



NOTICE OF VARIANCE

TO RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

TO: General Public
FROM: Indiana Department of Homeland Security
DATE: December 15, 2025
RE: Blanket Variance to 655 IAC 2-2-1(b)

In accordance with Indiana Code § 4-21.5-3-4 and Indiana Code § 22-12-7-3, this letter provides notice of an order issued by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) in response to requests for relief from the rules of the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education (Education Board) as set forth in Title 655 of the Indiana Administrative Code.

Pursuant to Indiana Code § 22-14-2-7.5, the IDHS grants a variance to 655 IAC 2-2-1(b) to eliminate the requirement that "an individual shall not perform firefighting or related emergency services for which a certification may be obtained under 655 IAC 4-3 unless the individual is certified by the education board to perform those services." This variance eliminates the requirement for certification for all certifications not statutorily required, except the following certifications:

1. Emergency Response Support, 655 IAC 3-1-3;
2. Firefighter I, 655 IAC 4-3-1;
3. Firefighter II, 655 IAC 4-3-2;
4. Fire Inspector I, 655 IAC 4-3-38 (unless exempted by IC 36-8-17-8(c);
5. Fire Inspector II, 655 IAC 4-3-39 (unless exempted by IC 36-8-17-8(c);
6. Fire and Emergency Services Instructor I, 655 IAC 4-3-43;
7. Fire Chief Executive Leadership, 655 IAC 4-3-52;

All additional certifications identified in this rule are offered on a voluntary basis.

This variance shall expire upon the earlier of the following: (1) the date of effectiveness of any rule adopted by the Education Board following the issuance of this variance; (2) 180 days after the Department or Education Board provides notice at a meeting of the Education Board that this variance has been rescinded; or (3) the date this order is overturned on review.

REVIEW RIGHTS

This order is effective upon issuance. If you desire **informal review** of this order, complete the informal review form located at this at <https://www.in.gov/dhs/4149.htm> within 15 days. Following receipt of this form, the **Department** may modify or reverse the order, however, a request for informal review does not extend the deadline for filing a petition for review with the **Education Board**. If you have any questions regarding this order, you may contact that Department at (317) 232-2222.

If you desire a formal **administrative review** of this order by the **Education Board**, you must comply with the requirements of Indiana Code § 4-21.5-3-7 and file a written petition for review within 15 days of the date this order was issued. Your petition for review must state facts demonstrating that you are: (1) a person to whom the order is specifically directed; (2) aggrieved or adversely affected by the order; or (3) entitled to review under any law. You may submit your petition by the following methods:

U.S. MAIL OR PERSONAL SERVICE

Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education
c/o Legal Counsel
302 W. Washington Street, Rm. E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204

ONLINE

By completing the form at
<https://www.in.gov/dhs/4148.htm>

If you comply with the above requirements, your petition will be granted and will be assigned to an administrative law judge for review. If a petition for review is not timely filed, then this order will become final. For additional information about the administrative review process, visit the following link <https://www.in.gov/dhs/appeals.htm>.