

# Driver/Operator Certification



Jim Long, Commissioner  
State Fire Marshal

## NC Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Certification

In a continued effort to reduce fire loss in the State of North Carolina, the State Legislature established General Statute 58-78-5.14b, which requires the State Fire and Rescue Commission to establish voluntary minimum professional qualifications for all levels of fire and rescue service personnel.

The standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Certification is considered to be a minimum standard and the Fire & Rescue Commission fully recognizes that, due to differing requirements, many fire departments may set forth standards much higher than these for their personnel. It is the intent, however, that through a voluntary program, personnel who provide Driver/Operator services to the communities of our state, will meet or exceed this standard.

## Performance Standard

The NFPA 1002 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications, Current Edition, will be the performance standard used for Driver/Operator certification.

## Entrance Requirements

The Driver/Operator candidate must meet the entrance requirements listed below before certification can be issued.

### Age / Education / Prior Certification Requirements

The candidate must be at least 21 years of age.

The candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent recognized by the State Department of Public Instruction (i.e., GED).

The candidate must be certified Firefighter I and Emergency Vehicle Driver by the Fire and Rescue Commission.

### Service Requirements

The Driver/Operator candidate must have a minimum of three (3) years experience in the fire and/or rescue service.

### Driver License Requirements

A candidate must possess and maintain a current North Carolina driver license before certification will be issued. Loss of a valid drivers license will mean automatic suspension of certification until the license requirement is met.

Note: The Driver/Operator must be licensed to drive all vehicles they are expected to operate.

## Program Requirements

The instruction and evaluation given a Driver/Operator who achieves certification is critical to ensuring a quality program. Training and evaluation of students must be accomplished by qualified individuals, working in conjunction with approved delivery agencies.

## Student Evaluation

Evaluation of the student for certification is a critical link in the total preparedness of the individual. Student evaluations must be accomplished by qualified Level II Instructors serving as proctors. The evaluation itself must be separate and distinct from the training process.

## Practical Examination

Practical examinations are intended to measure the manipulative skills of the Driver/Operator and will follow guidelines set forth under the Policy for Testing manual. Although capable of testing 100% of the practical objectives, the examination will only test a pre-selected percentage based on testing scenarios provided to the proctor. A score of 70% or above shall constitute a passing grade for the candidate.

## Written Examination

The written exam measures the cognitive skills of the Driver/Operator and must follow the guidelines set forth under the Policy for Testing manual. The examination will be randomly generated and provided to the evaluator by the delivery agency. A score of 70% or above shall constitute a passing grade for the candidate.

## Reciprocity

Any Driver/Operator certified by another state or agency whose program is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), or the National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications, and is a member of a fire/rescue agency in North Carolina may be granted equivalent certification provided the agency was accredited at the time of his/her certification.

## Recertification

At the time of certification, each individual is certified to the most current edition of the National Fire Protection Association Standard adopted by the NC Fire and Rescue Commission. Each individual's certification records reflect the edition that was in place during the time of certification. The Commission does not issue new certificates upon recertification; these records are maintained by the Chief or employer on a local level.

## Certification Authority & Records

Certificates for Driver/Operators will be issued by the Commission Office when the candidate has met the requirements for certification.

## Required Classes

### Pumps

Fire Department Pumps  
Basic Pump Operations  
Apparatus Maintenance  
Sprinklers & Standpipe Operations  
Fire Service Hydraulics  
Testing Fire Service Apparatus  
Water Supply Operations

### Aerials

Introduction to Aerial Operations  
Basic Aerial Operations  
Aerial Maintenance  
Aerial Testing Procedures