

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 14, 2020

To: Certified Trade Professionals regulated by Vermont's Division of Fire Safety

From: Michael Schirling, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Subject: COVID-19 Operational Adjustment

Effective March 30, 2020, by authority granted to the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Division of Fire Safety (DFS) under the provisions of the 2015 Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code (DFS Code), DFS extends the deadline for renewals of **Certificate of Fitness** certifications 180 days beyond their effective expiration date. All renewals shall expire on September 30, 2020.

According to DFS Code, Certificate of Fitness renewals require a certified trade professional to complete continuing education classes. Due to the COVID-19 state of emergency, available continuing education classes are limited to online classes. In order to provide certified trade professionals sufficient time to complete online classes and permit these trade professionals to continue providing services and functions deemed critical to public health and safety, DFS is granting this renewal extension.

The DFS encourages all certified trade professionals to take advantage of DFS's online training classes. The DFS also encourages all certified trade professionals to participate in these online training classes as soon as possible to allow for the timely issuance of Certificate of Fitness renewals.

This renewal extension applies to the following certified trade professionals regulated by the DFS Code:

- Certified Propane and Natural Gas Technicians (all levels of certifications)
- Oil Heat Technicians (all levels of certification)
- Sprinkler System Professionals (all levels of certifications)
- Chimney and Solid Fuel Burning Appliance Technicians
- Emergency Generator Technicians
- Fixed Fire Extinguishing System Designers, Installers and Inspectors
- Trade professionals engaged in Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems

Please note DFS is seeking legislative relief for plumbing and electrician licensing requirements.

Please direct questions about this memorandum to the Division of Fire Safety's Executive Director, Michael Desrochers at michael.desrochers@vermont.gov or by phone 802-479-7539