Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

Department 205 RULES OF FIREFIGHTER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL, GEORGIA

Current through Rules and Regulations filed through October 27, 2026

Table of Contents

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY
Chapter 205-1. ORGANIZATION.
Subject 205-1-1. GEORGIA FIREFIGHTERS MINIMUM STANDARD COUNCIL.
Rule 205-1-1-.01. Definitions.
Rule 205-1-1-.02. Organization.
Rule 205-1-1-.03. Appointment of the Executive Director.
Rule 205-1-1-.04. Duties of the Executive Director.
Rule 205-1-1-.05. Repealed.
Rule 205-1-1-.06. Repealed.
Rule 205-1-1-.07. Repealed.
Subject 205-1-2. FIRE DEPARTMENTS OPERATING IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.
Rule 205-1-2-.01. Definitions.
Rule 205-1-2-.02. Minimum Requirements for Fire Departments.
Rule 205-1-2-.03. Minimum Equipment Required for County, Municipal or Private Corporation Fire Departments.
Rule 205-1-2-.04. Requirements for Airport Fire Department Compliance.
Rule 205-1-2-.05. Minimum Equipment Required for Airport Fire Departments.
Rule 205-1-2-.06. Minimum Equipment Required for Apparatus Other Than Fire Department Pumper and ARFF Apparatus.
Rule 205-1-2-.07. Training Records and Reports.

Rule 205-1-2-.08. Request for Waiver or Extension of Existing Requirements.
Subject 205-1-3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREFIGHTERS OPERATING IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.
Rule 205-1-3-.01. Definitions.
Rule 205-1-3-.02. Registration.
Rule 205-1-3-.03. Notification to GFSTC of Personnel Separation and Surrender of Certification.
Rule 205-1-3-.04. Classifications of Fire Service Personnel.
Rule 205-1-3-.05. Minimum Requirements for Schools, Institutions, and Facilities Operating for the Purpose of Training Fire Service Personnel.
Rule 205-1-3-.06. Responsibility to Keep Records Current.
Subject 205-1-4. AUTHORITY OF GFSTC TO EFFECT ADVERSE ACTIONS ON FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND FIREFIGHTERS.
Rule 205-1-4-.01. Definitions.
Rule 205-1-4-.02. Legal Authority.
Rule 205-1-4-.03. Suspension or Revocation of Certificates of Compliance.
Rule 205-1-4-.04. Notification by Individuals and Fire Departments of Unlawful Acts.
Rule 205-1-4-.05. Decertification, Probation and Suspension of Firefighter State Certification/Registration.
Rule 205-1-4-.06. Notice of Adverse or Derogatory Action.
Rule 205-1-4-.07. Appeals and Hearings Requests.
Rule 205-1-4-.08. Judicial Review.
Rule 205-1-4-.09. Final Filing of Appeals, Hearings and Reviews.
Rule 205-1-4-.10. Petition for Reinstatement of Certification, Registration, or Reconsideration of Application for Individual Firefighters or Applicants.
Subject 205-1-5. TESTING AND EVALUATION OF TRAINING FOR FIREFIGHTERS OPERATING IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.
Rule 205-1-5-.01. Definitions.
Rule 205-1-5-.02. Validation of Test Instruments.
Rule 205-1-5-.03. Course Evaluations.
Rule 205-1-5-.04. Test Administration.
Rule 205-1-5-.05. Maintenance of Test Results.
Rule 205-1-5-.06. Reciprocity.
Subject 205-1-6. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.
Rule 205-1-6-.01. Review of Criminal History Reports.
Rule 205-1-6-.02. Inquiries into Complaints.
Subject 205-1-7. STUDIES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE FIRE SERVICE.
Rule 205-1-7-.01. Studies for Improvement of the Fire Service.
Subject 205-1-8. AUTHORITY TO EXCEED MINIMUM STANDARDS.

Rule 205-1-8-.01. Established Minimum Standards.
Subject 205-1-9. SUBMISSION OF FALSE INFORMATION TO GFSTC.
Rule 205-1-9-.01. Supplying or Condoning the Submission of False Information to GFSTC.
Rule 205-1-9-.02. Council Action on Submission of False Information.
Appendix A. Repealed.
Appendix B. Repealed.
Appendix C. Repealed.
GLOSSARY OF TERMS
Chapter 205-2. MINIMUM STANDARDS.
Subject 205-2-1. REPEALED.
Rule 205-2-1-.01. Repealed.
Rule 205-2-1-.02. Repealed.
Rule 205-2-1-.03. Repealed.
Rule 205-2-1-.04. Repealed.
Rule 205-2-1-.05. Repealed.
Rule 205-2-1-.06. Repealed.
Rule 205-2-1-.07. Repealed.
Rule 205-2-1-.08. Repealed.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The **Administrative History** following each Rule gives the date on which the Rule was originally filed and its effective date, as well as the date on which any amendment or repeal was filed and its effective date. Principal abbreviations used in the Administrative History are as follows:

f. - filed

eff. - effective

R. - Rule (Abbreviated only at the beginning of the control number)

Ch. - Chapter (Abbreviated only at the beginning of the control number)

ER. - Emergency Rule

Rev. - Revised

Note: Emergency Rules are listed in each Rule's Administrative History by Emergency Rule number, date filed and effective date. The Emergency Rule will be in effect for 120 days or until the effective date of a permanent Rule covering the same subject matter superseding this Emergency Rule is adopted, as specified by the Agency.

Chapters 205-1-1 and 205-2-1 were filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-2-1-.04 amended. F. Sep. 20, 2012; eff. Oct. 10, 2012.

Rules 205-1-1-.01 and 205-1-1-.02 amended, Rules 205-1-1-.03 to 205-1-1-.07 adopted. F. Oct. 22, 2013; eff. Nov. 11, 2013.

Rules 205-1-1-.01, .02, .03, .04 amended. Rules 205-1-1-.05, .06, .07 repealed. Chapters 205-1-2 entitled "Fire Departments Operating in the State of Georgia," 205-1-3 entitled "Minimum Requirements for Firefighters Operating in the State of Georgia," 205-1-4 entitled "Authority of GFSTC to Effect Adverse Actions on Fire Departments and Firefighters," 205-1-5 entitled "Testing and Evaluation of Training for Firefighters Operating in the State of Georgia," 205-1-6 entitled "Professional Standards," 205-1-7 entitled "Studies for Improvement of the Fire Service," 205-1-8 entitled "Authority to Exceed Minimum Standards," 205-1-9 entitled

"Submission of False Information to GFSTC," 205-1 Glossary of Terms, 205-1 Appendixes A., B., and C. adopted. Chapter 205-2-1 repealed. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-2-.02 amended. F. Sep. 21, 2017; eff. Jan. 1, 2018, as specified by the Agency.

Rules 205-1-1-.01, 205-1-2-.01, .02, .07, 205-1-3-.01 through .04, 205-1-5-.01, .02, .04, .06 amended. F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.

Rules 205-1-2-.01, .02, .03, 205-1-3-.01, .02, .03, .04, 205-1-5-.01, .03, .04, .05, .06 amended; 205-1 Glossary of Terms amended; 205-1 Appendixes A., B., C. repealed. Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. dept. 205, ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Chapter 205-1. ORGANIZATION.

Subject 205-1-1. GEORGIA FIREFIGHTERS MINIMUM STANDARD COUNCIL.

Rule 205-1-1-.01. Definitions.

(1) **"Council"** means for the purpose of these Rules and Regulations the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(2) **"Executive Director"** means for these Rules and Regulations the executive director of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(3) **"Fire department"** means any department, agency, organization, or company operating in this state with the intent and purpose of carrying out the duties, functions, powers, and responsibilities normally associated with a fire department and which is authorized to exercise the general and emergency powers enumerated in O.C.G.A. 25-3-1 and 25-3-2. These duties, functions, powers, and responsibilities include but are not limited to the protection of life and property against fire, explosions, or other hazards.

(4) **"Firefighter"** means any able-bodied person at least 18 years of age who has been duly appointed by a legally constituted fire department and who has the responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires, protecting life and property, and performing other duties enumerated in O.C.G.A. 25-3-1 and 25-3-2.

(5) **"GFSTC"** means the Executive Director and personnel of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(6) **"GFSTC Staff"** means the personnel who work under the direction of the Executive Director.

(7) **"Probation"** means an action taken by Council when certified personnel commit acts in violation of the Rules & Regulations and/or Policy & Procedures of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-1-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-21, 25-4-2, 25-4-7, 25-4-10.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: New title "Promulgation and Purpose." F. Oct. 22, 2013; eff. Nov. 11, 2013.
Amended: New title "Definitions." F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-1-.02. Organization.

(1) The Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council hereinafter referred to as "Council" shall consist of the duly appointed members as specified under O.C.G.A. § 25-4-6.

(a) Six members of the Council in attendance at a called meeting, either in person or electronically, shall constitute a quorum.

(b) The Council shall hold at least two regular meetings each year at the call of the chairperson or upon the written request of at least six members of the Council.

(c) At the first regular meeting of the Council held in each even-numbered year, the Council shall elect a chairperson.

(d) At the first regular meeting of the Council held in each even-numbered year, the Council shall elect other officers from its own membership as it deems necessary.

(e) The chairperson and other elected officers shall serve until successors are elected by the council as provided in O.C.G.A. § 25-4-3.

(f) Each member of the Council shall be entitled to receive the same expense and mileage allowance authorized for members of professional licensing boards by subsection (f) of O.C.G.A. 43-1-2 incurred while carrying out their official duties of the council. The funds for such expenses and allowances shall be paid from funds appropriated or available to the Department of Public Safety.

(2) The Council shall adopt such Rules & Regulations as necessary for the transaction of its business.

(3) The Council may designate an advisory committee to assist and advise the Council in carrying out its duties specified under Chapter 4 of Title 25.

(a) Such advisory committee shall not consist of more than three (3) members and shall be representative of the fire service with experience or expertise in such matters to be studied.

(b) Such advisory committee members shall serve in an advisory capacity only, without voting privileges.

(c) The members of any such advisory committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Council.

(d) Each member of an advisory committee of the Council, shall be entitled to receive the same expense and mileage allowance authorized for members of professional licensing boards by subsection (f) of O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2 incurred while carrying out their official duties of the council. The funds for such expenses and allowances shall be paid from funds appropriated or available to the Department of Public Safety.

(4) The Council shall make annual reports to the Governor of Georgia and the members of the Georgia General Assembly.

(a) Such reports shall be in writing and indicate:

1. The activities of the Council from the past year.

2. Recommendations for appropriate legislation to assist in the Council's charge and responsibilities.

(b) Copies shall be distributed to each member of the Council by the Executive Director prior to filing with the Governor.

(c) Copies of the Council report shall not be required to be distributed to the membership of the General Assembly provided the Executive Director notifies the members of the General Assembly of the availability of the report in a manner which the Council deems to be most effective and efficient.

(5) The public may obtain information or make submissions or requests to the Council at or through the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council's office by mail or electronic submission. Members of the Standards and Training Council shall be updated at each Council meeting of such requests since the last council meeting.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-1-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-4-3, 25-4-6, 43-1-2.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: New title "Definitions." F. Oct. 22, 2013; eff. Nov. 11, 2013.
Amended: New title "Organization." F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-1-.03. Appointment of the Executive Director.

(1) The Council shall appoint the Executive Director who shall serve at the pleasure of the Council.

(2) The Council shall establish the compensation of the Executive Director.

(3) Annual reviews shall be provided to the Executive Director by the Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-1-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-4-7.1, 50-13-21.
History. Original Rule entitled "Organization" adopted. F. Oct. 22, 2013; eff. Nov. 11, 2013.
Amended: New title "Appointment of the Executive Director." F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-1-.04. Duties of the Executive Director.

(1) The Executive Director may employ such other managerial, professional, technical, and clerical personnel as required to conduct the business of the Council with the approval of the Council.

