

**CHAPTER 21.  
VIRGINIA CERTIFICATION STANDARDS.**

**13 VAC 5-21-10. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"**Code academy**" means the Virginia Building Code Academy established pursuant to § 36-139 of the Code of Virginia.

"**DHCD**" means the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Training and Certification Office.

"**SFPC**" means the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (13 VAC 5-51-10 et seq.).

"**USBC**" means the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (13 VAC 5-61-10 et seq.).

**13 VAC 5-21-20. Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to establish categories of and requirements for obtaining certificates of competence to be issued by the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development concerning the content, application and intent of specified subject areas of the building and fire regulations promulgated by the board to present or prospective personnel of local governments and to any other persons seeking to be qualified to perform inspections pursuant to Chapter 6 (§ 36-97 et. seq.) of Title 36 of the Code of Virginia and any regulations adopted thereunder.

**13 VAC 5-21-30. Certificates of competence and training requirements relating to the USBC.**

**A. Building code official.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of all subject areas of the USBC. Completion of the core and advanced modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**B. Building maintenance code official.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of subject areas of the USBC relating to the maintenance of existing buildings and structures. Completion of the core and existing building modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**C. Combination inspector.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of all subject areas of the USBC relating to on-site inspection of buildings and structures. Completion of the core, building code, plumbing code, electrical code and mechanical code modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**D. Building inspector.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of all subject areas of the USBC relating to on-site inspection of buildings and structures except for the plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems. Completion of the core and building code modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**E. Fire protection inspector.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of subject areas of the USBC relating to on-site inspections of buildings and structures for compliance with fire-resistant materials and construction, fire protection systems and means of egress requirements of the USBC. Completion of the core module of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**F. Building plans examiner.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of all subject areas of the USBC relating to reviewing plans and specifications for buildings and structures for compliance with the USBC except for the plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems. Completion of the core and building plan review modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**G. Fire protection plans examiner.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of subject areas of the USBC relating to reviewing plans and specifications for buildings and structures for compliance with fireresistant materials and

**O. Building inspector for one- and two-family dwellings.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of subject areas of the USBC relating to on-site inspection of the construction of buildings as either Use Group R-3 or R-4 under the USBC, except for the plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems. Completion of the core and one- and two-family dwelling building modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**P. Electrical inspector for one- and two-family dwellings.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of subject areas of the USBC relating to on-site inspection of electrical systems in buildings constructed as either Use Group R-3 or R-4 under the USBC. Completion of the core and one- and two-family dwelling electrical modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**Q. Plumbing inspector for one- and two-family dwellings.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of subject areas of the USBC relating to on-site inspection of plumbing systems in buildings constructed as either Use Group R-3 or R-4 under the USBC. Completion of the core and one- and two- family dwelling plumbing modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**R. Mechanical inspector for one- and two-family dwellings.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of subject areas of the USBC relating to on-site inspection of mechanical systems in buildings constructed as either Use Group R-3 or R-4 under the USBC. Completion of the core and one- and two-family dwelling mechanical modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**S. Elevator inspector.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of subject areas of the USBC relating to on-site inspection of elevators. Completion of the core module of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**13 VAC 5-21-40. Certificates of competence and training requirements relating to the SFPC.**

**A. Fire prevention code official.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of all subject areas of the SFPC. Completion of the core and advanced modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**B. Fire prevention inspector.** The certificate evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of all subject areas of the SFPC relating to on-site inspection of buildings, structures and property. Completion of the core module of the code academy and the 1031 school administered by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs is required for obtaining the certificate.

**13 VAC 5-21-50. Certificate and training requirements relating to the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations (13 VAC 5-31-10 et seq.).**

The certificate of competence as an amusement device inspector evidences competence concerning the content, application and intent of all subject areas of the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations (13 VAC 5-31-10 et seq.). Completion of the core and basic amusement device modules of the code academy is required for obtaining the certificate.

**13 VAC 5-21-60. Proof of completion of examination and application for certificate.**

In addition to the training requirements established by these regulations, applicants for a certificate of competence shall provide proof of successful completion of examinations

determined necessary by DHCD for each type of certificate sought and other information as required. DHCD maintains a list of examinations and approved testing agencies for each examination. Application forms are available from DHCD.