



Candidate Appeals to Continue Work Element Testing

On February 1, 2010 NICET implemented the first of its new standard model examinations for the Fire Alarm Systems certification program. Since that time, new standard model examinations have been rolled-out for all levels of Fire Alarm Systems, Water-Based (formerly Automatic Sprinkler) Systems Layout, and Inspection & Testing of Water-Based Systems to replace the work element examination structure. Initially only new candidates were required to test the new standard model examinations, while existing candidates were allowed to continue testing work elements through the end of the established transition period.

When work element testing ended in late 2011/early 2012 for these three Fire Protection certification programs, several candidates who were close to meeting a higher level examination requirement appealed to the NICET Board of Governors for another opportunity to test failed work elements. The NICET Board reviewed these appeals for additional work element testing during their recent meetings; and after considering issues of fairness, consistency and policy, unanimously decided not to allow additional testing of any retired work elements in any converted certification programs. While the NICET Board was sympathetic to the pleas made by these candidates, the final decision was made to preserve the integrity and credibility of the NICET certification process, and NICET's continued ability to represent that all certified individuals meet the current established standards.

As partial compensation for candidates' recent testing efforts under the work element structure, the NICET Board did agree to waive the work experience evaluation fee (a \$75 to \$156 value) for any candidate who had tested within the established transition period but came up short on meeting the higher level examination requirement. This fee waiver will be applied only for those candidates who test (and pass) the new standard model examination(s) for the next higher level in 2012. Candidates who qualify for this work experience evaluation fee waiver must mail their work experience application and any additional documentation directly to the NICET offices at 1420 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2794 Attn: Certification Services – Fee Waiver. NICET will confirm that candidates meet the conditions for this waiver (or not); and within 10-14 days after receiving their application, will confirm the expected evaluation turnaround time and/or other options.

Effective 6/1/2012