

Red Tape Review Rule Report (Due: September 1, 2026)

Department Name:	Public Safety	Date:	8/11/2025	Total Rule Count:	9
IAC #:	661	Chapter/ SubChapter/ Rule(s):	251	Iowa Code Section Authorizing Rule:	100B.10 and 2025 Iowa Acts, House File 793
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PLEASE NOTE, THE BOXES BELOW WILL EXPAND AS YOU TYPE

What is the intended benefit of the rule?

The intended benefit of this rule is to provide minimum training standards and certification standards for firefighters in Iowa. This rulemaking will also incorporate changes pursuant to 2025 Iowa Acts, House File 793.

Is the benefit being achieved? Please provide evidence.

Yes. Having a minimum training standard helps better equip firefighters in Iowa to prevent occupational accidents, injuries, illnesses, and deaths. In FY25, the Fire Service Training Bureau (FSTB) offered 2,969 certification exams and spent a total of 128,719 hours training firefighters.

What are the costs incurred by the public to comply with the rule?

The cost to take a certification exam from the state is \$50.

What are the costs to the agency or any other agency to implement/enforce the rule?

There are no costs to the Department or any other agency to implement or enforce this rule.

Do the costs justify the benefits achieved? Please explain.

Yes. The cost to take a certification exam in many other states is higher than it is in Iowa. As the number of incidents fire departments and EMS personnel respond to increase, these training standards help equip first responders with the necessary skills and tools needed to prevent occupational accidents, injuries, illnesses, and deaths.

Are there less restrictive alternatives to accomplish the benefit? YES NO

If YES, please list alternative(s) and provide analysis of less restrictive alternatives from other states, if applicable. If NO, please explain.

No. The certification and accreditation program are accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (PROBOARD) and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) to certify fire service personnel to accepted national standards. Standards for the certification and accreditation program are based upon nationally recognized standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Does this chapter/rule(s) contain language that is obsolete, outdated, inconsistent, redundant, or unnecessary language, including instances where rule language is duplicative of statutory language? [list chapter/rule number(s) that fall under any of the above categories]

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No.

RULES PROPOSED FOR REPEAL (list rule number[s]):

None.

RULES PROPOSED FOR RE-PROMULGATION (list rule number[s] or include rule text if available):

CHAPTER 251
FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

661—251.1(100B) Definitions. The following definitions apply to rules 661—251.1(100B) to 661—251.204(100B):

“*Emergency incident*” means any incident involving a fire or other hazardous situation to which personnel of a fire department respond.

“*NFPA*” means the National Fire Protection Association.

“*Structural firefighting*” means firefighting in a hazardous environment which requires the use of self-contained breathing apparatus.

661—251.2 to 251.100 Reserved.

MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS

661—251.101(100B) Minimum training standard. Any member of a fire department will have completed the training requirements identified in the job performance requirements for the fire fighter I classification in NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, based on the current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau, prior to the member’s engaging in structural firefighting. Each fire department will identify its members who are or will be engaged in structural firefighting and ensure that any member engaged in structural firefighting has completed the training requirements specified in this rule prior to the member’s engaging in structural firefighting.

NOTE: A firefighter is not required to be certified to meet this requirement. Training to meet this requirement may be provided by the fire service training bureau, a community college, a regional fire training facility, a local fire department, or any combination thereof.

EXCEPTION 1: A firefighter who received training which complied with the job performance requirements for the fire fighter I classification contained in an earlier edition of NFPA 1001 is deemed to have met this requirement, provided that records documenting the training are maintained in accordance with rule 661—251.104(100B).

EXCEPTION 2: The chief or the training officer of any fire department may apply to the state fire marshal by June 1 of any year for an extension of the deadline to meet the training requirement for members of the department engaged in structural firefighting. Any such extension will be for one year and may be renewed annually upon application. An extension will be granted only if the department has requested training required under this rule, with training costs to be offset through funding from the firefighting training and equipment fund, pursuant to 661—Chapter 259, and funds to offset the cost of the training have not been available or have been inadequate to fully offset the cost of the training. The extension may be for all or some of the firefighters in the department. The application is to be in a form specified by the state fire marshal and will list by name

each firefighter for whom an extension is requested. The extension, if granted, will list by name the firefighters to whom the extension applies and will apply only to those listed.

