

**Fiscal Note for the
North Carolina Code Officials Qualification Board Rulemaking Package
Amendments to 11 NCAC 08 .0706 and .0737 – .0741**

Agency: North Carolina Code Officials Qualification Board
(NCCOQB)

Rule Citation: 11 NCAC 08 .0706 and .0737 – .0741

Statutory Authority: N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 143-151.12; 143-151.13

Impact: Federal Government: No
State Government: Yes
Local Government: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

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I. Purpose

The North Carolina Code Officials Qualification Board certifies code-enforcement officials who perform inspection and code-enforcement duties for local inspection departments and certain State agencies. The Board's rules establish the qualifications required to obtain standard certificates as building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and fire inspectors at Levels I, II, and III. The rules also identify the scope of buildings, occupancies, systems, and facilities that may be inspected by inspectors certified at each level.

In prior rulemaking, the Board adopted a future dual-track certification structure under which newly certified code-enforcement officials would be certified under a residential/commercial framework beginning January 1, 2027. Under that

framework, newly certified inspectors would have been subject to different scopes of practice depending upon whether they held Level I (residential), Level II (commercial), or Level III (both residential and commercial) certifications, while inspectors certified before January 1, 2027, would have retained their current scopes of practice, subject to a transition period ending December 31, 2032. The residential/commercial framework was intended, in part, to align the Board's certification structure more closely with certifications issued by the International Code Council and thereby make it easier for qualified code officials from other jurisdictions to enter the North Carolina workforce.

Successful implementation of the dual-track certification structure requires administrative systems capable of tracking the certification authorities associated with the new framework, educational course content aligned with the new certification categories, and certification examinations designed to test the knowledge required for those categories. The administrative software necessary to administer and track the dual-track certification structure has not been developed and cannot realistically be procured, developed, tested, and implemented before the scheduled effective date of the dual-track certification structure. In addition, development of revised educational course content and certification examinations was undertaken in conjunction with implementation of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code – both course curriculums and exam questions were designed based on the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code. Because the enactment of S.L. 2025-2 delayed implementation of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code, the associated course and examination revisions have not been completed.¹

Given the time required to develop and implement the software, educational materials, and certification examinations necessary to support the dual-track certification structure, the Board has determined that there is no realistic path to implementing that structure before its scheduled effective date. The Board therefore proposes to retain the existing Level I, Level II, and Level III certification framework currently used throughout the State, while preserving specialized inspection

¹ Pursuant to Section 5.12(b) of S.L. 2025-2, the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code will become effective 12 months after the State Fire Marshal certifies that (1) the Building Code Council and the Residential Code Council have completed publication and distribution of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code as specified in the Session Law, and (2) the Residential Code Council is fully constituted in accordance with the membership requirements of G.S. 143-136.1. The North Carolina General Assembly has not yet confirmed the Governor of North Carolina's appointments to the Residential Code Council, and it has therefore not been fully constituted. Accordingly, the one-year period preceding the effective date of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code has not yet begun.

limitations applicable to photovoltaic systems and electrical power production facilities and equipment with a generating capacity of 5,000 kW or greater.

The proposed amendments also consolidate scope-of-practice provisions in Rule .0706 and remove duplicative scope-of-practice language from the trade-specific qualification rules. As amended, Rule .0706 will continue to identify the buildings, occupancies, systems, and facilities that may be inspected by inspectors certified at Levels I, II, and III. Rules .0737 through .0741 will continue to identify the qualifications required to obtain standard certificates as building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and fire inspectors.

The amendments preserve the existing scope of practice for certified inspectors and prevent a future change in inspection authority from taking effect. The amendments do not create new certification requirements, new education requirements, new examination requirements, new continuing education requirements, new inspection duties, or new staffing obligations for State agencies, local governments, private businesses, or individual applicants.

In developing these proposed amendments and this fiscal analysis, the Board relied upon the expertise of its members, who represent local code enforcement, design professionals, the construction industry, local government, and other stakeholders with extensive experience in the administration and enforcement of the State Building Code. The Board's conclusions regarding implementation, certification, and fiscal impact are based upon that collective expertise, together with information provided by the Office of the State Fire Marshal regarding administration of the certification program.

II. Rule Change Summary

Rule .0706 is amended to remove the future dual-track certification structure scheduled to become operative on January 1, 2027, and to retain the existing Level I, Level II, and Level III scope-of-practice framework currently used by code-enforcement officials throughout the State. As amended, the rule continues to limit fire inspectors by occupancy classification, high-rise authority, and plan review authority and continues to limit building, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing inspectors by occupancy classification, number of stories, and square footage per floor.

Rule .0706 is also amended to retain specialized inspection limitations applicable to photovoltaic systems and electrical power production facilities and equipment with a generating capacity of 5,000 kW or greater. Inspectors certified on or before December 31, 2026 may continue to inspect those systems and facilities within the scope of authority associated with their existing certification level through December 31,

2032. Beginning January 1, 2033, only Electrical Inspectors, Level III will be authorized to perform code-enforcement official duties for those systems and facilities.

Rules .0737, .0738, .0739, .0740, and .0741 are amended to remove the future dual-track scope-of-practice provisions adopted in prior rulemaking. As amended, those rules will continue to establish the qualifications required to obtain Building Inspector, Electrical Inspector, Mechanical Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, and Fire Inspector certificates at Levels I, II, and III. The amendments do not change the education, experience, examination, continuing education, or application requirements applicable to those certifications.

Collectively, the amendments preserve the certification and inspection authority framework currently used by local inspection departments and State agencies, remove a future certification structure that cannot be implemented before its scheduled effective date, and maintain specialized inspection limitations for photovoltaic systems and certain large electrical power production facilities.

III. Fiscal Impact Analysis

A. Federal Government

The proposed amendments govern the certification and scope of practice of North Carolina code-enforcement officials. The amendments do not impose any requirement on the federal government and do not require any federal agency to expend funds, alter staffing, modify permitting practices, or undertake any new compliance activity. The Board does not anticipate any fiscal impact on the federal government.

