

Support the Re-designation of the Sprinkler System Installer Trade to Compulsory Certification Trade Status

The Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition is in the process of submitting an application to the Alberta Government requesting that the trade status of Sprinkler System Installer be re-classified as a compulsory trade. The Sprinkler System Installer trade in Alberta is currently the only pipe trade (Plumber, Steamfitter, and Boilermaker) that is not a compulsory trade. This means there are no minimum levels of training, certification, knowledge, or work experience required to install, repair, test and inspect fire sprinkler systems in Alberta.

Re-classifying the Sprinkler System Installer trade as a compulsory trade in Alberta will help ensure and provide a proper level of safety to all Albertan consumers, trade workers, first responders, business owners and operators. In order to help ensure our application receives a positive response from the Alberta government we are currently requesting letters of support from individuals, companies and industry stakeholders to demonstrate to the Alberta government the need to re-classify the Sprinkler System Installer trade as a compulsory trade. Please find attached an example support letter that you may want to use as a reference.

Sincerely,

*Rob Anderson
Co-chair, Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition
General Manager, Constant Fire Protection Systems Ltd.*

*Bill Graham
Co-chair, Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition
Sub-Branch Manager, Calgary, Vipond Inc.*

*Sarah Purdy
Volunteer, Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition
Stoughton Fire Protection*

*Chad Kalynko
Volunteer, Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition
Premium Fire*

*Ken Gentek
Volunteer, Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition
Fire Safety Services Ltd.*

*Adam Richardson
Volunteer, Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition
Tempest Fire Protection Ltd.*

*Darcy Krug
Volunteer, Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition
Diablo Fire Protection Ltd.*

*Kevin Mozak
Volunteer, Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition
Meridian Fire Protection Inc.*

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT

To: Alberta Government,

RE: Sprinkler System Installer Application for Compulsory Trade Status

Over that past twenty years the Alberta Building Code and Alberta Fire Code have steadily increased the use of Fire Sprinkler Systems in more buildings to improve the level of fire safety for all Albertan citizens. Recent changes by the Government of Alberta will increase the installation of sprinkler systems in the coming years by requiring certain existing care facilities to retro-actively install fire sprinkler systems in order to prevent a similar tragic fire that occurred in Lisle-Verte, QC that claimed the lives of 32 senior citizens. This is a positive step towards improving the level of fire safety for all Albertans.

With the increased use of fire sprinkler systems to protect Albertan citizens, it is vital to ensure that the persons who are installing, repairing, testing and maintaining these life safety systems have the proper level of training, education, and work experience required to ensure that these life safety systems operate correctly in the event of a fire scenario.

Today's sprinkler system installers must be up to date and knowledgeable of numerous technical requirements reference in the Alberta Building Code, Alberta Fire Code, National Fire Protection Association Standards and other industry standards and specifications. This detailed level of knowledge and technical requirements requires sprinkler system installers to possess knowledge, skills and work experience to be able to adequately install, repair, test and maintain fire sprinkler systems that meet and comply with all of the referenced codes and standards, and thus ensure that the fire sprinkler system will operate and function as designed in the event of a fire scenario.

Scientific research conducted in Canada and the United States has demonstrated that fire characteristics have dramatically changed over the past ten to fifteen years. This change in fire characteristics can be attributed to the change in materials that are commonly used in our building materials and building contents. The increased use of petroleum based chemicals, plastics, and other polymers have had a dramatic effect on the burn time of buildings. Beyond the harmful gases that are released, new building materials (particularly lightweight composite materials) have drastically reduced flashover time to less than five minutes in many of today's fires. Sprinkler systems have the ability to combat the flames immediately, allowing building occupants to escape before flashover occurs and extending the amount of time that firefighters have to conduct rescue operations.

The work of sprinkler system installers has a direct impact on public safety and the safety of our first responders. I support the efforts of the Alberta Sprinkler Compulsory Certification Coalition and I urge the Alberta government to reclassify the Sprinkler System Installer trade as a compulsory certification trade status in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Joe Smith