



Upcoming Changes Regarding IAAI Certifications and Designations Beginning May 1, 2025



One of IAAI's key pillars is delivering world-class training, certifications, and designations to professionals whose work involves fire investigation. Under the guidance of the IAAI Certification Committee, specific changes have been made to provide better clarity and consistency to the process. Please note that this document outlines only upcoming *changes* to the various certification programs. For additional details regarding certification application requirements, including the outlined changes below, please refer to the IAAI Certifications Manual, which will be available on www.firearson.com beginning in February 2025.

Changes made in 2024:

- All new and renewal applications are now available online
- IAAI now sends electronic reminders regarding renewal deadlines

Significant changes to the certification and designation process beginning in 2025:

- Manual:
 - The IAAI Certification Manual has been updated and now combines all stand-alone certification manuals into a single document.
- Application Process:
 - Beginning in 2025, the existing new and renewal applications will be available to candidates until April 30, 2025. Candidates already pursuing certifications will be permitted to submit legacy applications until that date. Beginning on May 1, 2025, IAAI will only accept the new applications.
 - Effective May 1, 2025, IAAI will only accept applications submitted via the online application platform. Emailed applications will no longer be accepted. For more information regarding the online application process, visit www.firearson.com and click on Credentials.
 - The application process has been simplified by moving away from a point system and number of investigations conducted, to focus on hours of training, education, and work experience.
 - All applications will now require proof of a high school diploma or higher degree earned as a requirement. No points will be awarded for degrees earned.
 - Candidates will be able to apply for/earn the Marine Fire Credential Endorsement (M) beginning in October 2025.

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- Certification Notification Procedures:
 - **New** certificants (CFI, FIT, CI, MVFCE & MFI) will receive a mailed physical certificate, patch and sticker when they earn a new certification or endorsement.
 - New certificants will receive a corresponding lapel pin at the Annual IAAI ITC (International Training Conference).
 - **Renewals** will receive email notification and a digital certificate when they earn their recertification.
 - Any additional patches, stickers, lapel pins and challenge coins (including ECT) will be available for purchase on www.firearson.com
- Exams:
 - All exams now require a passing score of 70% to earn certification.
 - In 2025, CFI Examination will be conducted through an online testing platform or an in-person testing facility with protected and secured examinations. The examinations will be available to the candidate for two hours without interruption, which will be continuously monitored by the proctor.
- Renewals:
 - Certifications and designations will now require renewals after **five years** for all certification types.
 - Certification is awarded for five years from the certificate issue/renewal date.
 - The certification holder has the sole responsibility to submit a timely application for recertifications.
 - The recertification application and fee must be submitted prior to the expiration date, but no more than six months prior to the expiration date.
 - There will be a 90-day grace period for all certification renewals. If the recipient fails to renew within that window, the recipient will need to reapply as a **new** applicant.
- Realignment of Renewal Dates:
 - **Effective March 1, 2025**, all renewal dates will be aligned, allowing recipients to track a single renewal date for all certifications.
 - Your expiration date will be aligned to the latest certification renewal date.
 - If you currently hold two or more certifications, IAAI will proactively adjust your renewal schedules to match your latest renewal date.
 - If this shift results in any of your other certifications being extended for **2 or more years**, you must complete a Realignment Application for those certifications by August of the year as indicated by the chart below, at no additional fee.

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Examples of Realignment of Renewal Dates:

**To find your realignment date & requirements, begin by using your latest expiring certification date in Column 1.*

Latest certification renewal date as of 3/1/2025	Other certification renewal dates	All certifications will now align with this renewal date	Granted Extension	You will be required to:
Anytime in 2029	Anytime between 2025-2027	The 2029 renewal date	2 or more years	Submit a Realignment Application by 8/1/2026. <i>No additional fee for the Realignment Application.</i> Apply for certifications renewal(s) in 2029.
	Anytime between 2028-2029	The 2029 renewal date	Less than 2 years	No need to submit a Realignment Application. Apply for certifications renewal(s) in 2029.
Anytime in 2028	Anytime between 2025-2026	The 2028 renewal date	2 or more years	Submit a Realignment Application by 8/1/2026. <i>No additional fee for the Realignment Application.</i> Apply for certifications renewal(s) in 2028.
	Anytime between 2027-2028	The 2028 renewal date	Less than 2 years	No need to submit a Realignment Application. Apply for certifications renewal(s) in 2028.
Anytime in 2027	Anytime in 2025	The 2027 renewal date	2 or more years	Submit a Realignment Application by 8/1/2025. <i>*No additional fee for the Realignment Application.</i> Apply for certifications renewal(s) in 2027.
	Anytime between 2026-2027	The 2027 renewal date	Less than 2 years	No need to submit a Realignment Application. Apply for certifications renewal(s) in 2027.
Anytime in 2026	Anytime in 2025	The 2026 renewal date	Less than 2 years	No need to submit a Realignment Application. Apply for standard certifications renewal(s) in 2026.
Anytime in 2025	Anytime in 2025	The 2025 renewal date	None required	No need to submit a Realignment Application. Apply for standard certifications renewal(s) in 2025.