B. State Government

The proposed amendments will affect State government by avoiding future implementation and administrative costs associated with the dual-track certification structure and by potentially foregoing future savings that could have resulted from a larger pool of qualified code officials. The amendments do not impose a new affirmative requirement on State government. They retain the existing Level I, Level II, and Level III certification framework currently administered by the Board and the Office of the State Fire Marshal and remove the future dual-track structure before it becomes operative.

Implementation of the future dual-track certification structure would require changes to the licensing database used to track certification type, level, scope of authority, certification date, and the transition applicable to inspectors certified before January 1, 2027. The proposed amendments avoid the future costs of

procuring, developing, testing, deploying, and maintaining those database changes. If the database changes were not completed, OSFM would instead need to establish manual processes for tracking the different certification authorities of newly certified and transitioning inspectors. The amendments therefore also avoid future OSFM staff time that otherwise would have been devoted to developing and administering manual tracking procedures, reviewing individual certification histories, responding to scope-of-authority questions, and maintaining records under multiple certification frameworks. The amendments may also avoid incremental staff or vendor costs associated with tailoring educational materials, examination content, and administrative procedures to separate residential and commercial certification tracks.

The Board also considered potential future savings associated with the dual-track structure. Aligning the Board's certifications more closely with the residential and commercial certifications issued by the International Code Council was intended to reduce barriers for qualified code officials moving to North Carolina and increase the available labor pool. To the extent that alignment would have increased the number of qualified applicants, it could have reduced future vacancy periods, recruitment costs, overtime, reliance on contract personnel, and administrative work associated with evaluating out-of-state credentials for State entities that employ or administer certifications for code officials. Those potential savings may not materialize if the dual-track structure is removed.

The amount of both the avoided implementation costs and the foregone potential savings cannot be reliably quantified because no final database development plan, manual tracking plan, or estimate of future applicants and vacancies was completed. Accordingly, the Board has described the anticipated fiscal effects qualitatively rather than quantitatively. Although the proposed amendments are expected to avoid certain future implementation and administrative costs while potentially foregoing limited labor market savings, the available information does not support a reliable estimate of the magnitude of those effects.

C. Local Government

The proposed amendments will affect units of local government by avoiding potential future administrative and transition costs associated with the dual-track certification structure and by potentially foregoing future savings that could have resulted from a larger pool of qualified code officials. The amendments do not impose new affirmative requirements on local governments; local inspection departments are currently operating under the existing Level I, Level II, and Level III certification framework,

and the proposed amendments retain that framework and preserve the inspection authority currently exercised by certified inspectors.

The Board first considered the future costs local governments could avoid if the dual-track certification structure is removed. Local governments might otherwise need to review and revise job descriptions, minimum qualifications, job classifications, promotion criteria, certification incentive programs, compensation plans, recruitment materials, personnel policies, and human-resources or payroll systems to account for residential, commercial, and Level III certification tracks. Jurisdictions also might need to evaluate the appropriate mix of residential and commercial inspectors based on local construction activity, revise succession and cross-training plans, adjust employee training support, and develop procedures for assigning inspections when an inspector's certification track did not match a particular project. The proposed amendments allow local governments to continue using their existing personnel and administrative structures and therefore avoid some or all of these potential transition costs.

The Board next considered potential future savings associated with the dual-track certification structure. The residential/commercial framework was intended, in part, to align North Carolina certifications more closely with International Code Council certifications and make it easier for qualified code officials from other jurisdictions to enter the North Carolina workforce. A larger labor pool could have reduced job vacancy periods, recruitment and onboarding expenses, overtime, reliance on private or intergovernmental inspection services, and delays caused by limited staffing. Those potential savings may not materialize if the dual-track structure is removed. The value of the dual-track structure also would have varied by jurisdiction because a newly certified residential or commercial inspector could have been more or less useful depending on the jurisdiction's mix of residential and commercial construction.

The Board is unable to reliably quantify either the avoided future costs or the foregone potential savings. The dual-track certification structure has not yet become operative; local personnel practices, compensation systems, staffing models, workloads, and use of contract inspection services vary substantially among jurisdictions; and any fiscal effect would depend upon future jurisdiction-specific decisions and labor market conditions that have not yet occurred and cannot be reasonably predicted. The Board is also unaware of any local government that has implemented, budgeted for, or otherwise incurred expenditures in anticipation of the future dual-track certification structure. The proposed amendments do not directly alter permit fees, inspection fees, fee schedules, or any other local government

revenue source, although changes in staffing availability could have indirect operational effects that cannot presently be quantified.

The amendments also retain transition provisions applicable to photovoltaic systems and electrical power production facilities and equipment with a generating capacity of 5,000 kW or greater. Those provisions preserve existing inspection authority through December 31, 2032, apply only to a limited category of specialized inspections, and do not require local governments to modify their current inspection practices. Beginning January 1, 2033, the Level III limitation remains the same under the currently adopted rules and the proposed amendments. Consequently, the Board does not identify an additional fiscal effect attributable to this portion of the proposed amendments.

The Board therefore identifies a fiscal impact on local governments consisting of avoided potential transition and administrative costs and foregone potential labor market savings. Because those effects are jurisdiction-specific and depend upon future decisions and conditions that cannot be reasonably predicted, the Board cannot reliably quantify the impact and does not expect it to be substantial.

D. Substantial Economic Impact

The proposed amendments will not have a substantial economic impact. The amendments govern the certification and scope of practice of code-enforcement officials and do not alter construction standards, permitting requirements, inspection requirements applicable to buildings, contractor licensing requirements, or other regulatory requirements applicable to businesses or members of the public.

The proposed amendments retain the existing Level I, Level II, and Level III certification framework currently used by local inspection departments and State agencies. The amendments preserve the inspection authority currently exercised by certified inspectors and remove a future dual-track certification structure before that structure becomes operative. The amendments do not impose new certification requirements, education requirements, examination requirements, continuing education requirements, inspection obligations, or staffing requirements.

The Board considered whether repeal of the future dual-track certification structure could result in economic benefits or avoided costs for governmental entities, certified inspectors, applicants for certification, businesses, or other affected persons. The Board determined that any such effects would depend upon future staffing, compensation, hiring, training, operational, or business decisions that have not yet occurred and cannot be reasonably predicted or quantified. Accordingly, the Board

has not identified any measurable economic impact resulting from the proposed amendments.

