

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIRECTIVE 2020-03

WHEREAS, The Executive Office of the Governor issued Executive Order 20-52 in response to COVID-19 outbreak, granting agency heads authority to waive statutory and administrative provisions to the extent strict compliance with such provisions prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

WHEREAS, the Department houses the Division of State Fire Marshal, which is charged with licensing fire safety inspectors and ensuring compliance with the training and continuing education requirements pursuant to section 633.216, Florida Statutes.

WHEREAS, the Division of State Fire Marshal is charged with certifying fire service instructors pursuant to section 633.406, Florida Statutes, and ensuring compliance with the continuing education requirements provided in Florida Administrative Code 69A-39.009.

WHEREAS, the Division of State Fire Marshal is charged with certifying firefighters and ensuring compliance with the firefighter training requirements provided in section 633.408, Florida Statutes.

WHEREAS, suspending the requirement that individuals attend training and educational classes to become certified as a firefighter promotes the social distancing techniques proposed by the CDC and Florida Department of Health, and provides flexibility to trainees whose classes have been canceled as a result of campus closures.

WHEREAS, the Division of State Fire Marshal is charged with issuing certificates of competency and permits to fire protection system contractors and water-based inspectors wishing to do business in the state of Florida pursuant to section 633.318, Florida Statutes.

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 633.332, Florida Statutes, all fire protection system contractor certifications and water-based inspector permits expire on June 30, 2020.

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 633.332, Florida Statutes, all fire protection system contractors and water-based permittees (licensees) are required to obtain continuing education requirements before the expiration date of their certifications and permits.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 illness has significantly impacted the certificate and permit holders' abilities to obtain the required continuing education hours before the expiration date of their certificates, and unless a waiver is granted,

certificate and permitholders will be statutorily precluded from renewing their certifications and continuing business operations.

WHEREAS, maintaining the certifications and permits of these essential fire prevention businesses and fire service professionals is essential to preserving the lives and property of the citizens of Florida.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, JIMMY T. PATRONIS JR., in accordance with the authority invested in me by Article IV, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution, Executive Order 20-52, and Sections 17.30 and 20.121(1), Florida Statutes, hereby issue the following Directive:

Section 1. All fire protection system contractors and water-based inspector permittees shall be required to submit the renewal applications for their certificates and permits on or before June 30, 2020. However, fire protection system contractors and water-based inspector permittees will not be required to submit proof of completed continuing education hours. If the renewal application is timely received, the Division will issue a provisional certificate or permit to the submitter.

Section 2. All fire protection system contractors and water-based inspector permittees shall have until sixty (60) days after the June 30, 2020 licensure deadline to obtain the required continuing education for their class of license or permit. All continuing education must be obtained and submitted to the Division

of State Fire Marshal by August 31, 2020 or the provisions of Section 633.332, F.S. regarding late submittal of renewals will apply.

Section 3. Any fire protection system contractor or water-based inspector possessing a provisional certificate or permit issued by the Division shall be considered as authorized to engage in the business of contracting until such time as the provisional certificate or permit expires, is revoked, or a standard certificate or permit is issued by the Division of State Fire Marshal.

Section 4. All Firesafety Inspectors and Fire Service instructors shall be required to submit the renewal applications for their certificates on or before May 31, 2020 deadline with proof of completed continuing education hours.

Section 5. The timeframes for the completion of required training related to firefighters provided in s. 633.408., Florida Statutes are hereby suspended.

Section 6. This Directive shall remain in effect until superseded or modified by subsequent Directive of the Chief Financial Officer or subsequent Executive Order issued by the Governor.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, this 27th day of March, 2020.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jimmy Patronis'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Signed, **Jimmy T. Patronis, Jr.**, Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida