



INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE ACCREDITATION CONGRESS (IFSAC) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Q: How can I get IFSAC certified?

A: IFSAC does not certify. Certification is developed, administered and issued by state, provincial, regional and government entities. Programs accredited by IFSAC will issue IFSAC-numbered seals with the state/provincial/DoD certificate to individuals. The individuals must meet all requirements set by the program as well as those outlined in the relevant National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, including successfully completing knowledge and practical skills exams for the levels the program is accredited for. For more information or to ask about certification requirements, contact the certifying authority of the jurisdiction in which you want to obtain certification.

2. Q: Does my certification expire?

A: Currently, there are no requirements for recertification on a national level. IDHS is aware that some jurisdictions, though not many, require recertification. IFSAC does not require recertification in its accreditation criteria or policies and does not consider any certification registered with the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy (Academy) as expired. If you seek reciprocity from one state that requires recertification to another that doesn't, it is up to the state you are seeking reciprocity in to decide if it will recognize and enforce the expiration of your certification and vice versa.

3. Q: For example, if I allow my State Fire Instructor I certification to lapse, is it still a valid certification if on it I have an IFSAC seal?

A: According to IFSAC, there are no recertification requirements at the national level. However, certification is developed, administered and issued by the state of Indiana. If your certification is lapsed, your certification is expired in the state of Indiana.



4. Q: I was certified for Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations and Firefighter I and II, but I was only issued a seal for my Firefighter certifications. I am seeking employment/reciprocity and they are requiring that I show them I have seals for the prerequisite levels. How do I get a seal for each level?

A: You will have to contact the entity that issued your certifications to find out if you can get seals for all your certifications. Some IFSAC-accredited entities choose to issue one seal for multiple levels or only for the highest level achieved. While it is preferred that accredited entities issue a separate IFSAC seal with each certificate, IDHS does not have a policy in place to enforce this.

5. Q: I went to another state/province/jurisdiction to acquire my certification and was issued an IFSAC seal. Why won't my state/province give me reciprocity?

A: To find out whether a certification or training you acquired outside of Indiana will be accepted, contact the Academy certifications staff at firecertifications@dhs.in.gov. IFSAC-accredited entities set their own policies regarding reciprocity.