Because the proposed amendments preserve the existing certification and inspection authority framework, do not require any person or governmental entity to undertake a new activity or cease an existing activity, and do not alter any construction, permitting, or inspection requirements applicable to the public, the Board has not identified a substantial economic impact resulting from the proposed amendments.

IV. Alternatives Considered

The Board considered taking no action and allowing the future dual-track certification structure to become operative on January 1, 2027. The Board rejected this alternative because successful implementation of the dual-track certification structure would require administrative software, educational course content, and certification examinations that are not presently available. Given the time required to develop and implement those components, the Board determined that there is no realistic path to implementing the dual-track certification structure before its scheduled effective date.

The Board also considered whether to retain the future dual-track certification structure while delaying or modifying portions of its implementation. The Board rejected that alternative because retaining portions of the future structure would preserve administrative complexity and continue to require administration of multiple certification frameworks.

The Board determined that the preferred alternative is to retain the existing Level I, Level II, and Level III certification framework currently used throughout the State, preserve existing inspection authority, and remove future transition provisions that cannot be practically implemented. This alternative avoids future implementation and administrative costs associated with operating multiple certification frameworks, although it may also forego potential savings associated with a larger pool of qualified code officials.

V. Conclusion

The proposed amendments retain the existing Level I, Level II, and Level III certification and scope-of-practice framework currently used by code-enforcement officials throughout the State and remove a future dual-track certification structure before that structure becomes operative. The amendments preserve the inspection authority currently exercised by certified inspectors, retain specialized inspection limitations applicable to photovoltaic systems and electrical power production

facilities and equipment with a generating capacity of 5,000 kW or greater, and consolidate scope-of-practice provisions within the Board's rules.

The amendments do not impose new certification requirements, education requirements, examination requirements, continuing education requirements, inspection obligations, staffing requirements, or other regulatory requirements on governmental entities, certified inspectors, applicants for certification, businesses, or members of the public. The amendments also do not alter construction standards, permitting requirements, inspection requirements applicable to buildings, permit fees, inspection fees, or other sources of governmental revenue.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board concludes that, for the State and local governments, the proposed amendments will result in avoided future implementation and administrative costs and may forego certain future efficiencies associated with a larger pool of qualified code officials. Because those effects are indirect, contingent, and not reasonably susceptible to reliable quantification, they are described qualitatively rather than quantitatively in this fiscal note. The Board does not anticipate that the proposed amendments will have a substantial economic impact or fiscal impact on the federal government.

Appendix A

Proposed Rule Text: 11 NCAC 08 .0706
11 NCAC 08 .0737
11 NCAC 08 .0738
11 NCAC 08 .0739
11 NCAC 08 .0740
11 NCAC 08 .0741

11 NCAC 08 .0706 is proposed for amendment as follows:

11 NCAC 08 .0706 REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: TYPES AND LEVELS

(a) ~~Qualification Levels: With respect to all types of code enforcement~~ Code-enforcement officials ~~certified by the Board prior to January 1, 2027, those~~ with Level I, Level II, or Level III certificates shall be qualified to inspect and approve only those buildings limited by the occupancy classification for Fire inspectors and by the occupancy classification, number of stories, and square feet (sf) per floor area of buildings for ~~Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing~~ building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing inspectors, as shown in Subparagraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this Rule. ~~Code enforcement officials certified for Level I and II shall be authorized to inspect and approve these buildings until December 31, 2032. Any code enforcement official with a probationary Level I or Level II certificate, who earns a Standard Level I or Level II certificate between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2032, shall be qualified to inspect and approve only those buildings shown in Subparagraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this Rule until December 31, 2032. As of January 1, 2033, code enforcement officials certified for Level I and Level II shall continue to be certified at those same levels but shall be qualified to inspect and approve only those types of buildings shown in Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule. Standard Level III certificates shall be authorized to inspect and approve the types of buildings shown in Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule indefinitely.~~

(1) Fire inspectors shall be limited to occupancy classifications, Highrise, and plan review as follows, except all Levels include Business, Mercantile, Residential, and Utility and Miscellaneous:

(A) Level I. Assembly (limited to 1 story/20,000 sf), Factory Industrial F-2, and Storage S-2.
No Highrise or plan review.

(B) Level II. Assembly, Educational, Factory Industrial F-1 and F-2, and Storage S-1 and S-2.
Plan review.

(C) Level III. Assembly, Educational, Factory Industrial F-1 and F-2, Hazardous, Institutional, and Storage S-1 and S-2. Highrise and plan review.

(2) ~~Building, Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing~~ mechanical, electrical, and plumbing inspectors shall be limited to occupancy classifications, number of stories, and square feet (sf) per floor as follows, except for any Level, there shall be no number of stories or square footage limit for one and two family dwellings and townhouses or Utility and Miscellaneous.

(A) Level I. Single (1) story/7,500 sf, for Assembly, Education, Institutional, and Residential Multi-unit. Single (1) story/20,000 sf, for Business, Factory Industrial, Mercantile, and Storage. Single (1) story/3,000 sf, for Hazardous.

(B) Level II. Single (1) story/10,000 sf, for Institutional; 20,000 sf, for Assembly, Education, and Hazardous; and, 60,000 sf, for Business, Factory Industrial, and Mercantile. Multi-story: 2 stories, maximum 20,000 sf per floor for Education and Hazardous. Multi-story: 3 stories, maximum 10,000 sf per floor Institutional; and, unlimited sf Residential Multi-unit. Multi-story: 4 stories, maximum 20,000 sf per floor for Business, Factory Industrial, and Mercantile.

1 (C) Level III. Unlimited stories and sf per floor.

2 (3) Notwithstanding Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule, photovoltaic systems and electrical power
3 production facilities and equipment with a generating capacity of 5,000 kW or greater shall be
4 inspected as follows:

5 (A) Electrical inspectors, Levels I, II, or III certified on or before December 31, 2026 shall be
6 qualified until December 31, 2032 to perform code-enforcement official duties for
7 photovoltaic systems and electrical power production facilities and equipment with a
8 generating capacity of 5,000 kW or greater, provided that the inspection is within the
9 inspector's scope of authority under Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.

10 (B) Electrical inspectors, Level III certified on or after January 1, 2027 shall be qualified to
11 perform code-enforcement official duties for photovoltaic systems and electrical power
12 production facilities and equipment with a generating capacity of 5,000 kW or greater.
13 Electrical inspectors, Levels I and II certified on or after January 1, 2027 shall not be
14 qualified to perform code-enforcement official duties for photovoltaic systems and
15 electrical power production facilities and equipment with a generating capacity of 5,000
16 kW or greater.

17 (C) As of January 1, 2033, only electrical inspectors, Level III shall be qualified to perform
18 code-enforcement official duties for photovoltaic systems and electrical power production
19 facilities and equipment with a generating capacity of 5,000 kW or greater.

20 ~~With respect to all types of code enforcement officials, except fire inspectors, newly certified by the~~
21 ~~Board on or after January 1, 2027, those with Level I, Level II, or Level III certificates are qualified~~
22 ~~to inspect and approve buildings as follows except for any Level there shall be no number of stories~~
23 ~~or square footage limit for one and two family dwellings and townhouses or Utility and~~
24 ~~Miscellaneous:~~

25 (A) ~~Level I inspectors shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for~~
26 ~~residential buildings up to three stories in height with no more than four dwelling units~~
27 ~~subject to the limitations for the type of inspector.~~

28 (B) ~~Level II inspectors shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for~~
29 ~~commercial buildings subject to the limitations for the type of inspector.~~

30 (C) ~~Level III inspectors shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for any~~
31 ~~residential or commercial building or structure subject to the limitations for the type of~~
32 ~~inspector.~~

33 (4) ~~With respect to fire inspectors newly certified by the Board on or after January 1, 2027, those with~~
34 ~~Level I, Level II, or Level III certificates are qualified to inspect and approve buildings as provided~~
35 ~~in Rule .0741 of this Section.~~

36 (b) Whenever a provision of the rules in this Section requires a supporting letter (maximum of two per level) from a
37 supervisor, the letter(s) shall be notarized, shall state the supervisor's qualifications (i.e., what type and level of

1 certificate or license the supervisor holds), shall state that the applicant has worked under the supervisor's direct
2 supervision for a specified period of time, and shall recommend certification of the applicant as a specified type and
3 level of inspector upon satisfaction of other required qualifications. The supervisor shall describe the name, floor area,
4 and number of stories of the buildings worked on by the applicant and shall describe the work performed by the
5 applicant.

6 (c) References in the rules in this Section to professional engineer or licensed engineer means engineers licensed by
7 the North Carolina State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors pursuant to Chapter 89C of the North
8 Carolina General Statutes. References in the rules in this Section to registered architect means architects licensed by
9 the Board of Architecture pursuant to Chapter 83A of the North Carolina General Statutes. References to licensed
10 building, residential, electrical, heating, plumbing, and fire sprinkler contractors means contractors licensed by the
11 State Licensing Board for General Contractors, the North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors,
12 or the North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors, pursuant to
13 Chapter 87 of the North Carolina General Statutes. References to licensed "building" contractors do not include
14 licensed "residential" contractors. Specialty licenses issued by these occupational licensing boards are applicable as
15 prescribed by the inspector type and level contained in this Section. Applicants with licenses from other states or
16 countries must provide a copy of their license and documentation to prove that the requirements of the other state or
17 country are at least equivalent to the statewide licensing requirements of North Carolina occupational licensing boards.

18 (d) Whenever a provision of the rules in this Section requires the possession of an occupational license other than
19 those certificates that are issued by the Board, if that license is inactive, the applicant must provide documentation
20 from the appropriate occupational licensing board to prove that the applicant previously held the license and that the
21 license is currently inactive.

22 (e) Whenever a provision of the rules in this Section requires inspector experience on a minimum number of buildings
23 or systems, the experience must include all the inspections typically performed by an inspector during construction of
24 the building or system. Inspections do not have to be performed on the same building.

25 (f) Whenever a provision of the rules in this Section requires a high school education or other education and experience
26 qualifications, the Board may approve equivalent qualifications. Whenever a provision of the rules in this Section
27 requires the possession of a diploma or degree from an accredited college, university, or trade school, accredited shall
28 mean accreditation from a regional accrediting association. Note: as an example, Southern Association of Colleges
29 and Schools.

30 (g) Every applicant for a standard certificate shall:

- 31 (1) provide documentation that the applicant possesses a minimum of a high school education or a high
32 school equivalency certificate; and
- 33 (2) provide notarized certification by a city or county manager, clerk, or director of inspection
34 department that the applicant will be performing "code enforcement", as defined in G.S. 143-
35 151.8(a)(3), as an employee of or under contract with that city or county jurisdiction; or provide
36 certification by the head of the Engineering and Building Codes Division of the North Carolina

Office of State Fire Marshal that the applicant will be performing "code enforcement", as defined in G.S. 143-151.8(a)(3), for a state department or agency; and

(3) make a passing grade of at least 70 percent on a law and administration course administered and taught by a Board-approved sponsor; and

(4) make a passing grade of at least 70 percent on courses for certification in building, electrical, fire prevention, mechanical, or plumbing inspection at Levels I, II, or III, unless exempted by 11 NCAC 08 .0707. For the purpose of entry into the state examination, courses must be completed within five years of the exam in Subparagraph (g)(5) of this Rule. These courses shall be administered and taught by the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal and the North Carolina Community College System or other educational agencies accredited by a regional accrediting association; for example, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

(5) make a passing grade of 70 percent on the state examination administered by the Board for each inspector type and level of certification, unless exempted by 11 NCAC 08.0707.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-151.12(1); 143-151.12(9); 143-151.13;
Eff. January 15, 1980;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2004; July 18, 2002; February 1, 1991; August 1, 1990; July 1, 1983;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9,
2018;
Amended Eff. February 1, 2025;
Temporary Amendment Eff. November 7, 2025;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; April 1, 2026.

