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Certified Fire Inspector I (CFI-1)

NFPA CFI-I

Version Demo

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Topic Break Down

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QUESTION NO: 1

Emergency shutoff valves and internal valves that are fitted for remote closure for LP-Gas vehicle fuel dispensing shall be tested for proper operation at what interval?

A. Monthly

B. Quarterly

C. Annually

D. Biennially

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Monthly is correct. NFPA 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*, requires emergency shutoff valves and internal valves equipped for remote closure at LP-Gas vehicle-fuel dispensing facilities to be tested for proper operation at least monthly. These devices provide a critical means of promptly stopping the release of LP-Gas when a hazardous condition, equipment failure, vehicle impact, or fire emergency occurs. The required monthly functional test verifies that the remote-actuation arrangement actually closes the applicable valve and remains capable of isolating the fuel supply when needed. This frequency reflects the safety-critical nature of dispensing operations, where a failure of the emergency shutoff function could allow continued fuel flow during an incident. The inspection should be performed as part of the facility's documented operational-safety procedures, with deficiencies corrected before the system is relied on for dispensing. Consult the edition of NFPA 58 adopted by the jurisdiction, since local enforcement requirements and adopted editions can affect administrative details. NFPA provides access and code information through its NFPA 58 free-access portal and the NFPA 58 standard page.

QUESTION NO: 2

During an inspection, it is determined that the installation of a new suppression system is significantly different from the one approved during plans review. What action should be taken by the inspector?

A. Issue a violation notice to the owner

B. Evaluate the installation for compliance

C. Require a submittal of a set of corrected plans

D. Indicate the modifications on the approved plan

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Require a submittal of a set of corrected plans is the appropriate action because a significant field change means the installed suppression system no longer corresponds to the design that was reviewed and approved. Corrected plans document the actual proposed installation, including the system layout, equipment, hydraulic design where applicable, and any affected building or fire-protection interfaces. They allow the authority having jurisdiction to conduct the necessary review before accepting work that differs materially from the approved construction documents.

This approach preserves the integrity of the approval and inspection process. An inspection verifies that the work conforms to approved documents and applicable requirements; it is not a substitute for design-document review when a substantial revision has been made. The inspector should ensure the revised submittal is provided and processed under the jurisdiction's established permitting and plan-review procedures, then inspect the installation against the revised approved documents. NFPA 1 establishes requirements used by jurisdictions for fire-safety inspections and enforcement, while NFPA 13 addresses the installation requirements and supporting documentation for sprinkler systems. See NFPA 1, Fire Code and NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

QUESTION NO: 3

A sprinkler-system pressure gauge has been in service for 6 years. It appears undamaged and indicates a normal system pressure. What action satisfies the inspection, testing, and maintenance requirement?

A. Leave the gauge in service until its reading becomes abnormal.

B. Perform a visual inspection and document the indicated pressure.

C. Replace the gauge or test it by comparison with a calibrated gauge.

D. Replace the gauge only when the sprinkler system undergoes a 5-year internal inspection.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Pressure gauges and vacuum gauges used with water-based fire protection systems are required to be replaced every 5 years or tested every 5 years by comparison with a calibrated gauge. A normal-looking gauge can still provide an inaccurate reading because internal components can deteriorate or lose calibration. The gauge in this scenario has exceeded the 5-year interval and must be replaced or tested against a calibrated gauge.

QUESTION NO: 4

When may acoustical and decorative materials such as cotton, hay, paper, straw, moss, split bamboo, and wood chips be used as decorations within an assembly occupancy?

A. Materials not permitted

B. When small quantities are used

C. When they meet independent third-party certification

D. When flame-retardant treated to the satisfaction of the AHJ

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

“When flame-retardant treated to the satisfaction of the AHJ” is correct because these listed materials are combustible decorative or acoustical finishes that can contribute to rapid flame spread and fire growth in an assembly occupancy. NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, addresses the use of combustible decorative materials and permits these types of materials only when they have been flame-retardant treated in a manner acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. The requirement is not merely a product claim; the AHJ must be able to determine that the treatment, application, and continuing condition of the material provide the required level of fire performance for the installation.

In practice, the AHJ can require reliable documentation that identifies the treatment used, its applicability to the specific substrate, and evidence of compliance with an appropriate fire-test standard. NFPA 701 is a principal test standard for evaluating flame propagation of textiles, films, and related flexible materials used in furnishings and decorations. Treatment also needs to remain effective after installation and any cleaning or exposure conditions that could affect its performance. This approach allows decorative use while preserving the fire-safety objective of limiting readily ignitable combustible finishes in spaces where many occupants may be present. See NFPA 101, Life Safety Code and NFPA 701, Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films.