(2) The Executive Director may contract for such services as may be necessary and convenient to carry out the business of the Council as approved by the Council.

(3) The Executive Director may enter into contracts. Such contracts shall be for either monetary or in kind services received or rendered by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(4) The Executive Director shall provide a budget report to the Council regarding expenditures, personnel, and Staffing needs of the GFSTC.

(5) The Executive Director shall compile an annual report for the Governor and the members of the Georgia General Assembly. The annual report shall be submitted to the Council for review and approval a minimum of 30 days prior to the submission to the executive branch.

(6) The Executive Director shall determine department compliance and issue Certificates of Compliance to fire departments and their individual stations that exhibit compliance with the minimum requirements as approved by the Council. The Fire Department Certificate of Compliance is and shall remain the property of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council and may be revoked following due process for violations of the laws of the State of Georgia or Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(7) The Executive Director shall issue Certificates of Compliance for State Certification and/or Volunteer Registration for Firefighters that exhibit compliance with the minimum requirements as approved by the Council. The Firefighters' Certificate(s) of Compliance is (are) and shall remain the property of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council and may be revoked following due process for violations of the laws of the state of Georgia or Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(8) The Executive Director shall determine the need and time-frame to conduct on-site reviews at fire departments operating in the State of Georgia. On-site reviews are designed to ensure that agencies and personnel meet and continue to meet minimum requirements as established in O.C.G.A. 25-3, Article 2 and O.C.G.A. 25-4 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(9) The Executive Director may place the certification(s)/registration of any person certified/registered by the GFSTC on probation/suspension upon notice that the person has committed a violation of Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. With Council approval the individual may be decertified based on an investigation of the violation.

(10) The Executive Director may void test results in the event that it is determined that some form of misconduct or deception was involved in the testing process.

(11) The Executive Director shall cooperate with newly formed and existing fire departments to ensure that all fire departments in this state are in compliance.

(12) The Executive Director shall have the authority to administer the Rules & Regulations and the Policy & Procedures of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. The Executive Director shall ensure that all business conducted by the GFSTC is done in accordance with GFSTC Vision, Mission and Core Values statements.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-1-.04
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-2325-3-24, 25-3-25, 25-3-26, 25-4-6, 25-4-7, 25-4-7.1.
History. Original Rule entitled "Appointment of the Executive Director" adopted. F. Oct. 22, 2013; eff. Nov. 11, 2013.
Amended: New title "Duties of the Executive Director." F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-1-.05. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-1-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Duties of the Executive Director" adopted. F. Oct. 22, 2013; eff. Nov. 11, 2013.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-1-.06. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-1-.06
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Notes" adopted. F. Oct. 22, 2013; eff. Nov. 11, 2013.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-1-.07. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-1-.07
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Severability" adopted. F. Oct. 22, 2013; eff. Nov. 11, 2013.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Subject 205-1-2. FIRE DEPARTMENTS OPERATING IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

Rule 205-1-2-.01. Definitions.

(1) **"Airport"** means any airport located in this state which has regularly scheduled commercial air carrier service or commuter airline service as required for certification under Section 139.49 of the Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

(2) **"Airport Firefighter"** means any person assigned to any airport located in this state that performs the duties of aircraft fire fighting or rescue.

(3) **"Fire Chief"** means the Chief Commanding Officer of a Fire Department that is either Qualified Volunteer Suppression for volunteer departments or State Certified Firefighter for career and combination departments.

(4) **"Hot Zone"** means the area immediately surrounding a hazardous incident, which extends far enough to prevent adverse effects to individuals outside the area.

(5) **"Records Review"** means a review of records developed at the local fire department to be maintained and available for review upon request by GFSTC.

(6) **"Volunteer"** means not employed for compensation but appointed, registered with the GFSTC, and enrolled to serve as a firefighter for any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

(7) **"Volunteer Support Firefighter"** means a firefighter who has been registered with the GFSTC, trained to the level of Volunteer Support Firefighter and passed the Volunteer Support Firefighter test and Hazardous Materials Awareness written and skills tests as specified by the Council. Volunteer Support Firefighters are not trained or qualified to perform duties in the Hot Zone.

(8) **"Volunteer Suppression Firefighter"** means a firefighter who has been registered with the GFSTC, trained to the level of Volunteer Suppression Firefighter and passed the Volunteer Suppression Firefighter tests, to include live structure fire training, and Hazardous Materials Awareness written and skills tests as specified by the Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-2-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-21, 25-4-2, 25-4-7, 25-4-10.
History. Original Rule entitled "Definitions" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-2-.02. Minimum Requirements for Fire Departments.

(1) Recognizing that fire departments operating in the State of Georgia cannot function effectively and efficiently as full-time fire departments without meeting or exceeding the minimum requirements established by Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Title 25, Chapter 3 - Article 2. It is the intent of these Rules & Regulations to establish the

minimum requirements for all fire departments operating in this state in order to receive a Certificate of Compliance.

(a) Legally organized fire departments shall be established as an entity of the State of Georgia or a political sub-division of the State of Georgia (a city, county, board, etc.).

(b) Legally organized fire departments may exist as a private corporation incorporated either for-profit or not-for-profit through the State of Georgia Secretary of State and have a written contract to provide fire and emergency services with one or more local governments in Georgia.

(c) Every department in the State of Georgia must have a Chief or like title that is Qualified Volunteer Suppression for Volunteer Departments, or a State Certified Firefighter for Combination and Career Departments.

(2) No fire department shall exercise the general and emergency powers set forth in O.C.G.A. § 25-3-1 and § 25-3-2 without obtaining a Certificate of Compliance issued from the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council.

(3) Fire departments operating in the State of Georgia shall be established to provide fire and other emergency and nonemergency services in accordance with the applicable state laws, local government ordinances, and the minimum standards specified by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. These fire departments shall:

(a) Be capable of providing fire protection 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Understanding the nature of the fire service in the State of Georgia, this may be accomplished through the use of mutual-aid or automatic-aid agreements with neighboring fire departments.

(b) Be responsible for a defined area of operations depicted on a map located at the responding fire station(s). This area of operations as depicted on the map shall have been approved and designated by the governing authority of the applicable county, municipality, or other political subdivision in the case of any county, municipal, or private corporation fire department.

(c) Be Staffed with a minimum number of trained Volunteer Suppression or State Certified Firefighters who have successfully completed basic firefighter training as specified by the Council.

1. Minimum Staffing shall be four (4) Volunteer Suppression or State Certified Firefighters per station. An average of six (6) members per station, of which 2 of the 6 may be Volunteer Support Firefighters, is recommended. The minimum number of firefighters will be calculated as an aggregate total for the entire department.

2. Each firefighter must be at least 18 years of age.

3. Each firefighter must be duly appointed by a legally organized and compliant fire department.

(4) A legally organized fire department shall provide and maintain coverage in accordance with Code section 25-3-23(b). Upon cancellation or reinstatement of any policy for the coverage of each member of the fire department, the Executive Director of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council shall be notified immediately.

(a) ACCG members shall provide proof of insurance coverage for all personnel.

(b) GMA members shall provide proof of insurance coverage for all personnel.

(c) Departments using other insurance carriers or means of being self-insured shall provide a copy of the insurance policy, a council/commission resolution or other proof of coverage.

(5) The GFSTC Compliance Package must be submitted to GFSTC. In addition to the completed Compliance Application, the department shall include the following documentation:

(a) A defined area of operation for each station shall be depicted on a map not less than 8.5 x 11 shall be filed with the application for a Certificate of Compliance.

(b) A letter from the governing authority of the applicable county, municipality or other political subdivision in the case of any county, municipal or private corporation fire department approving the designated area of authority.

(c) An affidavit from the governing authority of the applicable county, municipality, or other political subdivision in the case of any county, municipal or volunteer fire department indicating the operation of the department's intent and purpose of carrying out the duties, functions, powers, and responsibilities normally associated with the operation of a fire department and the ability to provide fire protection for the area of operation filed with the application for Certificate of Compliance 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

(d) A copy of the insurance certificate or proof otherwise of coverage that complies with Code Section 25-3-23(b). Upon cancellation or reinstatement of any policy for the insurance coverage of each member of the fire department, the executive director of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council shall be notified immediately but no less than two business days.

(6) Before a fire department may begin legal operations, an on-site review must be conducted by GFSTC Staff to confirm the information contained in the Compliance Package.

(7) Documentation from the Safety Fire Division of the Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner indicating that the fire department is, and remains, in compliance with the reporting requirements for fires by state law as specified in O.C.G.A. § 25-2-32(b) and provided for by § 25-3-24.

(8) The Executive Director of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council shall issue a Certificate of Compliance according to Rules & Regulations and Policy & Procedures of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-2-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-4, 25-3-20, 25-3-22, 25-3-23, 25-3-24.
History. Original Rule entitled "Minimum Requirements for Fire Departments" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Sep. 21, 2017; eff. Jan. 1, 2018, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-2-.03. Minimum Equipment Required for County, Municipal or Private Corporation Fire Departments.

(1) Each fire station, unless granted an exemption as approved by the Council shall possess a minimum of one equipped, operable pumper with a capacity of at least 750 gpm at 150 psi and a tank capacity of a minimum 250 gallons. (A minimum of a 500-gallon tank capacity is recommended). Previously approved fire apparatus which does not meet this minimum standard or recommendation may be used in lieu of the minimum required pumper until total replacement or chassis replacement by the local authority until January 1, 2025. The previously approved fire apparatus may be retained for use as a mobile water supply, brush truck, etc., however, not for structure fires involving interior fire attack or search and rescue operations in structures normally occupied by human inhabitants.

(a) Operability of this pumper shall be proven by:

1. Presenting documentation of a current (completed once per calendar year) pump service test.

a. The pump service test shall be conducted by qualified fire service personnel or by a qualified third party.

b. At the discretion of GFSTC staff, departments may be asked to engage the pump during site visits.

(2) A minimum of the following equipment, appliances, adapters, and accessories for structural pumper apparatus shall include:

(a) 400 feet of 11/2", 13/4", or 2" double-jacketed, lined fire hose

(b) Two (2) handline nozzles, 95 gpm minimum

(c) Two (2) portable fire extinguishers suitable for use on class A, B, and C fires, with a minimum rating of 80BC for dry chemical, 10BC CO_2 or 21/2 gallon water extinguishers

(d) A minimum of two (2) functional positive-pressure Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus on each primary pumping apparatus at each station.

(e) One (1) spare SCBA cylinder for each SCBA carried

(f) One (1) 12 foot or longer fire service rated roof ladder

(g) One (1) 24 foot or longer fire service rated extension ladder

(h) One (1) pick head ax

(i) One (1) flat head ax

(j) One (1) pike pole or plaster hook (minimum 6-feet in length)

(k) One (1) claw tool or multipurpose, forcible entry tool (minimum 30-inches in length)

(l) One (1) bolt cutter (minimum 24-inches in length)

(m) One (1) crowbar or pry bar

(n) Two (2) functioning portable battery-powered hand lights

(o) Wheel chock(s)

(p) One (1) two-way radio assigned to the apparatus

(q) One (1) ANSI approved traffic vest per assigned seating position (exception: if assigned to each member it is not necessary to be on apparatus.)

(r) Two (2) Spanner wrenches or suitable hose fastening wrench

(s) One (1) hydrant wrench

(t) One (1) double male coupling

(u) One (1) double female coupling

(v) One (1) folding ladder

(w) One (1) salvage cover or material suitable for fire service salvage operations.

(x) 500 feet of 21/2" diameter or larger supply hose to meet the jurisdiction needs

(3) Personal protective clothing to allow for each on-scene Firefighter to safely perform the duties of a Structural Firefighter while engaged in fighting a structure fire.

(a) Personal protective clothing shall include a helmet, coat, pants, boots, gloves, and hood that meet NFPA standards at the time of manufacture.

(b) All personal protective clothing shall be in good repair.