11 NCAC 08 .0737 is proposed for amendment as follows:

11 NCAC 08 .0737 BUILDING INSPECTOR LEVEL I, II AND III

~~(a) A Building Inspector, Level I (Residential), certified on or after January 1, 2027 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for residential buildings up to three stories in height with no more than four dwelling units, in accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Residential Code.~~

~~(b) A Building Inspector, Level II (Commercial), certified on or after January 1, 2027 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for commercial buildings up to four stories in height, except for hazardous and institutional occupancy classifications.~~

~~(c) A Building Inspector, Level III, shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for any residential or commercial building or structure occupancy classification.~~

~~(d) Building Inspectors, Levels I, II, or III certified on or before December 31, 2026 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for the types of structures described in Rule .0706(a)(2) of this Section until December 31, 2032.~~

~~(e)~~ (a) Building Inspector, Level I. A standard certificate, Building Inspector, Level I, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

- (1) A license as a professional engineer, architect, residential or building contractor or a registered interior designer;
- (2) A one-year diploma in building construction from an accredited college or an equivalent apprenticeship or trade school program in building construction;
- (3) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in building construction, electrical, mechanical, or plumbing contracting, construction management or engineering technology;
- (4) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university;
- (5) At least six months of residential inspection experience, with a probationary Level I building inspection certificate, on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a standard certified building inspector I, II, or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with ~~of~~ Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- (6) At least one year of residential design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer, architect, or residential or building contractor, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- (7) At least two years of residential design, construction, or inspection experience while working under a licensed residential contractor;
- (8) At least two years of experience as an owner, manager, supervisor, or qualifier, as that term is defined in G.S. 87-10(b), of a residential construction company, who has a license as a residential

contractor, and who has construction experience on a minimum of two Level I buildings (this does not include a business partner providing monetary backing for the company);

(9) At least two years of construction experience as a subcontractor or employee of a residential contractor in the building trades, or work in building construction, on a minimum of two Level I buildings and under the direct supervision of a licensed residential contractor who at that time had at least three years of experience;

(10) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level I building inspection certificate inspecting residential construction on a minimum of two Level I buildings.

~~(b)~~ Building Inspector, Level II. A standard certificate, building inspector, Level II, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

(1) A license as a professional engineer, architect, building contractor or registered interior designer;

(2) A one-year diploma in building construction from an accredited college or an equivalent apprenticeship or trade school program in building construction;

(3) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in architecture, civil or architectural engineering, building construction, or construction management and at least one year of building design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified building inspector II or III, licensed engineer, architect, or building contractor;

(4) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university and at least one year of design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified building inspector II or III, licensed professional engineer, architect, or building contractor;

(5) At least six months of commercial inspection experience with a probationary Level II building inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a standard certified building inspector II or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;

(6) At least one year of commercial design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer, architect, or building contractor, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;

(7) At least two years of commercial building inspection experience including one year of inspection experience with a probationary Level II building inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified building inspector II or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;

- 1 (8) At least two years of commercial building design, construction, or inspection experience on a
2 minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed
3 engineer, registered architect, or licensed intermediate or unlimited building contractor, with a
4 supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
5 or
- 6 (9) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level II building inspection certificate
7 inspecting construction of a minimum of two Level II buildings.
- 8 ~~(g)~~ (c) Building Inspector, Level III. A standard certificate, building inspector, Level III, shall be issued to any
9 applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the
10 applicant possesses one of the following education and experience qualifications:
- 11 (1) A license as a professional engineer, architect, or unlimited building contractor with design,
12 construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level III buildings and specialization
13 in architecture, civil or architectural engineering, or fire protection engineering;
- 14 (2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university in architecture, civil or architectural
15 engineering, building construction or construction management and at least one year of building
16 design, construction, or inspection experience while working under the direct supervision of a
17 certified building inspector III, licensed professional engineer, architect, or unlimited building
18 contractor, at least at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a minimum of two Level III
19 buildings;
- 20 (3) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in architecture, civil or architectural
21 engineering, building construction, or construction management and at least three years of building
22 design, construction, or inspection experience while working under the direct supervision of a
23 certified building inspector III, licensed professional engineer, architect, or unlimited building
24 contractor with at least one year at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a minimum of
25 two Level III buildings;
- 26 (4) At least four years of inspection experience including one year of building inspection experience
27 with a probationary Level III building inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level III buildings
28 while working under the direct supervision of a certified building inspector III, with a supporting
29 letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- 30 (5) At least four years of building design, construction, or inspection experience while working under
31 the direct supervision of a licensed engineer, architect, or unlimited building contractor, two years
32 of which have been performed at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a minimum of two
33 Level III buildings with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule
34 .0706(b) of this Section; or
- 35 (6) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level III building inspection certificate
36 inspecting the construction of a minimum of two Level III buildings.
- 37

1 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 143-151.12(1); 143-151.12(3); 143-151.13;*
2 *Eff. February 1, 2025;*
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 7, 2025;*
4 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; April 1, 2026.*

11 NCAC 08 .0738 is proposed for amendment as follows:

11 NCAC 08 .0738 ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR LEVEL I, II AND III

~~(a) An Electrical Inspector, Level I (Residential), certified on or after January 1, 2027, shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for electrical systems that serve individual residential dwelling units and equipment including its accessory structures and equipment, except for those systems described in Paragraph (b) or (c) of this Rule.~~

~~(b) An Electrical Inspector, Level II (Commercial), certified on or after January 1, 2027, shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for electrical systems that serve non-residential structures and equipment including common areas of multi-family residential structures, except for those systems described in Paragraph (a) or (c) of this Rule.~~

~~(c) An Electrical Inspector, Level III, (Special Systems) shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for any residential or commercial building or structure and the following special systems:~~

~~(1) Photovoltaic systems~~

~~(2) Electrical power production facilities and equipment with a generating capacity of 5,000 kW or greater.~~

~~(d) Electrical Inspectors, Levels I, II, or III certified on or before December 31, 2026 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for electrical systems that serve the types of structures described in Rule .0706(a)(2) of this Section until December 31, 2032.~~

~~(e)~~ (a) Electrical Inspector, Level I. A standard certificate, electrical inspector, Level I, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

(1) A one-year diploma in electrical construction from an accredited college or an equivalent apprenticeship or trade school program in electrical construction;

(2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university;

(3) At least six months of electrical inspection experience with a probationary Level I electrical inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a standard certified electrical inspector I or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;

(4) At least one year of electrical design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed electrical contractor, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;

(5) A restricted (one family dwelling) license or license as an electrical contractor;

(6) At least two years of electrical installation or inspection experience while working under a licensed electrical contractor; or

(7) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level I electrical inspection certificate inspecting electrical installations on a minimum of two Level I buildings.