QUESTION NO: 5

What is the maximum permitted height for stored Class 2 oxidizers in a nonsprinklered retail sales area that is open to the public?

A. 3 ft (1.0 m)

B. 5 ft (1.5 m)

C. 6 ft (1.8 m)

D. 12 ft (3.7 m)

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The maximum permitted storage height is **5 ft (1.5 m)**. NFPA 430 addresses the storage of liquid and solid oxidizing materials, including the additional safeguards needed where oxidizers are displayed or stored in retail sales areas accessible to the public. For a nonsprinklered retail sales area, the 5 ft (1.5 m) limitation applies to Class 2 oxidizers. This low-height arrangement is an important part of the retail-storage protection approach because it keeps the oxidizer display within a controlled configuration where employees can more readily observe the materials and where merchandise is less likely to be destabilized or damaged during normal customer activity. The requirement also recognizes that a public sales area presents different exposure and handling conditions than a controlled warehouse storage area. During an inspection, the measurement should be based on the actual height of the stored oxidizer containers or display arrangement, and the inspector should confirm that the area is genuinely nonsprinklered and open to the public before applying this specific limit. The applicable requirements are found in NFPA 430, including the retail-sales-area provisions. See NFPA's NFPA 430 code information page and the NFPA codes and standards list for access and edition information.

QUESTION NO: 6

The NFPA Standard for the installation of stationary pumps for fire protection is:

A. NFPA 13

B. NFPA 20

C. NFPA 24

D. NFPA 25

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

NFPA 20 is the correct standard because its full title is *Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection*. It establishes requirements for selecting, installing, arranging, accepting, and testing stationary fire pumps and their associated drivers, controllers, power supplies, and accessories. These pumps provide a dependable water supply at the pressure and flow required by water-based fire protection systems when the available water supply alone cannot meet system demand.

For a fire inspector, identifying NFPA 20 is important when evaluating a fire-pump installation, including the pump room arrangement, equipment accessibility, controller and power-source provisions, suction and discharge piping arrangements, relief valves where applicable, and acceptance testing. NFPA 20 addresses the installation and performance criteria intended to ensure that the pump will operate reliably during a fire emergency. The National Fire Protection Association's official standard page identifies NFPA 20 specifically as the standard governing stationary pumps for fire protection: NFPA 20. Additional official information about NFPA codes and standards is available through the NFPA Codes and Standards portal.

QUESTION NO: 7

During an inspection of a storage area protected by standard spray pendent sprinklers, the inspector finds that the top of stored cartons is 14 in. (356 mm) below the sprinkler deflectors. No special sprinkler arrangement or obstruction rule applies. What correction is required?

A. Maintain a minimum clearance of 6 in. (152 mm) below the deflectors.

B. Maintain a minimum clearance of 18 in. (457 mm) below the deflectors.

C. Maintain a minimum clearance of 24 in. (610 mm) below the deflectors.

D. Remove storage only from directly below each sprinkler.

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The storage must be lowered or the sprinkler arrangement otherwise corrected to provide at least 18 in. (457 mm) of clearance between the sprinkler deflectors and the top of storage. This clearance allows water discharged from the sprinklers to develop its intended spray pattern and reach the fire below. Storage located only 14 in. below the deflectors can obstruct sprinkler discharge and reduce effective fire control.

QUESTION NO: 8

A fire inspector observes a new tenant using a former retail space as a small woodworking shop. The approved plans and certificate of occupancy identify the space as retail sales. Which factor is most important in determining whether further plan review or code evaluation is required?

A. Whether the actual use introduces hazards or occupancy conditions different from those approved.

B. Whether the tenant has retained the former retail-store address.

C. Whether the tenant has changed the name displayed on the storefront.

D. Whether the tenant occupies the same floor area as the former retailer.

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The most important factor is the actual change in use and the resulting fire and life-safety hazards. Woodworking can introduce combustible dust, powered equipment, finishing materials, storage arrangements, and different occupant and operational conditions that were not evaluated for a retail sales occupancy. The inspector must determine whether the new use changes the applicable code requirements.

Retaining the same building address or floor area does not establish continued compliance. A new business name also does not by itself determine code applicability. The relevant issue is whether the occupancy, processes, materials, or hazards have changed from those approved.