

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Ministère du Solliciteur général

Office of the Fire Marshal

Bureau du commissaire des incendies

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Date: March 3, 2026

To: Fire Chiefs
Deputy Fire Chiefs

From: John McBeth
Deputy Fire Marshal – Training, Certification, & Public Education

Re: Supporting Firefighter Certification

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) continues to support departments in achieving firefighter certification, and our engagement with fire departments, training providers, and stakeholders across Ontario will not waver as we progress towards the first compliance deadline for [O. Reg 343/22](#) on July 1, 2026.

In doing so, our collective focus has always been to modernize firefighter training, testing and certification processes. Our shared goal is a consistent, transparent, and fair certification system that supports firefighter safety, professional competency, and public trust.

As this work progresses, the training and certification team remains committed to responsive service, reduced administrative burden, and improved access to timely, accurate information. To demonstrate this commitment, I am pleased to outline some key enhancements and supports to assist fire departments.

Frequently Asked Questions

To address questions regarding certification requirements, testing, timelines, and individual circumstances, we have developed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. The FAQ serves as a central reference for fire departments and will be updated regularly as our office continues to field questions.

- The most current version is attached and will continue to be available on the [Training and Certification Portal](#).
- Updates will reflect ongoing program enhancements and clarifications and will be version controlled so that you are accessing the most up to date information. Please refer to the Portal for the most up to date questions and answers.

eTesting Platform Enhancements

As of April 1, 2026, the OFM is enhancing its eTesting platform to improve usability, reliability, and alignment with the certification framework.

Departments and candidates with testing sessions already booked through AS&E will be contacted directly regarding any impacts and next steps to upcoming testing sessions. Our priority is a smooth transition, minimal disruption, and continued integrity of the testing process.

Those locations that are already making use of our current eTesting system will benefit from increased testing functionality in the new platform. As we roll out this new platform, we will provide access (in a phased approach) to new departments who have not yet accessed eTesting as a way to support certification in Ontario.

Training and Certification Portal Improvements

We are expanding the functionality and information available through the Training and Certification Portal to support accurate and comprehensive student records.

A complete student profile will now allow students to:

- Access OFM course and training history
- Review AS&E written and practical testing data

In the next few weeks, official results for written and practical certification examinations will also be accessible directly through the portal, providing greater visibility into certification status. Unofficial results will no longer be sent to departments as official scoring and portal updates will take place much sooner with enhanced access for learners.

Issuing IFSAC Certificates

To support system enhancements and improved service delivery, the OFM will move to scheduled certification printing intervals.

- Certification results will be available promptly through the Training and Certification Portal following successful exam and post course assignment completion.
- Physical IFSAC certificates will be printed and distributed quarterly to departments, which will allow departments to align their recognition events and reduce the risk of certificates being misplaced when they don't arrive on a regular schedule within departments.

This approach prioritizes timely access to results while ensuring consistency and data integrity.

As we move toward the mandatory certification deadline, the OFM remains committed to supporting the Ontario fire service through clear communication, ongoing system improvements, and collaborative engagement.

Fire departments are encouraged to monitor the Training and Certification Portal, including the FAQ document, for ongoing updates. Additional communications will follow as enhancements are implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John McBeth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a trailing flourish at the end.

John McBeth
Deputy Fire Marshal - Training, Certification and Public Education