Title 19: Department of Insurance

Part 101: Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum Standards and Certification Board

Part 101 Chapter 1: Rules and Regulations for Minimum Standards Certification (MSCB-1)

Rule 1.05 Probationary Period for Completing Certification Requirements

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 45-11-203, fire personnel eligible for MSCB certification must complete all certification requirements within one (1) year from their original date of hire. Under extraordinary circumstances, the MSCB may grant an extension of one (1) additional year beyond the original probationary period. Such request for extension shall be submitted in writing by the executive fire officer of the local fire fighting unit with an explanation of circumstance and need.

Full-time Employees called to active military duty by Presidential order during their one-year probationary period may request a temporary suspension of the probationary period. If granted by the MSCB, the temporary suspension shall begin on the first official day of active military duty and extend to the last day of the employee's one-year probationary period or conclusion of military duty whichever comes first. In the event active military service extends beyond the employee's probationary period, an additional request for temporary suspension may be submitted for consideration by the Board. No single suspension period shall exceed one-year and all requests must be supported by official military documentation. Notification to the MSCB shall be made within 15 calendar days of an employee's completion of military duty. Any temporary suspension granted by the MSCB shall be rendered void upon completion of military service and the employee's remaining probationary period reinstated.

If the number of days remaining in the employee's original probationary period are insufficient to complete the MSCB certification process, the employee's fire chief may request a one-year extension as authorized by 45-11-203 (1).

Full-time Employees who have been granted a suspension of their probationary period for military service and who have completed CPAT before starting active military duty shall also receive a suspension of the time their CPAT results are valid. Such suspension shall begin on the first official day of active military duty and extend to the last day of the employee's 365-day CPAT period or conclusion of military duty whichever comes first. In the event active military service extends beyond the 365-day CPAT period, an additional request for temporary suspension may be submitted for consideration by the Board.

If the number of days remaining in the employee's original 365-day CPAT period are insufficient to complete the MSCB certification process, the employee's fire chief may request a one-year extension as authorized by Miss. Code Ann. § 45-11-203 (1).

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §§ 45-11-203; 45-11-253 (Supp. 2013)

Rule 1.06 Certification Testing

In lieu of MSCB administered testing, the Board shall recognize all accredited NFPA-based Fire Fighter I and II certificates issued by the Mississippi Fire Academy after September 1, 2005 as being equivalent to the MSCB certification requirements. Furthermore, the MSCB shall utilize current NFPA fire service professional qualification standards and the basic fire fighter training curriculum (NFPA 1001 1 & 2) as used by the Mississippi Fire Academy and approved by MSCB as the official state standard and curriculum for basic fire fighter certification training. Policies regarding the delivery of curriculum and certification testing shall be established by the Mississippi State Fire Academy in accordance with criteria set forth by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress, subject to approval by MSCB.

Departments administering basic fire fighter training to their own employees must contract with the Mississippi State Fire Academy for delivery of curriculum materials and the certification examination process. In general, Mississippi Fire Academy entrance requirements set forth for minimum standard certification (Fire Fighter I and II) shall be established by the MSCB as recommended by the Academy's Executive Director. Such entrance requirements shall not apply to fire personnel who fall outside the scope of Miss. Code Ann. § 45-11-203 and therefore, are not within the jurisdiction of the MSCB. Academy entrance requirements established for non-minimum standard courses and other programs shall be set by the Executive Director in conjunction with the Academy's Advisory Board.

The minimum standards certification process requires all candidates to successfully complete the Candidate Physical Abilities Test (CPAT) prior to entering an approved Fire Fighter I and II training program. In order to meet the entrance requirements for certification training and testing, the CPAT exam must be administered at the Mississippi State Fire Academy or monitored by qualified Academy personnel at locations approved to by the Board to conduct the CPAT exam. The validity of any CPAT qualification shall expire three hundred sixty five (365) days after successful completion of the exam. Candidates must have officially started an approved certification-training program within the 365-day period. Should any candidate's CPAT credentials expire before entering an approved certification-training program, the candidate must retake and successfully complete the CPAT exam. All subsequent CPAT qualifications shall remain valid for three hundred sixty five (365) days from the most recent test date.

Miss. Code Ann. § 45-11-7 provides the Mississippi State Fire Academy with the authority to assess a reasonable fee to account for the cost of providing off-campus certification testing and monitoring services. Such fees shall be directed to and paid by the entity or governing authority requesting the additional testing services.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §§ 45-11-7; 45-11-203; 45-11-253 (Supp. 2013)

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