661—251.102(100B) Other training. Any member of a fire department who serves in a capacity other than structural firefighting at an emergency incident will have received training based on the duties the member might perform at an emergency incident. Training to meet this requirement may be provided by the fire service training bureau, a community college, a regional fire training facility, or a local fire department, or any combination thereof.

661—251.103(100B) Continuing training. Fire department members will participate in at least 24 hours of continuing training annually, which may include, but is not limited to, the following subject matter areas:

1. Personal protective equipment and respiratory protection.
2. Structural firefighting techniques, including standard operating policies and procedures or standard operating guidelines.
3. Ground ladders.
4. Hose and hose appliances.
5. Ventilation.
6. Forcible entry.
7. Search and rescue techniques.
8. Firefighter safety.
9. National Incident Management System or Incident Command System.
10. Emergency vehicle driver-operator.
11. Hazardous materials first responder—operations level.
12. Emergency medical service (EMS) training.
13. Additional training based on standard operating policies and procedures or standard operating guidelines.
14. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-related training, such as blood-borne pathogen protection.
15. Specialty training such as confined space entry, vehicle extrication, rescue techniques, wildland or agricultural firefighting techniques.
16. Emergency response to terrorism.
17. Any other training designed to meet local training needs.

NOTE: Training to meet this requirement may be provided by the fire service training bureau, a community college, a regional fire training facility, or a local fire department, or any combination thereof.

661—251.104(100B) Record keeping. Each fire department will maintain training records for each individual member of the department who participates in emergency incidents. These training records will identify, for all training completed by the individual firefighter, the person or persons who provided the training, the dates during which the training was completed, the location or locations where the training was delivered, and a description of the content of the training.

661—251.105 to 251.200 Reserved.

FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION

661—251.201(100B) Firefighter certification and accreditation program. There is established within the fire service training bureau of the state fire marshal division a firefighter certification program for the state of Iowa, known as the certification and accreditation program. The certification and accreditation program is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (PROBOARD) and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) to certify fire service personnel to accepted national standards. All certifications issued by the certification and accreditation program will be based upon nationally accepted standards.

NOTE 1: Participation in the certification and accreditation program is voluntary, and state law does not require certification to work or volunteer as a firefighter in Iowa. However, some fire departments within the state require certification for continued employment or promotion. Inquiries regarding such requirements should be directed to the hiring or employing department.

NOTE 2: Inquiries and requests regarding the certification and accreditation program should be directed to the fire service training bureau.

251.201(1) Eligibility. Any person seeking certification through the certification and accreditation program will be a current member of a fire, emergency, or rescue organization within the state of Iowa and at least 18 years of age.

EXCEPTION: Persons not meeting the requirement of membership in a fire, emergency, or rescue organization may be granted exceptions to this requirement on an individual basis. Individuals seeking such exceptions will address these requests

to the fire service training bureau.

251.201(2) Application. Application forms for each level of firefighter certification may be obtained from the fire service training bureau. In order to enter the certification and accreditation program, an applicant will submit a completed application, accompanied by the required fee, to the fire service training bureau. The fee must accompany the application form, although a purchase order from a public agency or private organization may be accepted in lieu of prior payment. The application and fee will be submitted no less than two weeks prior to the date of any examination in which the applicant wishes to participate.

661—251.202(100B) Certification standards. Standards for the certification and accreditation program are based upon nationally recognized standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Certification at each level in the Iowa fire service certification system results in national certification.

251.202(1) Firefighter.

a. Fire fighter I. Certification as a fire fighter I is based upon the requirements for fire fighter I certification established in NFPA 1001, “Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

b. Fire fighter II. Certification as a fire fighter II is based upon the requirements for fire fighter II certification established in NFPA 1001, “Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

251.202(2) Driver/operator.

a. Driver/operator (pumper). Certification as a driver/operator (pumper) is based upon the requirements for fire department vehicle driver/operator (pumper) certification established in NFPA 1002, “Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

b. Driver/operator (aerial). Certification as a driver/operator (aerial) is based upon the requirements for fire department vehicle driver/operator (aerial) certification established in NFPA 1002, “Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

251.202(3) Fire officer.

a. Fire officer I. Certification as a fire officer I is based upon the requirements for fire officer I certification established in NFPA 1021, “Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

b. Fire officer II. Certification as a fire officer II is based upon the requirements for fire officer II certification established in NFPA 1021, “Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

251.202(4) Fire inspector. Certification as a fire inspector I is based upon the requirements for certification as a fire inspector I established in NFPA 1031, “Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plans Examiner,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

