

FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION

Frequently Asked Questions

May 2006

For Additional Information: (703)-696-6301, Team 4; Staffing Advisory 3, DSN 426-6301

Q1. The firefighter Qualification Standard, effective June 1, 00 contains the following statement: "Exception to certification requirements: Certification requirements do not apply to the position occupied by a DoD firefighter on 31 May 00." What does this mean?

A1. The exception means that DoD firefighters are considered "qualified" for the position they held on 31 May 00. Management cannot initiate action to remove a firefighter for failure to have the required certifications for the position occupied on 31 May 00. However, the exception only applies to the position occupied on 31 May 00. As of 1 Jun 00, DoD firefighters must have the applicable certifications to be considered for promotions, reassignments/laterals, and changes to lower grade at either the current installation or a transfer to a new installation.

Q2. What firefighter certification certificates are acceptable for a DoD firefighter?

A2. Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency (AFCESA) is the executive agent for DoD firefighter certification. The only certificates acceptable for DoD firefighters are those issued by AFCESA.

Q3. How can I verify if a firefighter is properly certified?

A3. Records of all firefighters who have completed training and requested and received DoD certifications are accessible through: <http://www.dodffcert.com>.

Q4. What will a new applicant need to do to apply for firefighter positions in DoD?

A4. Applicants new to DoD must submit documentation of their applicable firefighter training to AFCESA for certification. Once AFCESA issues the certification, they can be referred as qualified for the applicable position. Remember, certification is not a requirement for entry level GS-03 and 04 firefighter positions.

Q5. I was on a temporary promotion on 31 May 00. How does the new certification requirement affect me?

A5. Firefighters holding temporary promotions on 31 May 00 are considered qualified for the temporary position until the temporary promotion expires. Once the temporary promotion expires, the firefighter is returned to his/her permanent position and considered qualified for his permanent position. The temporary promotion cannot be extended or made permanent after 1 Jun 00 unless the firefighter has the certification requirements for the higher grade.

Q6. I was told that until all current firefighters meet the certification requirements I could/would continue to be eligible for promotion. Is this true?

A6. No. As of 1 Jun 00 DoD firefighters must meet the certification requirements listed in the amended Qualification Standards in order to be eligible for promotion, reassignment or change to lower grade at either your current installation or a transfer to a new installation.

Q7. Is there a special provision or waiver to the new certification requirements for BRAC facilities?

A7. No. The certification requirements in the amended Qualification Standard apply to all DoD firefighters. Firefighters must have the applicable certification requirements before being promoted (permanent or temporary), reassigned or changed to lower grade at any facility, including BRAC.

Q8. I am on a career ladder position. I am a GS-07 and the position is targeted to the GS-09. Do I need to have the GS-08 certifications in order to be promoted in my position or does the exception apply?

A8. The exception to certification applies only to the current position as of May 31, 00. Before you can receive your career promotions, you must have the applicable certifications for the higher grade.

Q9. Our union representative is telling us that the certification requirements do not apply to us until 2002. Is this true?

A9. There are some installations where management has agreed, through bargaining unit negotiations, to postpone the implementation of the new qualification standard. If you are at an installation where this has happened, the new standard and certification requirements do not apply as long as you remain at that installation or the implementation date arrives. If you wish to transfer to another installation or activity, you would need to meet the certification requirements in order to qualify for the position. We suggest you check with your servicing civilian personnel office to insure you have received accurate information regarding your installations bargaining unit agreement and the new qualification standard.

Q10. What affect will the new certification requirements have on official details?

A10. While employees do not have to meet the qualification requirements for the position to which they are detailed, they must meet any minimum educational, licensure and certification requirements. Therefore, in order to be officially detailed to another position, employees must possess the required certifications.