



On June 29, 2010 NICET hosted a webinar for The American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA). The webinar covered NICET's transition to the Standard Model/CBT format, the NICET development process and NICET sprinkler programs. The following are questions received from the audience and answers from NICET.

How does the change to Standard Model/CBT affect individuals that have already certified in the Work Element (WE) Model?

You may maintain any currently held certification by recertifying by your expiration date. The recertification process is not changing at this time.

How does the change to Standard Model/CBT affect individuals that have already tested in the WE Model?

Everyone that has tested or applied to test in the WE model prior to implementation of the new exams will be allowed to continue WE testing during the transition period. Once the transition has ended all testing will be administered in the Standard Model/Computer-Based Testing (CBT) format.

Furthermore, at the end of the transition period, passed WEs (that are not being used to meet a testing requirement) may not be applied toward certification. Individuals who meet a testing requirement will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete the additional certification requirements.

Can I change to Standard Model/CBT before the transition period ends?

You may change to the Standard Model/CBT format anytime after the new exam is released. Once CBT is chosen, however, you may not return to the WE model.

What if you have a WE test scheduled already but wish to change to the new CBT test, is this possible?

Contact NICET. Rescheduling rules apply.

How does the change to Standard Model/CBT affect new applicants?

All new applicants will test in the Standard Model/CBT format once the transition begins.

What are the dates of the transition period?

The transition period begins with the release of the Standard Model/CBT Level I exam and ends approximately one year later.

When is the scheduled release date of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems Layout in the Standard Model/CBT?

Level I and II – September 1, 2010, Level III – October 1, 2010, and Level IV – November 1, 2010.

Please explain what is meant by two tests at Level III for Water-Based Fire Protection Systems Layout?

Water-Based Fire Protection Systems Layout is still a four-level program. Industry Subject Matter Experts (SME) determined it was necessary to score the Hydraulic Calculations part of the content independently at Level III. Therefore, NICET has created two separate tests for Level III to cover all subject matter. The tests will be packaged together for the first administration but scored separately. It will then be possible to retest one or the other separately thereafter. Fees for the exams are to be determined.

When is the scheduled release date of Inspection & Testing of Water-Based Systems in the Standard Model/CBT?

Levels I and II – February 1, 2011 and Level III – March 1, 2011.

How is the content of the exams created?

NICET relies on volunteer SMEs to create the content of the exams and the certification requirements through facilitated workshops.

What is the minimum passing score required for the levels?

The score is unique for each exam and will be published shortly after it is determined. SMEs, using long-standing certification industry score setting practices, determine the passing score for each exam after the test questions are written, reviewed, and assembled into the final exam packages.

How long is CBT exam?

The number of test questions is unique for each exam, and is determined by the final content areas as designed by industry SMEs. This information will be published shortly after it is determined.

What is the test time allotted for the new format?

The time allotted is unique for each exam and will be published shortly after it is determined. Time is allotted for each pre-testing, testing, and post-testing activity to ensure candidates have ample opportunity to complete all sections of the exam, answer all questions and quickly review their answers before submitting their exam to be scored.

Is there is going to be a limit on the number of reference books allowed during testing,

Due to limited work space at the CBT centers, and the security issues surrounding unrestricted reference materials, candidates will be limited to a maximum of four (4) bound reference manuals at any one exam session.

Is there going to be a list of reference books needed for each exam?

Each exam will have a specific list of allowed reference materials. This list can be found on the web page for that program/exam and a comprehensive list can be found at <http://www.nicet.org/cbtreferences/>.

Are the reference materials being provided at the testing site?

No - You must still bring your own reference materials.

Where do we find a list of Pearson VUE testing locations in our area?

Go to <http://www.pearsonvue.com/nicet/> and choose "Locate a Test Center". Or call Pearson VUE at ????

Where can we find the new test application form to apply for water-based fire protection systems layout?

The form will be available at <http://www.nicet.org/candidates/forms.cfm> by early August.

Can you test for more than one level on any given day?

Typically candidates will be allowed to sit for only one test per session. However applicants may schedule (subject to availability) more than one session per day. Additionally, any time more than one test is required to be passed to meet that specific level examination requirement, the tests will be packaged together for the first administration session.

If I took the Level I beta test and passed will I be certified for Level I?

Passing a beta test is the same as passing a live test. However, you still must meet all of the other certification requirements to become NICET certified.

[www.nicet.org](http://www.nicet.org)

What happens if you fail a Standard Model/CBT test?

Failed tests can only be rescheduled for examination after a period of four months has elapsed. Retesting will be limited to three attempts in a two-year span to achieve a passing score.

When do you receive official score reports?

Official score reports are sent from NICET within two weeks of your test date.

How many Level IV certificants are there currently in the automatic sprinkler layout sub-field?

As of July 21, 2010, there are 1,146 Level IV certificants in the Automatic Sprinkler Layout sub-field.

Can the work element tests be taken at the new test centers?

No, work element tests are not available at Pearson VUE test centers.

What happens with cross over modules?

Crossovers only apply to the Work Element model. Once a program has completed the transition period crossovers no longer apply.

What happens to on site testing? Do we need a lab?

Any on site or special testing centers will need computers that meet certain requirements and facilities to administer a high stakes CBT exam.

Is the website fully updated with the new information?

The website is updated with new information within a few days of completion.

“Is there a NICET certification for installation of sprinkler systems?” There is one for layout, and another for inspections.

Currently, there is not a NICET certification for installation of sprinkler systems.

Are you also in partnership with NFSA?

NFSA did not participate in the Industry Partner Initiative but NFSA and most major industry associations cooperate with NICET to support program development activities.

It appears as though more and more Fire Protection Engineers, (FPE's) are becoming increasingly involved in fire sprinkler system design. With this increased involvement in fire sprinkler design and required FPE stamped drawings how will the value of a NICET certification be affected?

Even with increased involvement of FPEs in the design of fire sprinkler systems, NICET anticipates a growing need for Certified Engineering Technicians throughout the United States. FPEs are generally not trained, nor equipped, to prepare all of the detailed design documents and layout drawings needed for a project; and it would not be cost-effective for most FPEs to perform these tasks even if they were trained/equipped. A bigger concern to NICET is the number of non-FPEs that are being asked to review and stamp fire protection drawings.