(c) It is recommended that the condition of all equipment be checked after each use and on an annual basis to ensure that the integrity of the equipment is maintained for emergency use and follows manufacturers' recommendations for cleaning and replacement. A sampling of the department's protective clothing shall be made available to GFSTC Staff during an on-site review.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-2-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-23, 25-3-24.
History. Original Rule entitled "Minimum Equipment Required for County, Municipal or Private Corporation Fire Departments" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-2-.04. Requirements for Airport Fire Department Compliance.

(1) Airport fire departments shall meet minimum requirements for fire departments as described in Rule 205-1-2.01 of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council Rules & Regulations. To be legally organized, an airport fire department shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) Established to provide fire and other emergency and non-emergency services in accordance with standards specified by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(b) Capable of providing rescue and fire protection during air carrier operations at the airport, as specified by Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

(c) Responsible for a defined area of operation depicted on a map and prominently displayed in the fire station. The area of operation shall have been approved and designated by the governing authority of the airport.

(d) In order for Airport Fire Departments to be considered for the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance they shall be staffed with a minimum number of ARFF trained firefighters.

1. Minimum Staffing shall be a minimum of four (4) State Certified Airport Firefighters per station. An average of six (6) is recommended. The minimum number of firefighters will be calculated as an aggregate total for the entire fire department.

2. Each firefighter must be at least 18 years of age.

3. Each firefighter must be duly appointed by a legally organized and compliant fire department.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-2-.04
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-20, 25-3-24, 25-4-2.
History. Original Rule entitled "Requirements for Airport Fire Department Compliance" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-2-.05. Minimum Equipment Required for Airport Fire Departments.

(1) Each ARFF fire station, unless granted an exemption as approved by the Council, shall possess a minimum of one equipped, operable ARFF-rated apparatus and equipment meeting the applicable index requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) Self-contained breathing apparatus to allow for each on-scene Aircraft Rescue Firefighter to safely perform the duties of an Aircraft Rescue Firefighter while engaged in emergency operations.

(3) A minimum of the following equipment, appliances, adapters, and accessories for an ARFF pumper apparatus shall include:

(a) One (1) ground ladder

(b) One (1) section of NFPA compliant hose of minimum 21/2 -inch diameter for tank fill

(c) Two (2) appropriate spanner wrenches for the fittings on the vehicle

(d) One (1) hydrant wrench or other wrench necessary to activate the local water supply

(e) One (1) skin penetrator/agent applicator

(f) Appropriate wheel chocks

(g) 100 feet of utility rope

(h) Two (2) axes, non-wedge type (crash axes)

(i) One (1) fire-resistant blanket

(j) One (1) bolt cutters (minimum 24-inches in length)

(k) One (1) multipurpose, forcible entry tool (minimum 30-inches in length)

(l) Two (2) functioning intrinsically safe flashlights

(m) Two (2) harness cutting tools

(n) One (1) hook, grab, or salvage tool

(o) One (1) first aid kit

(p) One (1) four-pound hammer

(q) Set of hydraulic extrication tools or an agreement with a responding fire department

(4) Possess and equip rescue and firefighting personnel with personal protective clothing and equipment needed to perform their duties in a safe manner.

(a) Personal protective clothing shall include an approved helmet, coat, pants, boots, gloves, and hood.

(b) All personal protective clothing shall be in good repair.

1. It is recommended that the condition of all equipment be checked after each use and on an annual basis to ensure that the integrity of the equipment is maintained for emergency use and follows manufacturers' recommendations for cleaning and replacement.

(c) All personal protective clothing shall meet the appropriate NFPA and Federal Aviation Administration standards at the time of manufacture.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-2-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-20, and 25-3-24.
History. Original Rule entitled "Minimum Equipment Required for Airport Fire Departments" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-2-.06. Minimum Equipment Required for Apparatus Other Than Fire Department Pumper and ARFF Apparatus.

(1) A fire station shall possess a compliant fire department apparatus in order to receive a Certificate of Compliance. This section allows for compliance for stations that are granted exemption for pumper or ARFF apparatus by the Executive Director based on a list of equipment as approved by the Council. It establishes minimum equipment for the apparatus in those stations with one of the following types of apparatus:

(a) Aerial *

(b) Fire Boat*

(c) Mobile Water Supply (Tanker/Tender)*

(d) Rescue/Squad*

(e) Service*

(f) Trench Rescue*

(g) Other apparatus as approved by GFSTC*

*** Please see Appendix A**

(1) Each apparatus type listed in 205-1-2-.05(1) must be equipped with the equipment, appliances, adapters, and accessories necessary to perform and carry out the duties and responsibilities of a fire department set forth in O.C.G.A. § 25-3-1 and § 25-3-2 as approved by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-2-.06
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-20, 25-3-24.
History. Original Rule entitled "Minimum Equipment Required for Apparatus Other Than Fire Department Pumper and ARFF Apparatus" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-2-.07. Training Records and Reports.

(1) The fire department shall maintain required records which can be made available to GFSTC Staff upon request for the purpose of records review.

(2) The fire department shall submit training reports throughout the year to GFSTC confirming that all personnel have met minimum training requirements as established by

the Council. All reports must be completed and submitted annually by midnight, December 31.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-2-.07
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-24, 25-3-26, 25-4-10.
History. Original Rule entitled "Training Records and Reports" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-2-.08. Request for Waiver or Extension of Existing Requirements.

(1) Except as otherwise provided by law and for good cause shown, the Executive Director may, in the exercise of his/her discretion, grant a waiver or waivers of an existing requirement or grant a reasonable period or periods of extension of any requirement imposed on a fire department under these Rules & Regulations. All requests for waivers or extensions must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director by the fire chief of the affected department.

(2) The written request must contain the following information:

(a) Name, present address, and telephone number of person requesting waiver or extension, and;

(b) A statement clearly outlining why the requestor feels that a waiver or extension is justified.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-2-.08
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-23, 25-3-25, 25-3-26, 25-4-3, 25-4-6, 25-4-7, 25-4-7.1, 33-2-9, 50-13-9.1.
History. Original Rule entitled "Request for Waiver or Extension of Existing Requirements" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Subject 205-1-3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREFIGHTERS OPERATING IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

Rule 205-1-3-.01. Definitions.

(1) **"Authority Having Jurisdiction"** or "AHJ" means an organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

(2) **"Candidate"** means a prospective firefighter who has not yet been certified by the Council as having met the requirements of this chapter.

(3) **"Certified"** means any individual requiring state certification who has been certified as having met the requirements established by the Council.

(4) **"Certified Firefighter"** or **"State Certified Firefighter"** means any firefighter who has been certified by the Council as having met the requirements of this chapter.

(5) **"Compensation"** means paid on an hourly or salaried basis.

(6) **"Continued Annual Training"** means the professional development training needed to meet minimum requirements to maintain certification(s)/qualification each calendar year as approved by the Fire Chief.

(7) **"Continued Certification"** means having met the minimum professional development training required each calendar year for those individuals who are certified by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council to maintain their certification(s).

(8) **"Designee"** means the representative designated by the Fire Chief to deal with matters of the Council.

(9) **"Explorer Program"** means a program for older youth 14-20 years old that offers hands-on and interactive character and career activities facilitated by fire service personnel from the local community.

(10) **"Fire and Life Safety Educator"** means a person who is trained to deliver fire and life safety training programs to the general public.

(11) **"Fire Department Training Officer"** means the person responsible for administrative work in planning, organizing, coordinating, and directing training activities of the Fire Department.

(12) **"Firefighter"** means any able-bodied person at least 18 years of age who has been duly appointed by a legally constituted fire department and who has the responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires, protecting life and property, and performing other duties enumerated in O.C.G.A. § 25-3-1 and § 25-3-2.

(13) **"Fire Inspector"** means a person who is trained to perform fire and life safety inspections of all types of new construction and existing occupancies.

(14) **"Fire Investigator"** means a person who is trained to investigate and determine fire cause and origin.

(15) **"Fire Service Instructor"** means the person responsible for delivering instruction effectively from prepared materials at the direction, and often under the supervision, of the Fire Department Training Officer.

(16) **"Full-time"** or **"Career"** means employed for compensation on a basis of at least 40 hours per week by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

(17) **"Georgia Fire Academy"** or **"GFA"** means a division of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center that is responsible for training fire service personnel.

(18) **"Good Standing"** means a person has complied with all of their explicit obligations while not being subject to any form of sanction, suspension, or disciplinary censure.

(19) **"Inmate Firefighter"** means an individual currently serving a sentence as a Georgia Department of Corrections inmate and currently enrolled, or who has successfully completed, the Georgia Department of Corrections Inmate Firefighter training program, and is recognized by the Georgia Department of Corrections as such.

(20) **"Live Fire Training"** means a structure fire control class conducted by the Georgia Fire Academy or a structure fire control class conducted at another location where at least one qualified instructor has completed a live fire instructor course conducted in accordance with the current edition of NFPA 1403.

(21) **"Part-time"** means employed for compensation for an average of less than 30 hours per week by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

(22) **"Pathway Program"** means a firefighter training program conducted in a Georgia high school and sponsored by a compliant Georgia fire department as approved by the Council.

(23) **"Professional Development"** means training that meets a national or state standard, or addresses a specific area of local service delivery (this does not include daily duties such as maintenance, territory study, equipment checks, etc., unless it is for a recruit or probationary personnel) and performed in a classroom, at a conference, a drill field setting, etc. with instruction by an individual deemed to be qualified by the fire chief/designee.

(24) **"Qualified"** means that the recruit has completed required training and testing and that the fire department has submitted necessary paperwork to GFSTC verifying that the recruit has met the necessary requirements as approved by the Council.

(25) **"Recertification"** means restoring the certification(s) to those individuals who have lost their certification(s).

(26) **"Recruit"** means a prospective firefighter or student in technical college, private school, high school, enrolled in an approved Pathway Program or Explorer Program who has not yet been certified or qualified by the Council as having met the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 25-4 and these Rules & Regulations.

(27) **"Registered"** means that the department has added the individual to their roster on the GFSTC database.

(28) **"Volunteer Support Firefighter"** means a firefighter who has been registered with the GFSTC, trained to the level of Volunteer Support Firefighter and passed the Volunteer

Support Firefighter test and Hazardous Materials Awareness written and skills tests as specified by the Council. Volunteer Support Firefighters are not trained or qualified to perform duties in the Hot Zone.

(29) **"Volunteer Suppression Firefighter"** means a firefighter who has been registered with the GFSTC, trained to the level of Volunteer Suppression Firefighter and passed the Volunteer Suppression Firefighter tests, to include live structure fire training, and Hazardous Materials Awareness written and skills tests as specified by the Council.

(30) **"Trained to the Level of"** means that the candidate has met all of the requirements of a course, and has tested through GFSTC.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-3-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-21, 25-4-2, 25-4-7, 25-4-10.
History. Original Rule entitled "Minimum Equipment Required for County, Municipal or Private Corporation Fire Departments" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-3-.02. Registration.

(1) All active fire service personnel, except civilian personnel, must be registered with GFSTC.

(2) All members of any fire department operating in the State of Georgia must be registered with GFSTC prior to participating in any activities with the fire department. As of the approval date for this document, within 30 days the fire department shall review its roster and ensure that all personnel are registered in the GFSTC database. Any personnel not showing on the department's roster shall be added to the roster by the department. The registration process is not completed until a Volunteer Application or Certification Application form is submitted for each individual to GFSTC.

(a) The fire department shall verify the status of all fire service personnel on their roster in the GFSTC database as assigned to one of the following categories:

1. C - Career Firefighter
2. P - Part-Time Firefighter
3. V - Volunteer Suppression Firefighter
4. S - Volunteer Support Firefighter
5. I - Inmate Firefighter
6. R - Recruit

(b) Initial registration shall be reported electronically through the GFSTC database.

(c) The Registration process is not complete until the fire department submits a Volunteer Application Package or Certification Package.

