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Aim

The aim of the Qualified Firefighter Assessment is to qualify civilian firefighters for the fully qualified firefighter rate of pay.

Conditions

To obtain the fully qualified firefighter rate of pay a firefighter must have:

- a. Successfully completed the MOD FS Basic Firefighter Course (or an approved alternative)
- b. Have completed four years whole time continuous service as a firefighter
- c. Attained the necessary standards in First Aid at Work (HSE approved qualification or equivalent USAF qualification)
- d. Be a certificated BA wearer
- e. Be in possession of a full driving licence (as appropriate)
- f. Have successfully completed either the:
 - (i) Qualified Firefighter Assessment or
 - (ii) Emergency Fire Services National Vocational Qualification (Level 3) - Operations in the Community (with effect from 1 April 2004) or
 - (iii) Junior Officer 1 (JO 1) Course (or approved alternative)

Format

The Qualified Firefighter Assessment is in two parts:

- Part 1 - Station Assessment
- Part 2 - Training School Assessment

Part 1 – Station Assessment

Fire Station Managers (FSM) are to carry out the Part 1 Assessment during the first 6 months of an individual's fourth year of service. The Assessment is to cover all of the Part 1 Training Objectives contained on this disc.

Upon successful completion of the Part 1 Assessment, FSM are to inform the Training School, in writing, of the names of those personnel who are required to attend Part 2 of the Assessment. This must be at least 6 months prior to the individual's completion of four years service to give time to allocate a course place before the completion of 4 years service. Students will be called forward by the Training School.

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Part 2 – Training School Assessment

Part 2 of the Qualified Firefighter Assessment will be undertaken at the Training School, or if sufficient demand exists at an alternative location. The Part 2 Assessment will take place in the second six months of the firefighter's fourth year of service. Fire Station Managers are to ensure that firefighters meet the criteria above (a - e), are fully prepared for the assessment and have received adequate practical training.

Informing Others

Upon successful completion of the Qualified Firefighter Assessment, the Training School will write to DF&RS HQ (HRD) confirming that the firefighter has successfully completed both parts of the assessment. DF&RS HQ will authorise the Civilian Pay and Records Office (CPRO) to pay the Qualified Firefighter rate.

Note: Where necessary, separate arrangements will be made for personnel from Contract Fire Services.

Operations in the Community NVQ and JO 1 Qualified Firefighters

Firefighters who have successfully completed either the Emergency Fire Service NVQ (Level 3) – Operations in the Community or the JO 1 Course (Parts 1 and 2) are exempt from undertaking the Qualified Firefighter Assessment. In order that such personnel obtain their Qualified Pay at the correct time, FSM are required to notify the Training School of the individuals 4 year point 3 months prior to the end of the individuals 4th year of service. The Training School will inform DF&RS HQ who will authorise the Civilian Pay and Records Office (CPRO) to pay the Qualified Firefighter rate.

Note: Where necessary, separate arrangements will be made for personnel from Contract Fire Services.

References

As a minimum, the documents referenced in Parts 1 and 2 of the assessment are to be used. Where individual Fire Focal Points feel that there is a requirement to refer to other documentation when conducting Part 1 of the assessment, this is permissible, provided that the assessment is kept within its intended context.

Note: Failure to comply with the above requirements may result in an individual not receiving the Qualified Firefighter rate of pay at the appropriate time.

Training School Assessments

The normal assessment processes utilised by the Training School will apply to this assessment.

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Interpretation of Standards

The following definitions are applicable to the Qualification Firefighter Assessment:

- a. Without Error - Correctly, as stated in the reference
- b. Essentially Correct (Knowledge) - All essential items correct in essence with minor errors permissible in supportive information
- c. Essentially Correct (Skill) - Essential function correct, with minor errors permissible in supporting actions
- d. Effectively - Successfully producing the end result within the timescales indicated in the assessment schedule
- e. Attitudes - The assessment of attitudes is based upon observed behaviour both on an individuals own Unit and at the Training School

Further Information

In addition to this document you should refer to:

- CTE Information – General Information, Location Map and Contacts
- General Information – Generic Course Information, MT Regulations (JSP 341), MT Orders and PPE Requirements
- Forms – DFRS Forms 210, 211, 221 and 222

References

The following is the definitive list of References from Part 1 and Part 2 of the Qualified Firefighter Assessment.

Fire Service Manual (Volume 1) – Physics and Chemistry for Firefighters

Fire Service Manual (Volume 1) – Hydraulics, Pumps and Water Supplies

Fire Service Manual (Volume 2) – Firefighting Foam

Fire Service Manual (Volume 2) – Compartment Fires and Tactical Ventilation

Fire Service Manual (Volume 4) – Training

Manual of Firemanship Book 2 – Fire Service Equipment

Manual of Firemanship Book 3 – Hand Pumps, Extinguishers and Foam Equipment

Manual of Firemanship Book 8 – Building Construction and Structural Fire Protection

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Manual of Firemanship Book 9 – Fire Protection of Buildings

Manual of Firemanship Book 11 – Practical Firemanship I

Manual of Firemanship Book 12 – Practical Firemanship II

Technical Bulletin 1/1994 – Periodic Inspections and Testing of Fire Service Equipment

Technical Bulletin 1/1997 – Breathing Apparatus Command and Control Procedures

St John Ambulance First Aid Manual – Current Edition

The Fire Precautions Act 1971

The Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (as amended 1999)

British Standard 5306 – Fire Extinguishing Installations and Equipment

MOD Fire Safety Management Plan

Joint Services Publication (JSP) 550 – Military Aviation Policy, Regulations and Directives

Manufacturers Instructions for Fire Extinguishers

Fire Extinguisher Servicing Schedules

Manufacturers Instructions for Appliances

Manufacturers Instructions for Equipment

Vehicle Servicing Schedules

Equipment Servicing Schedules

Vehicle Complete Equipment Schedules and Inventory Lists

Section Standing Orders

Pre Fire Plans

Station Water Supply Map

Occurrence Book

Station Special Risk Plans

Fire Survey Schedule (including LAFB PDA)