251.202(5) Fire investigator. Certification as a fire investigator is based upon the requirements for certification as a fire investigator established in NFPA 1033, “Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

251.202(6) Fire and emergency services instructor.

a. Fire and emergency services instructor I. Certification as a fire and emergency services instructor I is based upon the requirements for certification as a fire and emergency services instructor I established in NFPA 1041, “Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

b. Fire and emergency services instructor II. Certification as a fire and emergency services instructor II is based upon the requirements for certification as a fire and emergency services instructor II established in NFPA 1041, “Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

251.202(7) Responder to hazardous materials incidents.

a. Responder to hazardous materials incidents (awareness). Prior to October 1, 2019, certification as a responder to hazardous materials incidents (awareness) is based upon the requirements for certification as a responder to hazardous materials incidents (awareness) established in NFPA 472, “Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau. Beginning on October 1, 2019, certification as a responder to hazardous materials incidents (awareness) is based upon the requirements for certification as a responder to hazardous materials incidents (awareness) established in NFPA 1072, “Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

b. Responder to hazardous materials incidents (operations). Prior to October 1, 2019, certification as a responder to hazardous materials incidents (operations) is based upon the requirements for certification as a responder to hazardous materials

incidents (operations) established in NFPA 472, “Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau. Beginning on October 1, 2019, certification as a responder to hazardous materials incidents (operations) is based upon the requirements for certification as a responder to hazardous materials incidents (operations) established in NFPA 1072, “Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications,” current edition adopted by the fire service training bureau.

251.202(8) Sex offender registry. Pursuant to Iowa Acts 2025, House File 793, a person who has committed any crime as an adult that resulted in the requirement that the person be listed on a sex offender registry will not be certified as a firefighter, and will not serve as a noncertified or volunteer firefighter.

661—251.203(100B) Fees. Current certification application fees and any other fees related to participation in the certification process will be listed on the fire service training bureau’s web page and also within the publication Certification Procedures Guide for each level of certification, published by the fire service training bureau. The information in each guide is effective upon publication until superseded by publication of a later edition. Prospective candidates who are considering application for a particular level of certification should contact the fire service training bureau for the latest date of publication of the Certification Procedures Guide.

Fees may be paid by personal check made payable to Iowa Department of Public Safety—Fire Service Training Bureau, credit card, purchase order from a public agency or private organization, check or draft from a public agency or private organization, or money order. The check, credit card information, purchase order, money order or draft will be submitted with the application.

661—251.204(100B) Certification, denial, and revocation of certification.

251.204(1) Certification. Upon completion of the requirements for certification, the applicant’s name will be entered into the Iowa certification database maintained by the fire service training bureau for the respective level of certification and into the certification databases maintained by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (PROBOARD) and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Individuals who successfully complete the certification requirements will receive an individualized certificate awarding national certification from the fire service training bureau, which will bear numbered seals from the PROBOARD and the IFSAC, and additional insignia from the fire service training bureau.

251.204(2) Denial of certification. Certification will be denied to any applicant who fails to meet all of the requirements for the type of certification, who knowingly submits false information to the fire service training bureau, or who engages in fraudulent activity during the certification process.

251.204(3) Revocation. The fire service training bureau may revoke the certification of any individual who is found to have knowingly provided false information to the fire service training bureau during the certification process or to have engaged in fraudulent activity during the certification process. In addition, certification may be revoked by the fire service training bureau if an individual was found to have engaged in and been convicted of a felony-level crime, including but not limited to murder, arson, sexual assault, physical assault, embezzlement, and crimes committed against a fire department or its respective association.

251.204(4) Appeals. Any person who is denied certification or whose certification is revoked may appeal the denial or revocation. An appeal of a denial or revocation of certification will be made to the commissioner of public safety within 30 days of the issuance of the denial or revocation using the contested case procedures specified in rules 661—10.301(17A) through 661—10.332(17A).

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 100B.

***For rules being re-promulgated with changes, you may attach a document with suggested changes.**

METRICS

Total number of rules repealed:	0
Proposed word count reduction after repeal and/or re-promulgation	+61 due to added rule to satisfy HF 793
Proposed number of restrictive terms eliminated after repeal and/or re-promulgation	28

ARE THERE ANY STATUTORY CHANGES YOU WOULD RECOMMEND INCLUDING CODIFYING ANY RULES?

No.