(d) Any time the status of an individual changes this information must be changed on the GFSTC website by the reporting agency reported to GFSTC electronically and/or using a Roster Update form.

(e) A fire department shall submit a Roster Update form notifying GFSTC and requesting a military leave of absence for any fire service personnel receiving orders for a deployment of six (6) months or greater and are not expected to meet the annual 24 hour training requirement.

1. In addition, the fire department shall submit a copy of the individual's deployment orders to GFSTC.

2. The fire department shall submit a copy of the individual's release from duty orders to GFSTC along with a Roster Update form for personnel returning to the fire department from military service.

(f) A fire department shall submit a Roster Update form notifying and requesting an extended medical leave of absence for any fire service personnel that are anticipated to not meet the annual minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of training and/or are expected to be on leave for six (6) months or greater.

1. When requesting an extended medical leave of absence, the fire department shall submit a written doctor's excuse or letter of authorization from the fire chief/designee. GFSTC does not require that the doctor's diagnosis be included, just that the doctor has placed the employee on extended medical leave.

2. Upon their return, the fire department shall submit a doctor's release or letter of authorization from the fire chief/designee for the individual's return to duty.

3. Any leave of absence request shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Director.

(3) All registered members of any fire department operating in the State of Georgia shall:

(a) Be at least 18 years of age as verified by the Fire Chief or his/her designee through an inspection of a birth certificate, a valid Georgia Drivers' License, or a government issued photo identification that includes the applicant's date of birth.

(b) Be a legal United States citizen or possess valid and current documentation to be legally employed in the State of Georgia as determined by the AHJ.

(c) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within ten years prior to appointment (except as provided in O.C.G.A. § 25-4-8).**

1. For qualification of volunteer personnel, a criminal history search shall be made of local and state databases to disclose any criminal record. The department shall maintain a signed affidavit containing the technical control number and signatures of the terminal operator and fire chief or designee.

2. Personnel seeking State Certification shall be fingerprinted and a search made of local, state, and national fingerprint files to disclose any criminal record.

3. It is recommended that a search of national criminal information databases be conducted on all applicants in addition to the local and state search.

4. Criminal history documents used to determine eligibility for fire service personnel must be current at the time of hire.

5. ** Inmate firefighters must be enrolled in or have successfully completed the State of Georgia Department of Corrections approved inmate firefighter program. Inmate firefighters must: Be minimum securityHave no physical limitationsHave no arson convictionsHave no sexual offense convictionsHave or be actively working toward a high school diploma or GED

(d) Have a good moral character as determined by investigation of the criminal history of the candidate to verify that there are no recent patterns of criminal involvement or intent related to stealing, cheating, lying, or other offenses that may indicate a disregard for the law or ethical and moral conduct.

(4) To complete requirements for qualification of volunteer fire service personnel, the fire department shall complete and submit the Volunteer Application page.

(5) To complete requirements for registration of State Certified personnel, the fire department shall complete a Certification Package and submit the application page.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-3-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Registration" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-3-.03. Notification to GFSTC of Personnel Separation and Surrender of Certification.

(1) The fire department shall notify GFSTC at any time registered personnel leave the department. This shall be done electronically through the GFSTC database by adding an end date to the member's department history.

(2) If a fire service member is required by a medical doctor to relinquish any or all of the essential duties required to perform their job description, he/she must notify GFSTC and voluntarily surrender his/her certification(s). *For example, a State Certified Firefighter who is also a State Certified Fire Inspector who can no longer perform the essential functions of his/her job as a Firefighter may, at the discretion of the local fire department, continue as a Fire Inspector. This person would be required to voluntarily surrender their State Firefighter Certification but retain their State Certification as a Fire Inspector and would have to continue to meet requirements for continued certification.*

(3) A State Certification may be voluntarily surrendered at any time.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-3-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Notification to GFSTC of Personnel Separation and Surrender of Certification" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-3-.04. Classifications of Fire Service Personnel.

(1) These Rules & Regulations are further established to provide for the Policy & Procedures for various classifications of fire service personnel.

(2) All fire service personnel shall be members of a compliant fire department operating in the State of Georgia.

(3) All fire service personnel shall successfully complete basic training relative to the job description for the position they are appointed or hired to perform.

(4) Upon employment, candidates for State Certification as a Career Firefighter shall have twelve months from the initial hire or appointment date to complete the required training and pass the state certification test with the GFSTC. Candidates seeking qualification as a Volunteer Suppression or Support Firefighter shall have eighteen (18) months from the initial appointment date to complete the required training and pass state qualification tests as approved by the Council.

(a) The recruit may be granted a reasonable extension by the Executive Director if the recruit has not completed this requirement within the above established time frame.

(b) If the recruit has not completed basic training and testing within the allowed time frame, the recruit shall be stricken from the roster of the fire department for a minimum of one year.

(c) Departments shall not remove personnel from roster and add them back in order to reset the timeline for qualification/certification at the same department.

(d) Once the initial test score has been downloaded into the GFSTC system, the Candidate shall successfully complete all testing requirements within ninety (90) days, except for a Georgia Fire Academy (GFA) sponsored course. The GFA requirement is that all testing be completed within thirty (30) days.

(5) Regardless of out of state certifications held by candidates, the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council requires firefighters be tested for Volunteer Support Firefighter, Volunteer Suppression Firefighter, or any State Certifications.

(6) GFSTC shall certify individuals who have successfully completed requirements outlined in the Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council for State Certification.

(7) **State Certified Fire Service Personnel**:

(a) Gain and Continue Certification Classifications:

1. All fire service personnel hired as full-time employees by any fire department in a position that requires State Certification shall obtain and maintain at least one State Certification through GFSTC.

2. For all other fire department positions, state certification is optional unless mandated by the local fire department.

3. For any certifications issued by GFSTC an individual must complete basic training for the level of appointment and pass the State of Georgia certification tests. The individual shall have**:**

(i) Successfully completed the basic training program as approved by the Council relative to the job description for the position they are hired to perform and pass the required certification tests.

(ii) Received training in another state determined by GFSTC to be equivalent to the basic training program described above and passed the required certification tests.

(iii) Received training as a federal firefighter by the United States government determined by GFSTC to be equivalent to the basic training program described above and passed the required certification tests.

4. To complete requirements for any and all State Certifications, the fire department must complete and properly store the Certification Package and complete and submit the Certification Application to GFSTC. The Certification Package will be reviewed during on-site visits, and are used to verify that the candidate:

   (i) Is at least 18 years of age.

   (ii) Has not been convicted of a felony in the past ten (10) years (except as provided in O.C.G.A. § 25-4-8). Criminal history documents used to determine eligibility for fire service personnel must be current.

   (iii) Has an affidavit of good moral character as determined by investigation approved by the Council and signed by the Fire Chief/Designee.

   (iv) Has successfully completed the minimum physical agility requirements as established by the Council.

   (v) Has a signed medical affidavit indicating that he/she is in good physical condition as determined by a medical examination from a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner.

   (vi) Has a high school diploma from an accredited high school, a state issued general education development equivalency (GED) or the Home School Affidavit (as approved by the Council).

   (vii) Has successfully completed the Council-approved minimum training course curriculum or equivalent.

   (viii) Has successfully completed the certification examination as approved by the Council within one (1) year.

5. To continue their Qualification and State Certification status fire service personnel who are certified by GFSTC must meet minimum requirements each calendar year following the year of certification:

   (i) Successful completion of a total of 24 hours of professional development training each year as approved by the Fire Chief and

verified by GFSTC is required for continuation of any or all State Certifications. "Professional Development" means training that meets a national or state standard or addresses a specific area of local service delivery (this does not include daily duties such as maintenance, territory study, equipment checks, etc. unless it is for a recruit or probationary personnel) and performed in a classroom, at a conference, a drill field setting, etc. with instruction by an individual deemed to be qualified by the fire chief/designee. Such hours may be credited toward the maintenance of any and all certifications as approved by the Council.

(ii) Records shall be developed, maintained, and available for review by GFSTC Staff at the local department.

(iii) Documentation of this training shall include certificates, transcripts, or sign-in sheets. All training documentation shall include the training subject, date, beginning and ending times, description of the training, objectives of the training; training records shall be signed by an instructor and students and may include electronic authorization if a learning management system is used by the department.

(iv) Fire Chiefs and Training personnel are urged to continue using the criterion that GFSTC has traditionally used to determine whether or not something is actually training. That criterion is training that meets a national or state standard and is performed in a classroom, at a conference, a drill field setting, etc. with instruction by an individual deemed to be qualified by the Fire Chief/Designee. This does not include daily duties such as maintenance, territory study, equipment checks, etc. unless it is for recruit(s) or probationary personnel.

(v) Fire departments and other agencies that are looking for outside validation of classes, courses and schools can submit a Course Credit Request form to GFSTC and the documentation will be reviewed for course credit acceptance as a courtesy.

(vi) A fire service member shall notify GFSTC in writing of any arrest and/or conviction set out below involving himself/herself within fifteen (15) calendar days of becoming aware of such arrest and/or conviction. This is regardless of any action or lack thereof by the employing agency as a result of such information. Records concerning the disciplinary action shall be made available to the

Executive Director of the Council or his/her representative upon request. These records shall include, but are not limited to:

(I) Arrest and/or conviction by local, state, or federal authorities;

(II) Arrest and/or conviction or bond forfeiture in any local, state, or federal court; the term "arrest and/or conviction" includes a finding or verdict of guilt, plea of guilty, or a plea of nolo contendere, regardless of whether the adjudication of guilt or sentence is withheld or not entered thereon (this specifically includes pleas under *Alford v. North Carolina*, first-offender pleas, and pre-trial diversion agreements); Minor traffic violations like speeding, traffic control devices and improper passing need not be reported to the Council. DUI, reckless driving, fleeing and eluding a police officer, and homicide by vehicle are hereby listed as specific, but not exclusive, examples of traffic violations that are not minor and are to be reported.

(b) Transfer Certification: Fire service personnel certified by GFSTC may, upon separation from any fire department and upon agreement with a subsequently appointing/employing fire department, transfer such certification(s) to the appointing/employing fire department.

1. Any fire department may refuse to accept the transfer of previously acquired certification(s) and may require any newly appointed/employed fire service personnel to complete the basic training course provided for in O.C.G.A. § 25-4-9 (a).

2. The fire department shall add the Firefighter to their department's roster on the GFSTC database.

(c) Recertification/Requalification: Individuals returning to the fire service and seeking recertification/requalification shall be in one of the following categories:

1. State Certified fire service personnel may leave a fire department in good standing and return within five years with no penalty as long as they maintain continuous training as approved by the Council and reviewed by GFSTC Staff. The hiring/appointing Fire Chief or designee shall submit the following documentation validating the readiness of the candidate for recertification.

(i) Register the candidate electronically as a member of the department through the GFSTC database. Complete a new Certification Package

and reference section § 205-1-3-.04(7)(a)4. for instructions on storage and submission.

2. State Certified fire service personnel may leave a fire department in good standing and return within five years with the following penalty if they have not maintained continuous training as approved by the Council:

   (i) Register the candidate electronically as a member of the department through the GFSTC database.

   (ii) Complete a task book, signed by the Fire Chief or designee, for the level of the Certification they are seeking. Career Firefighters shall have 90 days from the date of hire or appointment to complete the task book. Volunteer Firefighters shall have 180 days from the date of appointment to complete the task book.

   (iii) Complete a new Certification Package and reference section § 205-1-3-.04(7)(a)4. for instructions on storage and submission.

3. The following requirements apply to State Certified fire service personnel that leave the fire service for more than five (5) years, but less than ten (10) years, the:

   (i) Fire department shall register the candidate electronically as a member of the department through the GFSTC database.

   (ii) Complete a task book, signed by the Fire Chief or designee, for the level of the Certification they are seeking. Career Firefighters shall have 90 days from the date of hire to complete the task book. Volunteer Firefighters shall have 180 days from the date of appointment to complete the task book.