**Note: Motor Vehicle and Marine Fire endorsements will still tie only to the CFI or FIT, whichever is higher-ranking, and will continue to follow that expiration date.*

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Outline of *Changes* to Certification and Designation Requirements beginning May 1, 2025



	Education	Work Experience	Prerequisites	Pricing
CFI - New	High school diploma or equivalent	5 years' experience as a fire investigator Provide adequate documentation to support this experience Complete the NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator JPRs. The new checklists will require signature of completion for each JPR from a field supervisor.	400 training hours: Minimum 40 hours Fundamental of Fire Investigation Course 28 hours CFITrainer.net: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA (3 hours) • Documenting the Event (4 hours) • Examination • Intro to Evidence • Physical Evidence at a Fire Scene (4 hours) • Practical Method • The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigations (3 hours) • Ethics and the Fire Investigator (3 hours) • NFPA 1033 and Your Career (2 hours) 332 hours of 1033 JPR-related tested training (up to 10% of the requirement may be untested)	IAAI Member: \$250.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$570.00
CFI Renewal		3 years' experience within the five-year renewal cycle	100 training hours: Complete a minimum of 2 tested CFITrainer.net courses per year Lectures may account for 50% of training hours 10% total training hours may be not specifically fire investigation related	IAAI Member: \$200.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$520.00

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	Education	Work Experience	Prerequisites	Pricing
FIT New	High school diploma or equivalent	18 months' experience in a fire investigation related industry Provide adequate documentation to support this experience	54 tested training hours (up to 10% of the requirement may be untested): 40 hours Fundamentals of Fire Investigation 14-hour CFITrainer.net <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documenting the Event (4 hours) • Ethics and the Fire Investigator (3 hours) • NFPA 1033 and Your Career (2 hours) • The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 (2 hours) • The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigations (3 hours) <i>*Note: Track B is no longer an option. The courses listed above are the requirement for all new FIT candidates.</i>	IAAI Member: \$150.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$540.00
FIT Renewal	High school diploma or equivalent	36 months' experience in a fire investigation related industry Provide adequate documentation to support this experience	80 tested training hours	IAAI Member: \$125.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$540.00

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	Education	Work Experience	Prerequisites	Pricing
ECT New	High school diploma or equivalent	18 months' experience in a fire investigation related industry Provide adequate documentation to support this experience	29 tested training hours CFITrainer.net <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA (3 hours) • Documenting the Event (4 hours) • Ethics and the Fire Investigator (3 hours) • Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab (4 hours) • NFPA 1033 and Your Career (2 hours) • Physical Evidence at a Fire Scene (4 hours) • The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 (2 hours) • The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigations (3 hours) 	IAAI Member: \$150.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$325.00
ECT Renewal	High school diploma or equivalent	Evidence of additional general experience in a fire investigation related industry over the preceding 5 years A reference letter from employer attesting that the applicant has completed various core JPRs, and standard industry practices related to evidence collection on fire scenes since the last certification	40 tested training hours A minimum of 2 tested training courses must be completed on CFITrainer.net per year Lectures may account for 50% of training points Maximum of 10% total training points may be not specifically fire investigation related	IAAI Member: \$125.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$295.00

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	Education	Work Experience	Prerequisites	Pricing
CI New	High school diploma or equivalent	<p>6 years' experience in fire investigation or related industry</p> <p>Documented performance of at least 44 instructional hours, with 16 hours instruction time</p>	<p>150 training hours, up to 10% may be untested CFITrainer.net</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethics and the Fire Investigator (3 hours) The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigations (3 hours) Additional training that should provide the applicant with sufficient knowledge base to successfully present information 	<p>IAAI Member: \$150.00</p> <p>Non-IAAI Member: \$395.00</p>
CI Renewal	High school diploma or equivalent	<p>Provide adequate documentation to support continued work experience</p> <p>Documented performance of a minimum of 40 hours of instruction per cycle</p>	80 training hours, up to 10% may be untested	<p>IAAI Member: \$125.00</p> <p>Non-IAAI Member: \$375.00</p>

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Motor Vehicle Credential Endorsement (V)	High school diploma or equivalent	3 years of specific experience in fire investigation, directly involved with motor vehicle fire events	26 tested training hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IAAI-Motor Vehicle Investigation Course of Instruction (16 hours minimum) CFITrainer.net coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation of Motor Vehicle Fires (4 hours) Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical and Fuel Ignitions (3 hours) Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake and Accessory Systems (3 hours) Approved applicants will be activated on CFITrainer and required to pass IAAI Knowledge 1-Motor Vehicle Fires (8 hours) to obtain certification. Fee for Knowledge 1 is included in application fee. *Recertification Application fees will now apply.	IAAI Member: \$150.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$325.00 Renewal Fee: IAAI Member: \$125.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$325.00
Marine Fire Credential Endorsement (M) *Effective Oct. 2025	High school diploma or equivalent	3 years of specific experience in fire investigation, marine vessel fire investigations, and documentation of fire events	40 tested training hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IAAI-Marine Fire Investigation Course of Instruction (24 hours minimum) CFITrainer.net coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical Safety (3 hours) Preparation for Marine Fire Scene (4 hours) Preventing Occupational Exposures to Carcinogens at the Fire Scene (3 hours) Site Safety Assessment (3 hours) Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report (3 hours) Approved applicants will also be required to pass a 50-question exam on CFITrainer.net before being awarded this endorsement.	IAAI Member: \$150.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$325.00 Renewal Fee: IAAI Member: \$125.00 Non-IAAI Member: \$325.00

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