This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Section 46-5 of the City of Des Moines Municipal Code, Sections 901.6 & 904.1.1 of the 2015 edition of the IFC, Section 4.1.1.2 of the 2014 edition of NFPA 25, Section 10.5.2.1 of the 2013 edition of NFPA 72, as well as Section 7.3 of the 2013 edition of NFPA 17A.

Section 46-5 of the City of Des Moines Municipal Code requires individuals to obtain a permit prior to inspecting and maintaining fire protection appliances.

The following shall apply to any service personnel working on fire protection equipment:

1. **Fire Alarm Systems:**
   Section 10.5.2.1 of the 2013 edition of NFPA 72 reads as follows: "Fire alarm and emergency communications systems installation personnel shall be qualified in the installation, inspection, and testing of the system." This section goes on to list the requirements to be a qualified individual. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that any service professional shall produce a copy of his/her State Fire Marshal alarm system maintenance license in addition to passing the DMFD fire alarm written test as proof of being 'qualified' to perform maintenance and service work.

2. **Water Based Fire Protection Systems:**
   Section 4.1.1.2 of the 2014 edition of NFPA 25 reads as follows: “Inspection, testing, and maintenance shall be performed by qualified personnel.” This section does not specify what constitutes competence. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that any service professional shall produce a copy of his/her State Fire Marshal water based system inspection, testing, and maintenance license in addition to passing the DMFD water based suppression written test as proof of being 'competent' to perform maintenance and service work.

3. **Other Fire Protection Systems (Hood Fire Suppression Systems):**
   Section 7.3.1 of the 2013 edition of NFPA 17A reads as follows: “A service technician who performs maintenance on an extinguishing system shall be trained and shall have passed a written or online test that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.” This section does not clearly specify what written test is acceptable. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that any service professional shall produce a copy of his/her State Fire Marshal pre-engineered fire extinguishing installer/maintenance license in addition to passing the DMFD hood suppression written test as proof of being 'qualified' to perform maintenance and service work.

Note: to obtain a permit for service, inspection, and maintenance of fire extinguishers, individuals need only to pass the fire extinguisher test administered by the Des Moines Fire Prevention Bureau.

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

Office of the Fire Marshal
City of Des Moines Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau
2715 Dean Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50317
Office: (515) 283-4242
Fax: (515) 283-4907
Email: firedept@dmgov.org