

CERTIFIED VEHICLE FIRE INVESTIGATOR

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
GUIDELINES & HANDBOOK



NATIONAL CERTIFICATION BOARD
2007

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE INVESTIGATORS
857 TALLEVAST ROAD
SARASOTA, FL 34243
1-877-506-NAFI

History

The Board of Directors of the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI), a not-for-profit, international organization of fire and explosion investigation professionals, created the National Certification Board at its annual meeting in 1982.

With the proliferation of fire and explosion investigation professionals during the 1960's and 1970's, it was recognized that a need had arisen for an accepted method and measurable standard of evaluating the professional knowledge and qualifications of individuals conducting fire and explosion investigations and analyses and/or participating in the civil and criminal litigation which ensued from such investigations and analyses.

Since its inception in 1982, the National Certification Board has evaluated and certified fire and explosion investigation professionals throughout the world.

In fact, the certification activities of the National Certification Board have been recognized by the National Fire Protection Association's National Fire Code NFPA 921, entitled *Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations*. Section 7-6.4 of NFPA 921 states, "The Association also originated and implemented the National Certification board. Each year, the Board certified fire and explosion investigators and fire investigation instructors. Throughout this program, those certified are recognized for their knowledge, training and experience and accepted for their expertise."

Intent

The intent of the National Certification Board's Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) certification program is to increase the professional knowledge and improve the analytical skills of those persons who engage in the investigation and analysis of fires and explosions in motor vehicles and/or participate in the civil and criminal litigation which ensues from such investigations and analyses.

Objectives

The objectives of the National Certification Board's Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) certification program are consistent with its intent. Those objectives include the following:

- To promote excellence in the investigation of motor vehicle fires.
- To provide a formal, recognized, and standardized evaluation system for identifying and recognizing those individuals who have the minimum professional training, education, and experience to properly investigate vehicle fires or participate in the civil or criminal litigations which may ensue from such investigations.
- To recognize qualified vehicle fire investigators.
- To serve as an international registry and clearinghouse for qualified vehicle fire investigators.

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) Certification Program Administration

The Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) certification program is administered by the National Association of Fire Investigators' (NAFI) National Certification Board. The National Certification Board is a standing committee of the National Association of Fire Investigators and the NAFI Board of Governors appoints its Chairperson. The Chairperson of the NAFI Board of Directors serves as its Executive Secretary.

The NAFI Board of Governors based on nominations from the NAFI Board of Directors during its annual meetings appoints individual members of the National Certification Board. The National Certification Board consists of fire and explosion investigation professional who enjoy international recognition and acceptance within their profession.

The official business address of the National Certification Board is:

**National Certification Board
National Association of Fire Investigators
857 Tallevast Road
Sarasota, Florida 34243
Telephone 877-506-NAFI**

Inquires to the National Certification Board can also be directed to the NAFI website, www.nafi.org.

Confidentiality of National Certification Board Records

The National Certification Board operates under the authority of the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI). The National Association of Fire Investigators is a not-for-profit professional organization and is registered with the Illinois Secretary of State. The Association is not affiliated with or part of any federal, state or local governmental agency or entity.

As such, the records of the National Certification Board are not subject to the requirements of any federal, state or local Freedom of Information laws, administrative policies or ordinances.

All records of the National Certification Board, therefore, remain strictly confidential between the applicant and the Board with only (2) limited exceptions. The National Certification Board will respond to a written request regarding an applicant's certification status.

In addition, the National Certification Board will appropriately respond to any and all legally binding subpoenas and/or court orders. Notification of such responses will be made to the applicant who is the subject of the subpoena and/or court order.

Overview of the Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) Certification Program

The focus of the National Certification Board is to provide a formal and standardized evaluation system for identifying and recognizing those individuals who have the minimum professional training, education and experience to investigate fire and explosion incidents in motor vehicles and/or participate in the civil and criminal litigation which ensues from such investigations and analyses.

Certification by the National Certification Board is attained following completion of the Board's required Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) training program and the subsequent suc-

successful completion of a comprehensive proctored and written certification evaluation. The training programs are offered by co-sponsors who are endorsed by the National Certification Board. Through this process, the successful applicant demonstrates to the National Certification Board that he/she has met the minimum certification requirements and possesses the minimum professional training, education and experience mandated by the Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator Instructor (CVFI) certification program.

