

The State of New Jersey recently adopted changes to the Standards for the Certification of Fire Protection Equipment Contractors, allowing businesses to perform in-house fire protection testing.

N.J.A.C. 5:74-2.2.a.2 The Division shall not require an in-house employee to obtain a certificate of certification for performing routine maintenance or monthly, weekly, or daily inspection or testing of fire protection equipment provided:

- i. The employer has a documented, readily-available procedure in effect governing routine maintenance and monthly, weekly or daily inspections and testing; and
- ii. The employer can provide proof the personnel performing the work have been trained on the current Uniform Fire Code provisions governing routine maintenance or monthly, weekly, and daily inspection or testing for the work they may be required to perform.

The entire rule adoption for N.J.A.C. 5:74-1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.10 can be read at <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/adoptedcontcert.pdf> on page 4 of 5.

In-house fire protection testing requirements by the NJ Uniform Fire Code are based on NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems. This 107-page document outlines the minimum requirements for fire protection testing including monthly inspection of all fire protection valves, quarterly testing of any fire protection valves with electronic supervision, quarterly testing of water flow devices, weekly operation of electric and diesel fire pumps.

The NJ Uniform Fire Code still requires annual inspections by a certified sprinkler contractor. A list of certified contractors can be found on the NJ Division of Fire Safety web site at <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/contractorslisting.pdf>.