   (iii) Candidate shall successfully pass the required written and skills tests for their level of State Certification.

   (iv) Fire department shall complete a new Certification Package and reference section § 205-1-3-.04 (7)(a)4. for instructions on storage and submission.

4. The following requirements apply to State Certified fire service personnel that leave the fire service for more than ten (10) years, the:

   (i) Fire department shall register the candidate electronically as a member of the department through the GFSTC database.

(ii) Candidate shall successfully complete a new training course, including a task book, signed by the Fire Chief or designee, for the level of Certification they are seeking, and pass the required tests for their level of State Certification.

(iii) Complete a new Certification Package and reference section § 205-1-3-.04 (7)(a)4. for instructions on storage and submission.

5. Following recertification, fire service personnel shall complete a total of 24 hours of professional development training each year as approved by the Fire Chief or designee and verified by GFSTC. Professional Development means training that meets a national or state standard or addresses a specific area of local service delivery (this does not include daily duties such as maintenance, territory study, equipment checks, etc.), unless it is for a recruit or probationary personnel) and performed in a classroom, at a conference, a drill field setting, etc. with instruction by an individual deemed qualified by the fire chief/designee.

6. Records shall be developed, maintained, and available for on-site review at the local department. Documentation of this training shall include the subject, date, time, description of the training, objectives of the course, and signatures of students and instructors.

(d) How to become State Certified by Specific Classification:

1. **State Certified Firefighter**:

(i) To become certified as a Firefighter, the individual shall be required to be trained to the level of State Certified Firefighter and shall complete all requirements to become a State Certified Firefighter within one year of the date of hire to maintain employment and be in compliance with O.C.G.A. Title 25-4-8 & 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(e) The Firefighter shall pass the written and skills state certification tests as approved by the Council. The testing shall include written and skills tests for Firefighter I and Hazardous Materials Awareness.

(f) Upon completion of all training and testing requirements, the fire department shall complete a certification Package for all new personnel and reference section § 205-1-3-.04 (7)(a)4. for instructions on storage and submission. The Certification Package shall be maintained for on-site review.

1. The hiring department shall complete a Compliance Package and submit certification application page for anyone appointed to the position of Public Safety Director, Fire Chief, Chief Executive Officer or any comparable title. This shall be someone that is a minimum of Qualified Volunteer Suppression for Volunteer Departments, or a State Certified Firefighter for Combination and Career Departments.

2. **State Certified Airport Firefighter**:

   (i) To become certified as an Airport Firefighter, the individual shall be required to be trained to the level of State Certified Firefighter and Aircraft Rescue Firefighter (ARFF) and shall complete all requirements to become a State Certified Airport Firefighter and be in compliance with FAA regulations, O.C.G.A. Title 25-4-8 & 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

   (ii) The Airport Firefighter shall complete the GFSTC required task book and pass the state certification tests as approved by the Council.

      (i) Upon completion of all training and testing requirements, the fire department shall complete a Certification Package and reference section § 205-1-3-.04 (7)(a)4. for instructions on storage and submission.

3. **State Certified Fire and Life Safety Educator**:

   (i) To become certified as a Fire & Life Safety Educator, the individual shall be required to be trained to the level of Fire & Life Safety Educator I and shall complete all requirements to become a State Certified Fire & Life Safety Educator within one year of appointment (if applicable) and be in compliance with O.C.G.A. Title 25-4-8 & 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

   (ii) The Fire & Life Safety Educator shall pass the state certification tests as approved by the Council.

   (iii) Upon completion of all training and testing requirements, the fire department shall complete a Certification Package and reference section § 205-1-3-.04 (7)(a)4. for instructions on storage and submission.

4. **State Certified Fire Inspector**:

(i) To become certified as a Fire Inspector shall be required to be trained to the level of Fire Inspector I and shall complete all requirements to become a State Certified Fire Inspector within one year of appointment (if applicable) and be in compliance with O.C.G.A. Title 25-4-8 & 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(ii) The Fire Inspector shall pass the state certification tests as approved by the Council. The testing shall include written and skills tests for Fire Inspector and Hazardous Materials Awareness.

(iii) Upon completion of all training and testing requirements, the fire department shall complete a Certification Package and reference section § 205-1-3-.04 (7)(a)4. for instructions on storage and submission.

5. **State Certified Fire Investigator**:

(i) To become certified as a Fire Investigator, the candidate shall be required to be trained to the level of Fire Investigator I and shall complete all requirements to become a State Certified Fire Investigator within one year of appointment (if applicable) and be in compliance with O.C.G.A. Title 25-4-8, 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(ii) The Fire Investigator shall pass the state certification tests as approved by GFSTC.

(iii) To attain Fire Investigator I a candidate shall successfully complete Fire Investigator modules 1 and 2 through the Georgia Public Safety Training Center or meet the requirements through the reciprocity process.

(iv) Upon completion of all training and testing requirements, the fire department shall complete a Certification Package and submit a Certification Application or Additional Certification form for the candidate. The Certification Package shall be maintained by the department for on-site review.

6. **State Certified Canine Detection Team**

(i) To become certified as a canine team, the canine and handler shall be required to complete a training course designed to meet or exceed

International Association of Arson Investigator, Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams training.

(ii) Must be a State Certified Fire Investigator and be in compliance with O.C.G.A. Title 25-4-8, 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(iii) The canine team shall pass the state certification tests as approved by GFSTC.

(iv) Upon completion of all training and testing requirements, the fire department shall complete and submit an Additional Certification form for the candidate.

(v) Recertification must be done annually and/or any time the handler is assigned a different canine.

7. **State Certified Fire Chief:**

(i) If you would like to become certified as a Fire Chief, the individual shall be required to hold the department position of Chief Officer or higher for a minimum of 5 years and have 10 continuous years in the fire service to include fire suppression, be in compliance with O.C.G.A. Title 25-4-8 & 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council and petition GFSTC for State Certified Fire Chief Designation.

or

(ii) Shall obtain Fire Officer I through IV and complete and pass GFSTC tests as approved by the Council.

(iii) Upon completion of all training and testing requirements, the fire department shall complete a Certification Package and submit a Certification Application or Additional Certification form for the candidate. The Certification Package shall be maintained by the department for on-site review upon request.

8. **Part-Time Fire Service Personnel:**

(i) A part-time fire service employee shall be trained to the minimum level of Volunteer Suppression Firefighter (including live structure fire control) by or through the Georgia Fire Academy or an equivalent training course approved by the Council. When trained to the level of

Volunteer Suppression Firefighter, they shall pass the current State of Georgia Volunteer Suppression Firefighter tests delivered by GFSTC Staff or GFSTC approved Proctors on or before the time of appointment.

(ii) Upon completion of all training requirements, the fire department shall complete a Volunteer Application Package for the candidate.

(iii) If the part-time firefighter is hired in place of a State Certified Firefighter, he/she shall be a State Certified Firefighter. In this case, the fire department shall complete a Certification Package and submit a Certification Application or a Roster Update form for the candidate. In order to become State Certified, fire service personnel shall meet all requirements for state certification as approved by the Council.

(iv) Part-time fire service personnel shall meet requirements to continue their status each calendar year following the year of qualification/certification(s):

(I) Records shall be developed, maintained, and available for review by GFSTC at the local department. The professional development shall consist of:

I. Successful completion of a total of 24 hours of professional development each year as approved by the Fire Chief and verified by GFSTC is required for maintenance of qualification/certification(s).

II. "Professional Development" means training that meets a national or state standard, or addresses a specific area of local service delivery (this does not include daily duties such as maintenance, territory study, equipment checks, etc., unless it is for a recruit or probationary personnel) and performed in a classroom, at a conference, a drill field setting, etc. with instruction by an individual deemed to be qualified by the Fire Chief/Designee. Such hours may be credited toward the maintenance of qualification/certification(s) as approved by the Council.

(II) Documentation of this training shall include the subject, date, time, description of the training, objectives of the course. Training records shall be signed by an instructor and

student and may include electronic authorization if a learning management system is used by the department.

(III) A fire service member shall notify GFSTC in writing of any arrest and/or conviction set out below involving himself/herself within fifteen (15) calendar days of becoming aware of such arrest and/or conviction. This is regardless of any action or lack thereof by the employing agency as a result of such information. Records concerning the disciplinary action shall be made available to the Executive Director of the Council or his representative upon request. These records shall include, but are not limited to:

I. Arrest and/or conviction by local, state, or federal authorities;

II. Arrest and/or conviction or bond forfeiture in any local, state, or federal court; the term "arrest and/or conviction" including a finding or verdict of guilt, plea of guilty, or a plea of nolo contendere, regardless of whether the adjudication of guilt or sentence is withheld or not entered thereon (this specifically includes pleas under *Alford v. North Carolina*, first-offender pleas, and pre-trial diversion agreements); Minor traffic violations like speeding, traffic control devices and improper passing need not be reported to the Council. DUI, reckless driving, fleeing and eluding a police officer, and homicide by vehicle are hereby listed as specific, but not exclusive, examples of traffic violations that are not minor and are to be reported.

9. **Volunteer Fire Service Personnel (Volunteer Firefighters)**

(i) All individuals who are appointed as a volunteer member of a fire department in the State of Georgia shall meet minimum requirements for such appointment as established by the Council.

(ii) Volunteer fire service personnel shall be registered in one of the following classifications:

(I) Volunteer Suppression Firefighter

(II) Volunteer Support Firefighter

(III) Part-Time Firefighter

(IV) Inmate Firefighter

(iii) A Volunteer Suppression Firefighter shall be required to be trained and tested to the minimum level of Volunteer Suppression Firefighter to include live structure fire control training, as well as Hazardous Materials Awareness within eighteen (18) months of appointment to be in compliance with O.C.G.A. 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations for the Administration of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. Structure fire control training:

(iv) Volunteer fire service personnel registered as Volunteer Suppression Firefighters since July 1, 2005, shall successfully complete a Structure Fire Control class as approved by the Council.

(v) Structure fire control training may be accomplished in one of the following ways:

(I) A Structure Fire Control class conducted by or through the Georgia Fire Academy.

(II) A structure fire control class conducted at another location where at least one qualified instructor has completed a live fire instructor course conducted in accordance with the current edition of NFPA 1403.

(vi) All structure fire control training shall be conducted in accordance with NFPA 1403, *Standard for Live Fire Training Evolutions*.

(vii) The minimum objectives covered shall be a live fire behavior segment (settee) and an at-grade, above grade, and below grade interior attack.

(viii) Documentation of this training shall include the subject, date, time, description of the training, objectives of the course**,** and may include electronic authorization if a learning management system is used by the department.

(I) The recruit may be granted a reasonable extension by the Executive Director if the recruit has not completed this requirement within the above established time frame.

(II) If the recruit has not completed basic training within the allowed time frame and no extension has been granted, the recruit shall be stricken from the roster of the fire department for a minimum of one year.

(III) Upon completion of all training requirements, the fire department shall complete a Volunteer Application Package for the candidate. The application package and submit a Certification Application for the candidate. The application package shall be maintained by the department for on-site review.

(IV) A Volunteer Support Firefighter will be required to be trained to the minimum level of Volunteer Support Firefighter within eighteen months (18) of appointment to be in compliance with O.C.G.A. 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(ix) Volunteer Support Firefighters shall successfully complete the Georgia Volunteer Support course and pass Hazardous Materials Awareness written and skills test as approved by the Council within (18) months of appointment.

(I) Volunteer Support Firefighters are not trained or qualified to perform duties in the Hot Zone.

(II) The recruit may be granted a reasonable extension by the Executive Director if the recruit has not completed this requirement within the above established time frame.

(III) If the recruit has not completed basic training within the allowed time frame or and has not been granted an extension, the recruit shall be stricken

from the roster of the fire department for a minimum of one year.

