



FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU
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Basic Fitter Certification Biennial Renewal Cycle Terminology

The following terms are commonly used within the program regarding the biennial renewal of fire sprinkler fitter certifications. This biennial cycle begins on odd years and concludes on even years (11-12, 13-14, 15-16, etc.).

Expiration Date: December 31 of every even year. Anyone who hasn't submitted for renewal before this date is no longer legal to engage in any aspect of fire sprinkler fitter work within the state of Washington and must be reinstated.

Fitter Certification: The document issued to individuals certifying them as legal to perform fire protection sprinkler system installation and repair work. Must be working for a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor while engaged in the trade.

License: The legal document issued to contracting companies under RCW 18.160 allowing them to bid for and execute contracts for fire protection sprinkler work using certified employees. While engaged in the sprinkler trade, fitters must be working for a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor.

Reinstatement: The act of restoring an expired certification. Anyone who expires must be reinstated which is a different process, using different paperwork, and requires passing a certification examination. There are no exceptions and no method of expediting any test or reinstatement for any reason.

Renewal Cycle: The process where currently certified fitters are renewed for the next two year period occurring between October and December of every even year. Anyone wishing to continue working into the new cycle must renew prior to expiration.

Trainee Fitter Certification: A certification issued to individuals working towards certification as a Residential or Journey fitter. They can only be issued to those currently working for a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor. During renewal the employing contractor must be renewed prior to issuance.