While certification by the National Certification Board does not, in and of itself, qualify an applicant as an expert witness for purposes of civil and criminal litigation, applicants have historically utilized Certifications as a significant foundation for attaining such recognition and designation in the courtroom.

Application/Tuition Fee

There is no application fee for the National Certification Board's Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) certification program.

Co-sponsors of the National Certification Board's Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) training programs do, however, require a training program tuition.

Minimum Certification Requirements

Consistent with the intent and objectives of the Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) certification program, the National Certification Board has established the following minimum certification requirements:

- The applicant must be a member in good standing of the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
- The applicant must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- The applicant must demonstrate that he/she has a high school diploma, G.E.D. or equivalent certification.
- The applicant must demonstrate that he/she is of good moral character and will honor the principles set forth in the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Fire Investigators.
- The applicant must demonstrate that he/she affirms the intent and objectives of the Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) certification program as established by the National Certification Board.
- The applicant must demonstrate that he/she has the proven knowledge of fire science and general fire investigation methodology and technology either as a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI) by the National Certification Board or as a Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI).
- The applicant must demonstrate that he/she possesses the practical experience acceptable to the National Certification Board. A minimum number of actual vehicle fire investigations is required (usually 25+).
- The applicant must be in attendance at an annual, three-day, NAFI/CVFI Vehicle Fire Investigation Course.
- The applicant must receive a passing grade (75%) on the comprehensive CVFI written examination.

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) Application Package

All Applicants for certification as a Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) must complete the written application package developed and approved by the National Certification Board. The application package must be completed according to the written instructions, which accompany it.

Applicants are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible when completing the application package. The information provided therein by the applicant is the basis by which the National Certification Board determines whether the applicant meets the Board's minimum certification requirements.

The National Certification Board reserves the right to verify all information contained in an applicant's submitted application package. The Board further reserves the right to solicit and/or require additional information from an applicant when necessary to facilitate its review of an applicant's qualifications.

When the National Certification Board has approved an applicant's application package, the applicant will be deemed eligible to participate in the Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) training program and written certification evaluation.

Completed application packages should be submitted to:

Executive Secretary
National Certification Board
National Association of Fire Investigators
857 Tallevast Road
Sarasota, FL 34243

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) Written Certification Evaluation

The written certification evaluation is offered annually each year at the co-sponsored Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) training program. Proctors designated by the National Certification Board administer the written certification evaluations.

The written certification evaluation itself consists of one hundred (100) questions selected randomly from a question pool maintained by the National Certification Board. The questions are of the multiple-choice and true/false variety.

Each applicant is allowed a maximum of two (2) hours in which to complete the written certification evaluation. The applicant while completing the written certification evaluation may solicit no reference materials or outside assistance.

A minimum score of seventy-five percent (75%) must be attained to receive a passing score on the written certification evaluation. The National Certification Board, however, records an applicant's performance on the written certification evaluation, only as pass/fail. The completed and scored written certification evaluations are not retained as part of the National Certification Board's records.

Applicants who fail to attain a passing score on the written certification evaluation are not eligible to participate in a re-evaluation prior to six (6) months following the date of the original written certification evaluation. All requests to participate in a written certification re-evaluation must be made in writing to the National Certification Board.

Certification Fee

There is a certification fee of \$50.00 (U.S. Funds) for the National Certification Board's Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) certification program. The certification fee is utilized to defray the costs of issuing certification credentials and maintaining the international registry.

Certification Credentials

In addition to inclusion in the National Certification's Board's international certification registry, the applicant will be issued the following certification credentials:

- A Certificate of Certification, suitable for framing, issued by the National Certification Board attesting to the applicant's certification as a Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI).
- An official, full color, embroidered Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) emblem that can be displayed by the applicant on company and/or department wearing apparel.

Additional Information

For additional information on the National Certification Board's Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) certification program, contact the Board at its official address:

**National Certification Board
National Association of Fire Investigators
857 Tallevast Road
Sarasota, Florida 34243**

Telephone 877-506-NAFI or 941-359-2800