(x) Upon completion of all training requirements, the fire department shall complete a Volunteer Application Package for the candidate and submit a Registration Application. The application package shall be maintained by the department for on-site review.

(xi) An Inmate Firefighter shall be required to be trained to the level of Firefighter I as required by the Georgia Department of Corrections Fire Service within one year of appointment to be in compliance with O.C.G.A. 25-4-9 and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(xii) Volunteer fire service personnel who wish to become State Certified shall complete a basic training course for the desired certification and pass the State of Georgia test delivered by GFSTC Staff or GFSTC approved Proctors within one (1) year of the start of the course.

(xiii) Volunteer fire service personnel shall meet requirements to continue their status each calendar year following the year of qualification:

(I) Records shall be developed, maintained, and available for review by GFSTC at the local department. The professional development shall consist of:

(II) Successful completion of a total of 24 hours of professional development each year as approved by the Fire Chief and verified by GFSTC is required for maintenance of qualification/certification(s).

(III) "Professional Development" means training that meets a national or state standard, or addresses a specific area of local service delivery (this does not include daily duties such as maintenance, territory study, equipment checks, etc., unless it is for a recruit or probationary personnel) and

performed in a classroom, at a conference, a drill field setting, etc. with instruction by an individual deemed to be qualified by the fire chief/designee. Such hours may be credited toward the maintenance of qualification/certification(s) as approved by the Council.

(IV) Documentation of this training shall include the subject, date, time, description of the training, objectives of the course, and signatures of students and instructors.

(xiv) A fire service member shall notify GFSTC in writing of any arrest and/or conviction set out below involving himself/herself within fifteen (15) calendar days of becoming aware of such arrest and/or conviction. This is regardless of any action or lack thereof by the employing agency as a result of such information. Records concerning the disciplinary action shall be made available to the Executive Director of the Council or his/her representative upon request. These records shall include, but are not limited to:

(I) Arrest and/or conviction by local, state, or federal authorities;

(II) Arrest and/or conviction or bond forfeiture in any local, state, or federal court; the term "arrest and/or conviction" including a finding or verdict of guilt, plea of guilty, or a plea of nolo contendere, regardless of whether the adjudication of guilt or sentence is withheld or not entered thereon (this specifically includes pleas under *Alford v. North Carolina*, first-offender pleas, and pre-trial diversion agreements); Minor traffic violations like speeding, traffic control devices and improper passing need not be reported to the Council. DUI, reckless driving, fleeing and eluding a police officer, and homicide by vehicle are hereby listed as specific, but not exclusive, examples of traffic violations that are not minor and are to be reported.

(xv) Inmate Firefighters shall pass the Firefighter I written test delivered by GFSTC Staff or GFSTC approved Proctors within the time frame established by the Georgia Department of Corrections Fire Service.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-3-.04
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Classification of Fire Service Personnel" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-3-.05. Minimum Requirements for Schools, Institutions, and Facilities Operating for the Purpose of Training Fire Service Personnel.

(1) The GFSTC shall establish minimum curriculum requirements for schools operated by or for any fire department for the specific purpose of training full-time, part-time, and volunteer fire service personnel as approved by the Council.

(2) The GFSTC shall approve institutions and facilities for schools operating for the specific purpose of training full-time, part-time, and volunteer fire service personnel as approved by the Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-3-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Minimum Requirements for Schools, Institutions, and Facilities Operating for the Purpose of Training Fire Service Personnel" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-3-.06. Responsibility to Keep Records Current.

(1) All certifications/registrations under these rules shall be a permanent and ongoing record maintained and kept current by GFSTC. Records may be archived in a time frame as approved by the Council.

(2) It shall be the responsibility of all fire departments to submit any and all reports to GFSTC as required by Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(3) Individual Firefighter records may be accessed by the individual, the Fire Chief/Designee, or furnished as the result of a legal written open records request.

(4) Fire Department and Individual training records shall be available for review by GFSTC Staff upon request.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-3-.06
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-22, 25-3-25, 25-4-7, 25-4-10.
History. Original Rule entitled "Responsibility to Keep Records Current" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Subject 205-1-4. AUTHORITY OF GFSTC TO EFFECT ADVERSE ACTIONS ON FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND FIREFIGHTERS.

Rule 205-1-4-.01. Definitions.

(1) **"Decertification"** means an adverse action taken by the Council to revoke an individual's certification when the individual commits any act in violation of Georgia State Law and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(2) **"Probation"** means an action taken by Council when certified personnel commit acts in violation of the Rules & Regulations and/or Policy & Procedures of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(3) **"Registered Status"** means an individual's information as listed in the GFSTC database.

(4) **"Request for Hearing"** means a clear written expression by the affected party or authorized representative on his/her behalf to indicate that he/she wants the opportunity to contest his/her case.

(5) **"Re-Registration"** means restoring the registered status to those individuals who have lost their registered status.

(6) **"Suspension"** means an action taken by GFSTC when non-certified personnel commit acts in violation of Rules & Regulations and/or Policy & Procedures of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-21, 25-4-2, 25-4-7, 25-4-10.
History. Original Rule entitled "Definitions" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-4-.02. Legal Authority.

The Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council has the authority to effect adverse actions on Fire Departments and Firefighters which/who do not maintain minimum standards as required by O.C.G.A. Title 25, Chapters 3, Article 2 and Chapter 4.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Legal Authority" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-4-.03. Suspension or Revocation of Certificates of Compliance.

(1) The Certificate of Compliance issued by the Council shall be subject to suspension or revocation by the GFSTC at any time it receives verifiable evidence that the fire department is not maintaining sufficient personnel, equipment, or insurance required by O.C.G.A. § 25-3-23 or the Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council pursuant to subsection (d) of O.C.G.A. § 25-3-23.

(2) The Council may bring a civil action to enjoin any organization, which is not in compliance with the applicable requirements of O.C.G.A. § 25-3-23, from performing any or all firefighting functions until such requirements are met.

(3) The Council may not suspend or revoke a fire department's Certificate of Compliance for failure to meet basic firefighter training requirements of the fire department's personnel if such failure is due to the unavailability of the required training from or through the Georgia Fire Academy. Basic Firefighter training may be obtained through other training agencies.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Suspension or Revocation of Certificate of Compliance" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-4-.04. Notification by Individuals and Fire Departments of Unlawful Acts.

(1) A fire service member shall notify GFSTC in writing of any misdemeanor arrest, felony arrest, indictment and/or conviction, guilty plea, plea of nolo contendere, or first offender plea regardless of whether the adjudication of guilt or sentence is withheld or not entered thereon (this specifically includes pleas under *Alford v. North Carolina*, first-offender pleas, and pre-trial diversion agreements); within fifteen (15) calendar days of becoming aware of such felony arrest or felony arrest and/or conviction. This is regardless of any action or lack thereof by the employing and/or appointing agency as a result of such information.

(2) The employing or appointing fire department shall notify GFSTC in writing of any felony arrest and/or conviction, guilty plea, plea of nolo contendere, or first offender plea regardless of whether the adjudication of guilt or sentence is withheld or not entered thereon (this specifically includes pleas under *Alford v. North Carolina*, first-offender pleas, and pre-trial diversion agreements); within fifteen (15) calendar days of becoming aware.

(3) The employing/appointing fire department shall report in writing to GFSTC any termination/separation that result from any adverse or derogatory actions by the employee/appointee.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.04
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-4-7, 25-4-8.
History. Original Rule entitled "Notification by Individuals and Fire Departments of Unlawful Acts" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-4-.05. Decertification, Probation and Suspension of Firefighter State Certification/Registration.

(1) The Certificate of Compliance for State Certification/Registration of fire service personnel issued by the GFSTC shall be subject to decertification, probation (Certified personnel), or suspension (Non-Certified personnel) by the Council at any time it receives verifiable evidence that the firefighter has failed to comply with the requirements for continued certification/registration as approved by the Council under O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7(4).

(2) The person whose certification(s) was (were) decertified or registration was suspended shall not be authorized to function as fire service personnel as approved by the Council on any fire department during any period of decertification or suspension.

(1) After finding that a sanction is warranted, the Council has the authority to decertify, suspend, or place the certification/registration on probation. Any actions taken shall be at the Council's discretion based on the facts of each case.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Decertification, Probation and Suspension of Firefighter State Certification/Registration" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-4-.06. Notice of Adverse or Derogatory Action.

The Council shall notify the fire department or fire service personnel by letter or hand delivery of any disciplinary action or a hearing to determine if disciplinary action is appropriate. For purposes of notification, mailing by delivery confirmation or certified mail to the last address

specified on the application or the last known address of the firefighter shall constitute proper service.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.06
Authority: O.C.G.A. §25--3-25.
History. Original Rule entitled "Notice of Adverse or Derogatory Action" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-4-.07. Appeals and Hearings Requests.

(1) Fire departments and/or fire service personnel have the right to make an initial appeal of an adverse action. The Executive Director of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council may recommend that the Council's sanction be modified. The modification shall be approved by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman if the Chairman is unavailable. Such adverse actions may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Disputed test items (questions, skills, taskbook entry, etc.)

(b) Disputed test results

(c) Lapsed certification or registration status

(d) Recommendations for suspensions of Part-time or Volunteer personnel

(e) Recommendations for probation of State Certified personnel

(f) Recommendations for decertification of State Certified personnel

(g) Recommendations for revocation of fire department Certificates of Compliance

(2) If the case is not settled by the Executive Director, the aggrieved party may make a second appeal to the Council. The Council would then make a decision.

(3) If the aggrieved party is still not satisfied, the chief administrative officer of any fire department or the individual aggrieved by the decision of the Council, may make a written expression that he/she wants the opportunity to contest his/her case before a Hearing Officer appointed by the Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Office of State Administrative Hearings.

(4) The Council may deny or dismiss a request for a hearing for the following reasons:

(a) It has been withdrawn by the affected party.

(b) If the affected party or his/her representative fails to appear at a hearing or settlement conference scheduled for such affected fire service personnel.

(c) If the affected party or his/her representative fails to submit a written hearing request within thirty (30) calendar days after service of the notice of adverse actions.

(5) The affected party shall, within fifteen (15) days after service of adverse action, submit a notarized statement in answer to the allegations, either admitting or denying the allegations. All allegations which are not specifically answered are deemed to be admitted. Failure to submit this document shall be cause for the appeal to be denied.

(6) The affected party or his/her representative shall submit a written request for hearing within thirty (30) calendar days after service of the notice of adverse action. If the thirty (30) day time frame is not complied with the appeal shall be denied and the process will be ended.

(7) Information that shall be included by the aggrieved party in the hearing request is as follows:

(a) Name, address, phone number, and email address

(b) Case number

(c) Grounds for appeal

(d) Description of the circumstances

(e) Supporting documentation

(f) Witness(es) (Name(s) only)

(g) Name(s) of attorney(s) if applicable

(h) Resolution being sought

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.07
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-3-25.
History. Original Rule entitled "Appeals and Hearings Requests" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-4-.08. Judicial Review.

(1) A copy of any petition for judicial review brought by fire service personnel or an applicant shall be provided to the Office of State Administrative Hearings and the State Department of Law simultaneously with the service of the petition upon the Council. A petition for judicial review may be served upon the Council by personal service or certified mail delivered to the Executive Director of the Council.

(2) Upon receipt of a petition, the Office of State Administrative Hearings shall compile and certify the record to the reviewing court on behalf of the Council.

(3) Any initial decision of the Hearing Officer not consistent with the Council's initial action shall automatically be reviewed by the Council. Any review of an initial decision of the Hearing Officer shall be limited to the record. In the event either party wishes to present evidence outside of the record, a written request to present such evidence shall be filed at least ten (10) calendar days prior to Council review.

(4) A description of the evidence shall accompany any request and the Council reserves the right to deny the presentation of additional evidence.

(5) Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-41(e)(3), any initial decision of the Hearing Officer which is consistent with the Council's initial action shall without further agency action become the final decision of the Council.