~~(f)~~ (b) Electrical Inspector, Level II. A standard certificate, electrical inspector, Level II, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

(1) A license as a professional engineer;

(2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university in electrical engineering or electrical construction;

(3) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university and at least two years of electrical design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified electrical inspector II or III, licensed engineer, or intermediate or unlimited licensed electrical contractor;

(4) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in electrical engineering or electrical construction and at least two years of electrical design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified electrical inspector II or III, licensed engineer, or intermediate or unlimited licensed electrical contractor;

(5) An intermediate or unlimited license as an electrical contractor with experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings;

(6) At least three years of electrical inspection experience including one year of inspection experience with a probationary Level II electrical inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified electrical inspector II or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section

(7) At least three years of electrical design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed intermediate or unlimited electrical contractor, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies Rule .0706(b) of this Section; or

(8) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level II electrical inspection certificate inspecting electrical installations on a minimum of two Level II buildings.

~~(g)~~ (c) Electrical Inspector, Level III. A standard certificate, electrical inspector, Level III, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

(1) A license as a professional engineer with design, construction, or inspection experience on Level III buildings and specialization in electrical engineering;

(2) A four-year degree from an accredited university in electrical engineering or electrical construction and at least one year of electrical design, installation, or inspection experience while working under the direct supervision of a certified electrical inspector III, licensed professional engineer, or

1 licensed unlimited electrical contractor at least at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a
2 minimum of two Level III buildings;

3 (3) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in electrical engineering or electrical
4 construction and at least three years of electrical design, installation, or inspection experience while
5 working under the direct supervision of a certified electrical inspector III, licensed professional
6 engineer, or licensed unlimited electrical contractor with at least one year at the level of supervisor
7 in responsible charge of a minimum of two Level III buildings;

8 (4) An unlimited license as an electrical contractor with experience on a minimum of two Level III
9 buildings;

10 (5) At least four years of electrical inspection experience including one year of inspection experience
11 with a probationary Level III electrical inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level III
12 buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified electrical inspector III, with a
13 supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;

14 (6) At least four years of electrical design, construction, or inspection experience while working under
15 the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed unlimited electrical contractor,
16 two years of which have been performed at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a
17 minimum of two Level III buildings, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which
18 complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section; or

19 (7) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level III electrical inspection certificate
20 inspecting the electrical installations of a minimum of two Level III buildings.

21
22 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 143-151.12(1); 143-151.12(3); 143-151.13;*
23 *Eff. February 1, 2025;*
24 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 7, 2025;*
25 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; April 1, 2026.*

11 NCAC 08 .0739 is proposed for amendment as follows:

11 NCAC 08 .0739 MECHANICAL INSPECTOR LEVEL I, II AND III

~~(a) A Mechanical Inspector, Level I (Residential), certified on or after January 1, 2027, shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties in accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Residential Code.~~

~~(b) A Mechanical Inspector, Level II (Commercial), certified on or after January 1, 2027, shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties in accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Mechanical Code, North Carolina Fuel Gas Code, and the North Carolina Energy Conservation Code.~~

~~(c) A Mechanical Inspector, Level III, shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties in accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Residential Code, North Carolina Mechanical Code, North Carolina Fuel Gas Code, and the North Carolina Energy Conservation Code for any residential or commercial building or structure.~~

~~(d) Mechanical Inspectors, Levels I, II, or III certified on or before December 31, 2026 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for the types of structures described in Rule .0706(a)(2) of this Section until December 31, 2032.~~

~~(e)~~(a) Mechanical Inspector, Level I. A standard certificate, mechanical inspector, Level I, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

- (1) A one-year diploma in mechanical construction from an accredited college or an equivalent apprenticeship or trade school program in mechanical construction;
- (2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university;
- (3) At least six months of mechanical inspection experience with a probationary Level I mechanical inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a standard certified mechanical inspector I or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- (4) At least one year of mechanical design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed Class I mechanical contractor, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- (5) An H-1, H-2, or H-3 Class I license as a mechanical contractor;
- (6) At least two years of mechanical installation or inspection experience while working under a Class I H-1, H-2, or H-3 licensed mechanical contractor; or
- (7) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level I mechanical inspection certificate inspecting mechanical installations on a minimum of two Level I buildings.

~~(f)~~ (b) Mechanical Inspector, Level II. A standard certificate, mechanical inspector, Level II, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

- (1) A license as a professional engineer;

- (2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university in mechanical engineering or mechanical construction;
 - (3) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university and at least two years of mechanical design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified mechanical inspector II or III, licensed professional engineer, or licensed Class I mechanical contractor;
 - (4) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in mechanical engineering or mechanical construction and at least two years of mechanical design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified mechanical inspector II or III, licensed professional engineer, or licensed Class I mechanical contractor;
 - (5) An H-1, H-2, or H-3 Class I license as a mechanical contractor with experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings;
 - (6) At least three years of mechanical inspection experience including one year of inspection experience with a probationary Level II mechanical inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified mechanical inspector II or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
 - (7) At least three years of mechanical design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed Class I H-1, H-2, or H-3 mechanical contractor, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section; or
 - (8) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level II mechanical inspection certificate inspecting mechanical installations on a minimum of two Level II buildings.
- ~~(g)~~ (c) Mechanical Inspector, Level III. A standard certificate, mechanical inspector, Level III shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:
- (1) A license as a professional engineer, with design, construction, or inspection experience on Level III buildings and specialization in mechanical engineering;
 - (2) A four-year degree from an accredited university in mechanical engineering or mechanical construction and at least one year of mechanical design, installation, or inspection experience while working under the direct supervision of a certified mechanical inspector III, licensed professional engineer, or licensed Class I H-1, H-2, and H-3 mechanical contractor at least at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a minimum of two Level III buildings;
 - (3) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in mechanical engineering or mechanical construction and at least three years of mechanical design, installation, or inspection experience while working under the direct supervision of a certified mechanical inspector III, licensed

- 1 professional engineer, or licensed Class I H-1, H-2, and H-3 mechanical contractor with at least one
2 year at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a minimum of two Level III buildings;
- 3 (4) H-1, H-2, and H-3 Class I licenses as a mechanical contractor with experience on a minimum of two
4 Level III buildings;
- 5 (5) At least four years of mechanical inspection experience including one year of inspection experience
6 with a probationary Level III mechanical inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level III
7 buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified mechanical inspector III, with a
8 supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- 9 (6) At least four years of mechanical design, construction, or inspection experience while working under
10 the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed Class I H-1, H-2, and H-3
11 mechanical contractor, two years of which have been performed at the level of supervisor in
12 responsible charge of a minimum of two Level III buildings, with a supporting letter from the
13 applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section; or
- 14 (7) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level III mechanical inspection certificate
15 inspecting the mechanical installations of a minimum of two Level III buildings.

