

Provide certification of hood and duct extinguishing system service

Violation Code: 50-1

Code Sections:

NFPA 1 2012 Edition

50.5.2 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Fire-Extinguishing Systems.

50.5.2.1 *

Maintenance of the fire-extinguishing systems and listed exhaust hoods containing a constant or fire-activated water system that is listed to extinguish a fire in the grease removal devices, hood exhaust plenums, and exhaust ducts shall be made by properly trained, qualified, and certified person(s) acceptable to the AHJ at least every 6 months. [96:11.2.1]

** It is recommended that such training and qualification be performed by the manufacturer of the equipment being inspected and serviced. The various electrical, mechanical, and filtration components of the systems should be inspected and tested as required to ensure that they continue to function according to original design. [96: A.11.2.1]*

Explanation

All fixed fire extinguishing systems installed in a kitchen's exhaust hood and duct system is required to be serviced by a licensed technician every six (6) months. The technician shall apply an approved tag to the system and this tag shall be accessible to the inspector to verify the service date. Additionally, the fire-extinguishing system must be serviced after any activation prior to re-opening the kitchen or restaurant.

Rationale

It is important that the 6-month and annual inspections are performed on schedule. These inspections not only provide for the replacement of necessary components on schedule, but they test the actual performance of the components to ensure they are all operating normally and are not compromised by grease buildup or by other mechanical seizures that would prevent the system from performing as designed. Without properly performed inspections, it is easy for the system to slip into a condition of decay that eventually seizes up a cable or an operator or results in a grease build-up that thickly coats and insulates a detector link, so that the system is unable to respond when it is needed. (NFPA 1 2012 – Handbook Commentary)