(6) Once the Council has made its final decision, the affected party can seek judicial review as provided by O.C.G.A. §§ 15-13-19.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.08
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-25, 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Judicial Review" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-4-.09. Final Filing of Appeals, Hearings and Reviews.

All appeals, hearings and reviews shall be filed and adjudicated in accordance with Georgia Law.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.09
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-3-25.
History. Original Rule entitled "Final Filing of Appeals, Hearings and Reviews" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-4-.10. Petition for Reinstatement of Certification, Registration, or Reconsideration of Application for Individual Firefighters or Applicants.

(1) After (2) years (24 calendar months) in a decertified or suspended status, fire service personnel or an applicant may petition the Council for reinstatement of certification, registration, or reconsideration of application.

(2) The petitioner shall personally appear before the Council. Even if represented by an attorney, the petitioner shall be questioned by the Council.

(3) If a petition is denied, a new petition may not be presented to the Council until two (2) years (24 calendar months) have passed from the date of the denial.

(4) If a petition is approved, the Council has the discretion to place conditions for approval upon any of the disciplinary or corrective measures provided in statute. The individual shall also comply with all requirements associated with recertification and/or re-registration.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-4-.10
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-3-25.
History. Original Rule entitled "Petition for Reinstatement of Certification, Registration, or Reconsideration of Application for Individual Firefighters or Applicants" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Subject 205-1-5. TESTING AND EVALUATION OF TRAINING FOR FIREFIGHTERS OPERATING IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

Rule 205-1-5-.01. Definitions.

(1) **"Evaluator"** means an individual approved and trained by GFSTC to observe candidates as they perform during a skills evaluation.

(2) **"External Validation"** means a validation conducted by GFSTC Staff and qualified representatives of local fire departments to ensure that questions in the test instrument are legitimate and can be found in the instructional materials used in the training program for which the students are seeking certification.

(3) **"Instructor Guide"** means instructional materials, including lesson plans, Powerpoint (or similar presentation media), and handouts, used by an instructor to deliver information and skills to students.

(4) **"Internal Validation"** means a validation conducted by GFSTC and GFA Staff before an external validation to ensure that information contained in an Instructor Guide matches questions in the test bank.

(5) **"Open Enrollment"** means a test event at the GFSTC office or a regional test center that is open to any member of a legally organized Georgia fire department who has met the requirements to take the test.

(6) **"Proctor"** means an individual approved and trained by GFSTC to supervise and administer a written, skills or online test event.

(7) **"Reciprocity"** means the process of reviewing training documentation provided to GFSTC by a candidate or a department requesting the opportunity to enter a training

program at the next higher level above the level being requested or credit for prior training to be considered toward qualification/certification requirements.

(8) **"Regional Test Center"** means a location that has the facilities to conduct written and/or online tests.

(9) **"Regional Test Site"** means a location that has the facilities and equipment to conduct skills evaluations along with written and/or online tests.

(10) **"Test Bank"** means the computer program containing all of the questions used to develop a certification test.

(11) **"Test Event"** means any written, skills, online or oral test occurrence administered by GFSTC Staff or Proctors approved by GFSTC.

(12) **"Test Instrument"** means a written, skills or other approved evaluation method(s).

(13) **"Validation"** means the process of confirming that the information in test banks and instructor guides match.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-5-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Definitions" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-5-.02. Validation of Test Instruments.

(1) Instructor Guides approved by the Council for any certification shall be validated against a national or state standard that details minimum training requirements for a particular certification level. The instructor guide shall include:

(a) Lesson Plan

(b) Powerpoint® or similar training presentation

(c) Handouts (skill sheets, task books, advisory circulars, etc.)

(2) An internal validation shall be held before an External validation to ensure that the test instrument is validated against the Instructor Guide.

(a) The internal validation shall include at least one member of the GFSTC Staff and one or more representatives of the Georgia Fire Academy (GFA) Staff.

(b) GFA Staff shall be someone responsible for or familiar with the training program that will be delivered to students preparing to test for a particular certification.

(c) The internal validation procedure will identify and verify the presence of each proposed test question in the lesson plans, Powerpoint® presentations (or similar media), and/or handouts of the approved course of instruction.

(3) An external validation shall be held to certify any test administered by GFSTC.

(a) An external validation shall include representation from a minimum of five (5) fire departments. The maximum number shall be determined by the Executive Director based on the subject.

(b) These representatives shall have demonstrated a level of understanding of the subject matter being validated through experience, knowledge, and/or certifications for the level being identified. It is preferred that they hold the level of certification that they are validating.

(c) Each department shall be limited to one vote on each test item.

(d) During external validation, the department representatives shall verify the presence of each proposed test question in various approved reference materials, but especially the lesson plans, Powerpoint® presentations (or similar media), and/or handouts of the approved course of instruction.

(e) Written and skills test analysis is conducted anytime the test bank is updated, the NFPA standard changes, an excessively large percentage of candidates miss a particular skill or test question or the validity of a skill is in doubt.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-5-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Validation of Test Instruments" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-5-.03. Course Evaluations.

(1) GFSTC shall treat all candidates in a fair and impartial manner.

(2) The Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council attempts to comply with reasonable accommodation requests set forth in the *Americans with Disabilities Act*.

(a) All requests should be in writing and, when required, accompanied by an affidavit from a qualified medical professional with the doctor's signature.

(b) In the case of a learning disability there should also be documentation from a state accredited high school verifying the candidate has a reading comprehension disability and recommends written exams be administered orally.

(c) Only written or online tests may be read to a candidate. The candidate and the reader shall each be given a copy of the test to use during the test. All tests shall be returned to the Proctor. All candidates wishing to have a test read to them shall indicate the need for this accommodation during preregistration.

(d) Under no circumstance will a reading assistance device that records the information from the test be allowed during test events. If a reading assistance device accommodation is requested, the manufacturer, model and serial number of any reading devices shall be submitted to GFSTC at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the test event. GFSTC shall notify the requestors department before the scheduled test whether or not we will allow the use of the device. Reading devices shall not be used on skills tests.

(3) GFSTC Staff or Proctors approved by GFSTC shall administer all tests required by the Council for all fire service personnel to complete the qualification/certification process. All skills tests required to complete a certification shall be observed by an Evaluator approved by GFSTC.

(4) A Prerequisite Form shall be submitted to GFSTC by the fire department before an individual will be allowed to test.

(5) The fire department shall complete and submit a Prerequisite Form to GFSTC at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the test event for each level qualification/certification the department wishes an individual to attain. Requests for accommodation shall be made in writing at this time. All requests for accommodation shall be approved by GFSTC Staff before any test event. Test event Proctors shall not have the authority to grant any request for accommodation.

(6) The Prerequisite Form shall be signed by the Fire Chief or his/her Designee to verify completion of all requirements for qualification/certification as approved by the Council.

(7) A Prerequisite Form is required even if the candidate is retesting because he/she failed a test.

(8) The fire department shall complete and submit a Prerequisite Form and pre-register each candidate for online testing prior to the candidate taking the exam.

(9) All prerequisites are validated during the External validation process for the different levels of certification.

(10) Candidates may re-test up to two (2) times in accordance with GFSTC policy and procedures before retaking the course is required.

(a) Reference lists and practice tests for use by the candidate may be found on the GFSTC website at www.gfstconline.org.

(b) Candidates may also request, in writing, a student mastery from GFSTC documenting areas of weakness identified during the test.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-5-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-4-7, 25-4-8, 25-4-9.
History. Original Rule entitled "Course Evaluations" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-5-.04. Test Administration.

(1) Procedures shall be in place to ensure security of certification test items, test banks, current and previous versions of test instruments and other associated materials as approved by the Council.

(2) GFSTC shall approve and train individuals to administer and supervise all test events.

(a) Proctors:

1. Written, skills and online certification test events shall be supervised and administered by a Proctor trained and approved by GFSTC.

2. A Proctor shall supervise and administer a test event in accordance with all policies and procedures as approved by the Council.

(b) Evaluators:

1. Each station in a skills evaluation shall be conducted under the supervision of an Evaluator trained and approved by GFSTC.

2. An Evaluator shall supervise his/her assigned station(s) in accordance with all policies and procedures as approved by the Council.

(3) Regional Test Centers and Sites

(a) Testing is available to all candidates and is administered at the GFSTC Office and at Regional Test Sites and Test Centers located throughout the state.

1. Scheduled dates and times of test and their locations are posted on the Test Event Calendar located on the GFSTC website at www.gfstconline.org.

2. The fire department shall complete and submit a Prerequisite Form to GFSTC by a date to be announced prior to each test event for each level qualification/certification the department wishes an individual to attain before they will be allowed to take any tests.

(b) Regional test centers and sites shall be approved by GFSTC.

1. Regional Test Centers are locations that have the facilities to conduct written and/or online tests and shall offer open enrollment testing at least once a month. Open enrollment test events shall be scheduled on the test event calendar accessed through the GFSTC website.

2. Regional Test Sites are locations that have the facilities and equipment to conduct skills evaluations along with written and/or online tests.

(c) Any site may be disassociated from the program at any time by a decision of GFSTC or the Regional Test Site/Center.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-5-.04
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Test Administration" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-5-.05. Maintenance of Test Results.

(1) GFSTC shall maintain a record of all test events administered by GFSTC in its database. This record shall be permanent and ongoing. Any Recruit (as defined in 205-1-3-.01) under the age of eighteen (18) and registered with GFSTC will be allowed to test written and skills (FF1, FF2, Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Hazardous Materials Operations) and have their results held for twenty-four (24) months from the date of the test.

(2) GFSTC shall ensure that the test results for each candidate and the associated test instruments are securely maintained for an appropriate period of time. Records may be archived in a time frame as approved by the Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-5-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Maintenance of Test Results" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Rule 205-1-5-.06. Reciprocity.

(1) GFSTC will consider individual requests for reciprocity to candidates who are seeking qualification/certification.

(2) Reciprocity allows a candidate to be entered into the GFSTC database and begin training for the next higher level of qualification/certification.

(3) GFSTC shall only grant reciprocity for Pro Board, IFSAC, and/or Department of Defense certifications for which GFSTC is accredited.

(4) GFSTC will grant reciprocity for certifications on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Executive Director. GFSTC shall consider granting reciprocity on two levels.

(a) Personnel who are seeking reciprocity for national certification shall:

1. Submit documentation of completion of training for review to their employing department for equivalency to the minimum training required and approved by the Council. If the department accepts the documented training, they are accepting responsibility for determining that the Candidate has met the minimum requirements as required by the Council.

(i) Training documentation includes transcripts, certificates, or other supporting records.

(ii) Certificates shall display a legible seal and certification number, if applicable.

2. Shall have the fire department submit the appropriate form to GFSTC for final approval.

(b) Personnel who have completed training, been granted reciprocity and wish to test for State Qualification/Certification shall:

1. Submit documentation of completion of training for review by GFSTC for equivalency to the minimum training required and approved by the Council. Training documentation includes transcripts, certificates, or other supporting records.

2. Be required to pass the State of Georgia tests for the level they are requesting.

(i) Said personnel shall have one opportunity to successfully pass the written and skills tests for the State Certification they are requesting.

(ii) Failure of either portion of the testing process shall require the Candidate to take a course offered by a training entity approved by the Council.

(4) GFSTC acceptance of reciprocity in no way relieves the candidate from training and testing requirements of the local fire department.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-5-.06
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Reciprocity" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Subject 205-1-6. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

Rule 205-1-6-.01. Review of Criminal History Reports.

(1) GFSTC Staff shall review criminal history reports on all newly appointed/hired personnel seeking registration/certification.

(2) Criminal history documents used to determine eligibility for fire service personnel must be current.

(3) GFSTC Staff shall successfully complete training required by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in order to review criminal history reports.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-6-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 25-4-7, 25-4-8.
History. Original Rule entitled "Review of Criminal History Reports" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-6-.02. Inquiries into Complaints.