16
17 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 143-151.12(1); 143-151.12(3); 143-151.13;*
18 *Eff. February 1, 2025;*
19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 7, 2025;*
20 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; April 1, 2026.*

11 NCAC 08 .0740 is proposed for amendment as follows:

11 NCAC 08 .0740 PLUMBING INSPECTOR LEVEL I, II AND III

~~(a) A Plumbing Inspector, Level I (Residential), certified on or after January 1, 2027 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for residential buildings up to three stories in height with no more than four dwelling units in accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Residential Code, including NFPA 13D residential sprinkler systems.~~

~~(b) A Plumbing Inspector, Level II (Commercial), certified on or after January 1, 2027 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for commercial buildings up to four stories in height.~~

~~(c) A Plumbing Inspector, Level III, shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for any residential or commercial building or structure.~~

~~(d) Plumbing Inspectors, Levels I, II, or III certified on or before December 31, 2026 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for the types of structures described in Rule .0706(a)(2) of this Section until December 31, 2032.~~

~~(e)~~ (a) Plumbing Inspector, Level I. A standard certificate, plumbing inspector, Level I, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

- (1) A one-year diploma in plumbing construction from an accredited college or an equivalent apprenticeship or trade school program in plumbing construction;
- (2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university;
- (3) At least six months of plumbing inspection experience with a probationary Level I plumbing inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a standard certified plumbing inspector I or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- (4) At least one year of plumbing design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed Class I plumbing contractor with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- (5) A Class I license as a plumbing contractor;
- (6) At least two years of plumbing installation or inspection experience while working under a licensed Class I plumbing contractor; or
- (7) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level I plumbing inspection certificate inspecting plumbing installations a minimum of two Level I buildings.

~~(f)~~ (b) Plumbing Inspector, Level II. A standard certificate, plumbing inspector, Level II, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

- (1) A license as a professional engineer;

- (2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university in mechanical engineering or mechanical or plumbing construction;
- (3) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university and at least two years of plumbing design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified plumbing inspector II or III, licensed professional engineer, or licensed Class I plumbing contractor;
- (4) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in mechanical engineering or mechanical or plumbing construction and at least two years of plumbing design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified plumbing inspector II or III, licensed professional engineer, or licensed Class I plumbing contractor;
- (5) A Class I license as a plumbing contractor with experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings;
- (6) At least three years of plumbing inspection experience including one year of inspection experience with a probationary Level II plumbing inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified plumbing inspector II or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- (7) At least three years of plumbing design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed Class I plumbing contractor with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section; or
- (8) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level II plumbing inspection certificate inspecting plumbing installations on a minimum of two Level II buildings.

~~(g)~~ (c) Plumbing Inspector, Level III. A standard certificate, plumbing inspector, Level III shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following:

- (1) A license as a professional engineer with design, construction, or inspection experience on Level III buildings and specialization in mechanical engineering;
- (2) A four-year degree from an accredited university in mechanical engineering or mechanical or plumbing construction and at least one year of plumbing design, installation, or inspection experience while working under the direct supervision of a certified plumbing inspector III, licensed professional engineer, or licensed Class I plumbing contractor at least at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a minimum of two Level III buildings;
- (3) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in mechanical engineering or plumbing construction and at least three years of plumbing design, installation, or inspection experience while working under the direct supervision of a certified plumbing inspector III, licensed professional engineer, or licensed Class I plumbing contractor, with at least one year at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a minimum of two Level III buildings;

- 1 (4) A Class I license as a plumbing contractor with experience on a minimum of two Level III buildings;
- 2 (5) At least four years of plumbing inspection experience including one year of inspection experience
- 3 with a probationary Level III plumbing inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level III
- 4 buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified plumbing inspector III, with a
- 5 supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- 6 (6) At least four years of plumbing design, construction, or inspection experience while working under
- 7 the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer or licensed Class I plumbing contractor,
- 8 two years of which have been performed at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a
- 9 minimum of two Level III buildings, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which
- 10 complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section; or
- 11 (7) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level III plumbing inspection certificate
- 12 inspecting the plumbing installations of a minimum of two Level III buildings.
- 13

14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 143-151.12(1); 143-151.12(3); 143-151.13;*

15 *Eff. February 1, 2025;*

16 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 7, 2025;*

17 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; April 1, 2026.*

11 NCAC 08 .0741 is proposed for amendment as follows:

11 NCAC 08 .0741 FIRE INSPECTOR LEVEL I, II AND III

~~(a) A Fire Inspector, Level I, certified on or after January 1, 2027 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties of operational permit issuance, field inspection, and related code enforcement activities for existing Assembly (limited to 1 story, 20,000 sf), Business, Mercantile, Residential, Utility and Miscellaneous occupancies, and other existing facilities, premises, and structures within those occupancies as required. A Fire Inspector Level I is not authorized to conduct inspections on high rise buildings, inspections on new construction, or plan review for any occupancy.~~

~~(b) A Fire Inspector, Level II, certified on or after January 1, 2027 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties of plan review, permit issuance, field inspection, certificate of compliance and occupancy, change of occupancy and code enforcement activities for existing building occupancies and new construction. A Fire Inspector, Level II, is limited to Assembly, Business, Educational, Factory Industrial, Mercantile, Residential, Storage, Utility and Miscellaneous, and other facilities, premises, and structures within those occupancies as required. A Fire Inspector, Level II, is not authorized to conduct plan review or inspections of high rise buildings, institutional, or hazardous occupancies.~~

