repair, and alteration of residential fire protection sprinkler systems under the purviews of NFPA 13 – D and NFPA 13 – R
- **Journey** – Installation, repair, and alteration of all residential and commercial fire protection sprinkler systems
- **Trainee** – Installation, repair, and alteration of fire protection sprinkler systems under the direct supervision of a Residential or Journey Level Fitter

## Fitter Certificate







## Evidencing Compliance

- All fire protection sprinkler system contractors must possess a fire protection sprinkler system contractor's license issued by the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office
- All documents related to fire protection sprinkler system contractor work must bear the seal of a Certificate of Competency Holder in their employ



## Evidencing Compliance

- Seals
  - May be physical or digital
  - MUST be signed and dated
  - Must be current
  - Can ONLY be signed by the certificate holder listed upon the seal
  - Can ONLY be used for the company listed upon the seal



## Evidencing Compliance

- Seals Shall Be Prominently Placed Upon:
  - Plans
  - Bids
  - Material Test Certificates
  - Change Orders

*Signed and dated by the certificate holder working for the company listed upon the seal*



## Evidencing Compliance

- Those certified must be able to demonstrate their current certification status on request
  - Certificate of Competency Holders
    - Levels 1, 2, and 3 are specifically for design so are unlikely to be on the job site
    - Levels ITT and U perform work in the field
  - Fire Sprinkler Fitters
    - Residential and Journey Levels perform work in the field
    - Trainees must be directly supervised by a certified fitter



## Verifying Compliance

- Sprinkler Licensing and Certification Page

<https://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire-sprinklers/>

- List of all currently licensed contractors
- List of all current Certificate of Competency Holders
- List of all currently certified Sprinkler Fitters

Updated the first week of every month



## Complaints

- Assessments and Open Discussions
  - Feel free to discuss any subject or situation openly
  - Call our office at any time to work through any situation
  - All complaints must be submitted in writing on the current complaint form



## Complaints

### Scope of Complaint (check all that apply)

- |                                                          |                                                       |                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unlicensed Contractor           | <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertified Employee(s)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Working Without Local Permits              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> False and/or Inaccurate Billing | <input type="checkbox"/> Working Beyond Their Scope   | <input type="checkbox"/> Incompetence                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negligence                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Compromising a Safety System | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe Working Conditions                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violating a Stop Work Order     | <input type="checkbox"/> Contracting Violation        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Specify in <u>Complaint Summary</u> |



## Local Enforcement

- Ordinances
- Standards
- Fire Codes
- State Law and Rule

*Notify our office of ANY violation you enforce*





## Local Enforcement

- Multipurpose/Combination/Potable Sprinkler Systems
- When Is Which Required?
  - Sprinkler Contractor License
  - Plumbing License
  - General Contracting License
  - Certificate of Competency
  - Fire Sprinkler Fitter



## Local Enforcement

- Plan Review
  - MUST bear the seal of the designer
    - CoC or Washington State Engineer
  - MUST be from a licensed contractor
- Installation
  - Approved plans
  - Approved permit
  - All MUST be certified as a Fitter per 18.270



## Local Enforcement

- When Is Which Required?
  - Licensing with L&I
    - General Contracting License
    - Plumbing License
  - Sprinkler Contractor License
  - Certificate of Competency
  - Fire Sprinkler Fitter



## General Guidance

- Plan Review
  - Plans may be designed by a Certificate of Competency Holder OR a properly registered engineer
  - Must be submitted for review/permitting by a Licensed Fire Protection Sprinkler System Contractor bearing the seal of their certified designer
  - Verify submission against our lists – updated monthly



## General Guidance

- Site Inspection

- Show up at random times – yes, be inconsistent
- Require log in sheets for site work
  - Include full names and certification numbers
- Know what to look for
- Verify submission against our lists – updated monthly



## General Guidance

- Site Inspection
  - Installers – ask for certification cards
  - Know what each certification does
    - Residential, Journey, and Trainee – installation and repair
    - Levels 1, 2, 3 – Design
    - Level U – Underground Installation
    - Level ITT – Inspection and Testing



## General Guidance

- Site Inspection
  - Who can supervise what?
    - Installation, Alter, or Repair
      - All performing this work must be individually certified
      - Trainees **MUST** be supervised at all times working
      - Residential must be supervised if working on a commercial job
      - Journey works unsupervised and can supervise anyone



## General Guidance

- Site Inspection
  - Who can supervise what?
    - Underground Fire Service Mains
      - Workers must be either personally certified or directly supervised by a certified Level U certificate holder
  - Inspection and Testing (Per NFPA 25)
    - Everyone performing any work per NFPA 25 must be individually certified as an ITT certificate holder





Washington State Patrol

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Fire Prevention Division  
Education, Enforcement, and Analytics

PO Box 42642

Olympia WA 98504-2642

360.596.3946      360.596.3934 Fax

[firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov)

<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>