(1) GFSTC may conduct inquiries into complaints when necessary on a case-by-case basis.

(2) Case files shall be maintained on all cases. These files shall be scanned and updated as necessary. Case files may be archived in a time frame as approved by the Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-6-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.

History. Original Rule entitled "Inquiries into Complaints" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Subject 205-1-7. STUDIES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE FIRE SERVICE.

Rule 205-1-7-.01. Studies for Improvement of the Fire Service.

The Council shall make, cause to be made or support needed studies for the improvement of education and training or recruitment of fire service personnel.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-7-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule entitled "Studies for the Improvement of the Fire Service" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Subject 205-1-8. AUTHORITY TO EXCEED MINIMUM STANDARDS.

Rule 205-1-8-.01. Established Minimum Standards.

Standards established within the Rules & Regulations and Policy & Procedures of the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council are the minimum qualifications that must be met to become a legally organized fire department or Registered/Certified firefighter. Fire departments are not restricted from exceeding these requirements and are encouraged to do so.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-8-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-11
History. Original Rule entitled "Established Minimum Standards" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Subject 205-1-9. SUBMISSION OF FALSE INFORMATION TO GFSTC.

Rule 205-1-9-.01. Supplying or Condoning the Submission of False Information to GFSTC.

A person who knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact; makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or makes or uses any false writing or document, knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of state government or of the government of any county, city, or other political subdivision of this state shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than $1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-9-.01
Authority: § 16-10-20.

History. Original Rule entitled "Supplying or Condoning the Submission of False Information to GFSTC" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-1-9-.02. Council Action on Submission of False Information.

The Council shall upon review of any evidence of false information and with the recommendation of the Executive Director take the appropriate action(s) based on the evidence as provided.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-1-9-.02
Authority: § 16-10-20.
History. Original Rule entitled "Council Action on Submission of False Information" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Appendix A. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. dept. 205, ch. 205-1, app A
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. "Appendix A. Minimum Equipment Required for Apparatus Other Than Fire Department Pumper and ARFF Apparatus" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Appendix B. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. dept. 205, ch. 205-1, app B
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. "Appendix B. List of possible skills that might be used in training of fire service personnel in various levels of State Certification" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Appendix C. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. dept. 205, ch. 205-1, app C
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. "Appendix C. Classifications of Fire Service Personnel" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

(1) **"Airport"** means any airport located in this state which has regularly scheduled commercial air carrier service or commuter airline service as required for certification under Section 139.49 of the Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

(2) **"Airport Firefighter"** means any person assigned to any airport located in this state that performs the duties of aircraft fire fighting or rescue.

(3) **"Authority Having Jurisdiction"** or **"AHJ"** means an organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

(4) **"Candidate"** means a prospective firefighter who has not yet been certified by the Council as having met the requirements of this chapter.

(5) **"Certified"** means any individual requiring state certification who has been certified as having met the requirements established by the Council.

(6) **"Certified Firefighter"** means any firefighter who has been certified by the Council as having met the requirements of this chapter.

(7) **"Compensation"** means paid on an hourly or salaried basis.

(8) **"Continued Annual Training"** means the professional development training needed to meet minimum requirements to maintain certification(s)/qualification each calendar year as approved by the Fire Chief.

(9) **"Continued Certification"** means having met the minimum professional development training required each calendar year for those individuals who are certified by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council to maintain their certification(s).

(10) **"Council"** means for the purpose of these Rules and Regulations the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(11) **"Decertification"** means an adverse action taken by the Council to revoke an individual's certification when the individual commits any act in violation of Georgia State Law and Rules & Regulations of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(12) **"Designee"** means the representative designated by the Fire Chief to deal with matters of the Council.

(13) **"Evaluator"** means an individual approved and trained by GFSTC to observe candidates as they perform during a skills evaluation.

(14) **"Executive Director"** means for the purpose of this Chapter the Executive Director of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(15) **"Explorer Program"** means a program for older youth 14-20 years old that offers hands-on and interactive character and career activities facilitated by fire service personnel from the local community.

(16) **"External Validation"** means a validation conducted by GFSTC Staff and qualified representatives of local fire departments to ensure that questions in the test instrument are legitimate and can be found in the instructional materials used in the training program for which the students are seeking certification.

(17) **"Fire and Life Safety Educator"** means a person who is trained to deliver fire and life safety training programs to the general public.

(18) **"Fire Chief"** means the Chief Commanding Officer of a Fire Department that is either Qualified Volunteer Suppression for volunteer departments or State Certified Firefighter for career and combination departments.

(19) **"Fire Department"** means any department, agency, organization, or company operating in this state with the intent and purpose of carrying out the duties, functions, powers, and responsibilities normally associated with a fire department and which is authorized to exercise the general and emergency powers enumerated in O.C.G.A. 25-3-1 and 25-3-2.

These duties, functions, powers, and responsibilities include but are not limited to the protection of life and property against fire, explosions, or other hazards.

(20) **"Fire Department Training Officer"** means the person responsible for administrative work in planning, organizing, coordinating, and directing training activities of the Fire Department.

(21) **"Firefighter"** means any able-bodied person at least 18 years of age who has been duly appointed by a legally constituted Fire Department and who has the responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires, protecting life and property, and performing other duties enumerated in O.C.G.A. 25-3-1 and 25-3-2.

(22) **"Fire Inspector"** means a person who is trained to perform fire and life safety inspections of all types of new construction and existing occupancies.

(23) **"Fire Investigator"** means a person who is trained to investigate and determine fire cause and origin.

(24) **"Fire Service Instructor"** means the person responsible for delivering instruction effectively from prepared materials at the direction, and often under the supervision, of the Fire Department Training Officer.

(25) **"Full-time"** or **"Career"** means employed for compensation on a basis of at least 40 hours per week by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

(26) **"Georgia Fire Academy"** or **"GFA"** means a division of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center that is responsible for training fire service personnel.

(27) **"GFSTC"** means the Executive Director and personnel of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(28) **"GFSTC Staff"** means the personnel who work under the direction of the Executive Director.

(29) **"Good Standing"** means a person complied with all of their explicit obligations while not being subject to any form of sanction, suspension, or disciplinary censure.

(30) **"Hot Zone"** means the area immediately surrounding a hazardous incident, which extends far enough to prevent adverse effects to individuals outside the area.

(31) **"Inmate Firefighter"** means an individual currently serving a sentence as a Georgia Department of Corrections inmate and currently enrolled, or who has successfully completed, the Georgia Department of Corrections Inmate Firefighter training program, and is recognized by the Georgia Department of Corrections as such.

(32) **"Instructor Guide"** means instructional materials, including lesson plans, Powerpoint (or similar presentation media), and handouts, used by an instructor to deliver information and skills to students.

(33) **"Internal Validation"** means a validation conducted by GFSTC and GFA Staff before an external validation to ensure that information contained in an Instructor Guide matches questions in the test bank.

(34) **"Live Fire Training"** means a structure fire control class conducted by the Georgia Fire Academy or a structure fire control class conducted at another location where at least one qualified instructor has completed a live fire instructor course conducted in accordance with the current edition of NFPA 1403.

(35) **"Open Enrollment"** means a test event at the GFSTC office or a regional test center that is open to any member of a legally organized Georgia fire department who has met the requirements to take the test.

(36) **"Part-time"** means employed for compensation for an average of less than 30 hours per week by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

(37) **"Pathway Program"** means a firefighter training program conducted in a Georgia high school and sponsored by a compliant Georgia fire department as approved by the Council.

(38) **"Probation"** means an action taken by Council when certified personnel commit acts in violation of the Rules & Regulations and/or Policy & Procedures of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(39) **"Proctor"** means an individual approved and trained by GFSTC to supervise and administer a written, skills or online test event.

(40) **"Professional Development"** means training that meets a national or state standard, or addresses a specific area of local service delivery (this does not include daily duties such as maintenance, territory study, equipment checks, etc., unless it is for a recruit or probationary personnel) and performed in a classroom, at a conference, a drill field setting, etc. with instruction by an individual deemed to be qualified by the fire chief/designee.

(41) **"Qualified"** means that the recruit has completed required training and testing and that the fire department has submitted necessary paperwork to GFSTC verifying that the recruit has met the necessary requirements as approved by the Council.

(42) **"Recertification"** means restoring the certification(s) to those individuals who have lost their certification(s).

(43) **"Reciprocity"** means the process of reviewing training documentation provided to GFSTC by a candidate or a department requesting the opportunity to enter a training program at the next higher level above the level being requested or credit for prior training to be considered toward qualification/certification requirements.

(44) **"Records Review"** means a review of records developed at the local fire department to be maintained and available for review upon request by GFSTC.

(45) **"Recruit"** means a prospective firefighter or student in technical college, private school, high school, enrolled in an approved Pathway Program or Explorer Program who has not yet been certified or qualified by the Council as having met the requirements of O.C.G.A. 25-4 and these Rules & Regulations.

(46) **"Regional Test Center"** means a location that has the facilities to conduct written and/or online tests.

(47) **"Regional Test Site"** means a location that has the facilities and equipment to conduct skills evaluations along with written and/or online tests.

(48) **"Registered"** means that the department has added the individual to their roster on the GFSTC database.

(49) **"Registered Status"** means an individual's information as listed in the GFSTC database.

(50) **"Request for Hearing"** means a clear written expression by the affected party or authorized representative on his/her behalf to indicate that he/she wants the opportunity to contest his/her case.

(51) **"Re-Registration"** means restoring the registered status to those individuals who have lost their registered status.

(52) **"Suspension"** means an action taken by GFSTC when non-certified personnel commit acts in violation of Rules & Regulations and/or Policy & Procedures of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(53) **"Test Bank"** means the computer program containing all of the questions used to develop a certification test.

(54) **"Test Event"** means any written, skills, online or oral test occurrence administered by GFSTC Staff or Proctors approved by GFSTC.

(55) **"Test Instrument"** means a written, skills or other approved evaluation method(s).

(56) **"Trained to the Level Of"** means that the candidate has met all of the requirements of a course and has been tested by GFSTC.

(57) **"Validation"** means the process of confirming that the information in test banks and instructor guides match.

(58) **"Volunteer"** means not employed for compensation but appointed, registered with the GFSTC, and enrolled to serve as a firefighter for any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

(59) **"Volunteer Support Firefighter"** means a firefighter who has been registered with the GFSTC, trained to the level of Volunteer Support Firefighter and passed the Volunteer Support Firefighter test and Hazardous Materials Awareness written and skills tests as specified by the Council. Volunteer Support Firefighters are not trained or qualified to perform duties in the Hot Zone.

(60) **"Volunteer Suppression Firefighter"** means a firefighter who has been registered with the GFSTC, trained to the level of Volunteer Suppression Firefighter and passed the Volunteer Suppression Firefighter tests, to include live structure fire training, and Hazardous Materials Awareness written and skills tests as specified by the Council.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. dept. 205, ch. 205-1, GLOSSARY OF TERMS
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. "Glossary of Terms" adopted. F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Oct. 23, 2019; eff. Jan. 1, 2020, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Aug. 13, 2024; eff. Sept. 2, 2024.

Chapter 205-2. MINIMUM STANDARDS.

Subject 205-2-1. REPEALED.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. dept. 205, ch. 205-2, sub. 205-2-1

Rule 205-2-1-.01. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-2-1-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-2-1-.02. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-2-1-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-2-1-.03. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-2-1-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-2-1-.04. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-2-1-.04
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Amended: F. Sep. 20, 2012; eff. Oct. 10, 2012.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-2-1-.05. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-2-1-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-2-1-.06. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-2-1-.06
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-2-1-.07. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-2-1-.07
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.

Rule 205-2-1-.08. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 205-2-1-.08
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 25-4-7.
History. Original Rule was filed on December 4, 1974; effective January 1, 1975, as specified by the Agency.
Repealed: F. Nov. 19, 2015; eff. Jan. 1, 2016, as specified by the Agency.