~~(c) A Fire Inspector, Level III, shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties of plan review, permit issuance, field inspection, certificate of compliance and occupancy, change of occupancy, and related code enforcement activities for any existing or new occupancy classification and other facilities, premises, and structures within those occupancies as required.~~

~~(d) Fire Inspectors, Levels I, II, or III certified on or before December 31, 2026 shall be qualified to perform code enforcement official duties for the types of structures described in Rule .0706(a)(1) of this Section until December 31, 2032.~~

~~(e) The level of certification required for buildings with multiple occupancy classifications shall be assigned based on the highest level required as indicated in Paragraphs (a) through (c) of this Rule.~~

~~(f)~~ (a) Fire Inspector, Level I. A standard certificate, fire inspector, Level I, shall be issued to any applicant who complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses one of the following education and experience qualifications:

- (1) A one-year diploma in fire science from an accredited college or an equivalent certificate of completion from an apprenticeship or trade school program in fire science;
- (2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university;
- (3) At least six months of fire inspection experience with a probationary Level I fire inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a standard certified fire inspector Level I, II, or III, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- (4) At least one year of fire protection design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level I buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer,

- 1 licensed architect, or licensed building, electrical, or fire sprinkler contractor, with a supporting
2 letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- 3 (5) A license as a fire sprinkler contractor;
- 4 (6) At least two years of construction or inspection experience in fire protection systems while working
5 under a licensed building, electrical, or fire sprinkler contractor;
- 6 (7) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level I fire inspection certificate conducting
7 fire inspections on a minimum of two Level I buildings;
- 8 (8) At least four years of experience in fire suppression activities for a city, county, volunteer, or other
9 governmental fire department; or
- 10 (9) Firefighter Level II certification under the North Carolina State Fire and Rescue Commission with
11 at least one year of fire inspection experience in Level I buildings.
- 12 ~~(g)~~ (b) Fire Inspector, Level II. A standard certificate, fire inspector, Level II, shall be issued to any applicant who
13 complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses
14 one of the following education and experience qualifications:
- 15 (1) A license as a professional engineer or architect;
- 16 (2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university in architecture, civil or architectural
17 engineering, building construction, or fire science;
- 18 (3) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university and at least two years of fire protection
19 design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings while
20 working under the direct supervision of a certified fire inspector Level II or III, licensed professional
21 engineer, architect, intermediate or unlimited licensed building contractor, or licensed fire sprinkler
22 contractor;
- 23 (4) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in architecture, civil or architectural
24 engineering, building construction, construction management or fire science and at least two years
25 of fire protection design, construction, or inspection experience on a minimum of two Level II
26 building fire protection systems while working under the direct supervision of a certified fire
27 inspector Level II or III, licensed professional engineer, architect, intermediate or unlimited licensed
28 building contractor, or licensed fire sprinkler contractor;
- 29 (5) A license as a fire sprinkler contractor with experience on a minimum of two Level II buildings;
- 30 (6) At least three years of fire inspection experience including at least one year of inspection experience
31 with a probationary Level II fire inspection certificate on a minimum of two Level II buildings while
32 working under the direct supervision of a certified fire inspector II or III, with a supporting letter
33 from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;
- 34 (7) At least three years of fire protection system design, construction, or inspection experience on a
35 minimum of two Level II buildings while working under the direct supervision of a licensed
36 professional engineer, architect, licensed intermediate or unlimited building contractor, or licensed

1 fire sprinkler contractor, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies
2 with Rule .0706(b) of this Section;

3 (8) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level II fire inspection certificate conducting
4 fire inspections on a minimum of two Level II buildings; or

5 (9) Completion of the basic, intermediate, and advanced classes of the North Carolina Fire Prevention
6 School with at least three years of fire inspection experience in Level II buildings.

7 ~~(b)~~ (c) Fire Inspector, Level III. A standard certificate, fire inspector, Level III, shall be issued to any applicant who
8 complies with Rule .0706(b) through (g) of this Section and who provides documentation that the applicant possesses
9 one of the following education and experience qualifications:

10 (1) A license as a professional engineer or architect with design, construction, or inspection experience
11 on Level III buildings and specialization in architecture, civil or architectural engineering, or fire
12 protection engineering;

13 (2) A four-year degree from an accredited college or university in civil, architectural, construction
14 management or fire protection engineering and at least one year of fire inspection experience while
15 working under a certified fire inspector III, licensed professional engineer, architect, or licensed fire
16 sprinkler contractor on a minimum of two Level III buildings;

17 (3) A two-year degree from an accredited college or university in civil, architectural, or fire protection
18 engineering and at least three years of fire protection design, installation, or inspection experience
19 while working under the direct supervision of a certified fire inspector Level III, licensed
20 professional engineer, architect, licensed unlimited building contractor, or licensed fire sprinkler
21 contractor with at least one year in responsible charge of a minimum of two Level III buildings;

22 (4) A license as a fire sprinkler contractor with experience on a minimum of two Level III buildings;

23 (5) At least four years of fire inspection experience in fire protection systems including one year of
24 inspection experience with a probationary Level III fire inspection certificate on a minimum of two
25 Level III buildings while working under the direct supervision of a certified fire inspector Level III,
26 with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with Rule .0706(b) of this
27 Section;

28 (6) At least four years of fire protection system design, construction, or inspection experience while
29 working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer, architect, licensed
30 intermediate or unlimited building contractor, or licensed fire sprinkler contractor, two years of
31 which have been performed at the level of supervisor in responsible charge of a minimum of two
32 Level III buildings, with a supporting letter from the applicant's supervisor which complies with
33 Rule .0706(b) of this Section; or

34 (7) At least one year of experience with a probationary Level III fire inspection certificate conducting
35 fire inspections on a minimum of two Level III buildings.

36
37 *History Note: Authority G.S. 143-151.12(1); 143-151.12(3); 143-151.13;*

1 *Eff. February 1, 2025;*
2 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 7, 2025;*
3 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; April 1, 2026.*