



## *Office of the State Fire Marshal*

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January 16, 2015

In 2005 the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.12 and 5/3-14.21] was amended to require the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to conduct an annual fire safety inspection in public schools. The inspection must be conducted using the fire prevention and safety standard adopted by the Illinois Board of Education (ISBE). The law does permit the OSFM to delegate its inspection authority to those units of local government that request the authority and have qualified personnel. The OSFM, in conjunction with the Illinois Board of Education, has adopted administrative rules for the annual fire safety inspections of public schools. The administrative rules are cited as 41 Ill. Admin. Code 111 (“*Part 111*”) and may be found at <http://ilga.gov>. At the site open “Administrative Rules” and then open “Title 41”.

### **Inspection of Schools**

There is no mandate on local authorities to conduct the annual Part 111 inspection, nor does the law preclude those of you that have a good rapport with your local schools from performing the inspections you are currently conducting. However, unless we grant you our authority and you perform the inspection using the standards adopted by ISBE, this agency will perform the annual Part 111 inspection and your local schools have the right to not permit you to enter their building for a non-Part 111 inspection.

### **Application for Authority**

Should you desire to perform the annual Part 111 inspections of those school buildings located in your jurisdiction, you need to submit on your letterhead, your request to conduct the. Your request must include the following information:

- The name and address of the unit of local government. The address must be an actual street address and not a post office box;
- The name of the qualified inspector(s) and a copy of his/her qualifying certification; and
- The number of the school district and the name and address of each school.

### **Inspector Qualifications**

The inspector must be your employee and have one of the following qualifications:

- Certified as a Fire Officer I or a Fire Prevention Officer or Fire Inspector by OSFM; or
- Possesses current certification as a Fire Inspector I or Fire Inspector II issued by the ICC; or
- Possesses current certification as a Fire Inspector I or Fire Inspector II issued by the NFPA

### **AND**

- Attendance of the mandatory OSFM training session