



Office of the State Fire Marshal

How to “Read” Fire Equipment License Numbers

Fire Equipment Distributors (companies) and their Employees (technicians) are each licensed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal in three classifications based on the type of fire protection system they may service or install. The classifications levels are indicated by a letter(s) suffix for the Distributor and a number(s) suffix for the Employee on the respective license number. Both the Distributor and Employee license numbers should appear on the tag and the service documents.

The classifications for Distributors are A, B and C

The classifications for Employees (technicians) are 1, 2, and 3 based on the level of NAFED/ICC certification. Both Distributors and Employees may be licensed in multiple classifications. This will be indicated by multiple letters (Distributors) or numbers (Employees) in the license suffix. It is important to verify that both the Distributor and Employee are appropriately licensed and qualified for the type of work being performed.

Class A Distributor / Class 1 Employee - Portable Extinguishers

Class A Distributors are licensed to provide and service Portable Extinguishers (any size - any type).

Class 1 Employees are licensed to service Portable Extinguishers (any size - any type).

Class B Distributor / Class 2 Employee – Pre-Engineered (Kitchen or Industrial)

Class B Distributors are licensed to install and service Pre-Engineered suppression systems.

Class 2 Employees are licensed to install service Pre-Engineered (Class B) systems.

Pre-Engineered systems require very minimal field design and calculation and are typically open to other spaces. Examples of Pre-Engineered (Class B) applications include kitchen hood suppression in restaurants and food service areas, as well as paint booths, dip tanks, etc., in industrial applications.

Class C Distributor / Class 3 Employee – Engineered Systems

Class C Distributors are licensed to install, and service Engineered suppression systems

Class 3 Employees are licensed to install, and service engineered (Class C) systems.

These systems (a.k.a. Special Hazards, Clean Agent, etc.). are typically found in closed spaces and require engineering and design documents for installation, as well as considerable technical knowledge for service. Examples of Class C system applications include computer rooms, laboratory spaces, clean rooms, communication centers, etc. These systems use a wide range of agents, flow rates, and concentrations. Many are toxic and/or can result in uninhabitable environments when discharged.

A list of all Distributors and Employee licenses can be found on the OSFM Fire Equipment webpage:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Iam/Business/Pages/Fire-Equipment-Distributors.aspx>