

# DRAFT PROPOSAL

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## Suggested Licensing Requirements for Chimney Sweeps and Hearth Appliance Installers.

### **A new Chimney/Hearth Board shall be added to the Missouri Division of Professional Registration:**

The board shall consist of two members from the chimney sweeping industry, two members from the hearth industry, one member from the State Department of Public Safety, and one member from and Association of Fire and Arson Investigators. Each member shall have a minimum of 15 years of industry experience. (other requirements to be added)

We suggest that the following categories be added to State Licensing Requirements:

**Chimney Sweep:** Anyone who sweeps wood or gas-burning appliance chimneys and chimney flues and connecting pipes, or inspects these systems.

Qualifications: Shall be a *Certified Chimney Sweep* by the Chimney Safety Institute of America. Must show current CSIA Certification to renew business license annually.

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**Gas Hearth Installer/Technician:** Anyone who installs or services gas-burning heating hearth appliances such as gas logs, heating stoves, gas-burning fireplace inserts, and gas-burning fireplaces along with gas vents or flues that come with the appliance.

Qualifications: Shall be a *Certified NFI Gas Specialist* by the National Fireplace Institute or hold an *HVAC mechanical or Plumber* license.

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**Wood-Burning Hearth Installer/Technician:** Anyone who sells, installs or services wood-burning heating appliances such as fireplaces, fireplace stove inserts, cook stoves, heating stoves and their flue liners or chimneys.

Qualifications: Shall be a *Certified Woodburning Specialist* by the National Fireplace Institute.

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**Masonry Heater or Bake Oven Builder:** Any person who builds or installs masonry heaters or masonry bake ovens and their components, including their chimneys and chimney flues, bake ovens, and heater cores. Includes installation of pre-fabricated heater cores and bake ovens. Includes commercial and residential bake ovens.

**Qualifications:** Shall be a *Certified Heater Mason* by the Masonry Heater Association of North America or any other recognized certification program.

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The above requirements apply to all persons employed by the company who do installation or service work. A licensed contractor must be on site on every job at all times.

CEU credits for renewal of any of the above licenses may be obtained through Johnson County Contractor Licensing, the Chimney Safety Institute of America, the National Fireplace Institute, or other approved organization.

## Current and Suggested Licensing Requirements for Chimney Sweeps and Hearth Stores

Service	Current Licensing Req.	Suggested Licensing Req.
<p><b>Chimney Sweep/ Inspector/ Technician:</b> Sweeps and inspects chimneys, flues, smoke chambers, connecting pipes, fireplaces. Inspects and repairs wood and gas heating stoves, furnace, boiler, water heater flues, and Class A chimneys. Provides reports. Checks clearances to combustibles, proper construction and installation, diagnoses performance problems, suggests repair methods. Most also install flue liners and appliances</p>	<p>Nothing</p> <p><i>Note: St. Louis County requires CSIA Certification.</i></p> <p>Some jurisdictions require a Master Mechanical License to install flue liners- (JOCO, several cities in the greater KC area, Des Moines, Columbia)</p>	<p>CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep and NFI Certified Woodburning Spec. and NFI Certified Gas <i>or</i> HVAC license for gas flues &amp; liners</p>
<p><b>Chimney Inspector:</b> Inspects chimneys, fireplaces, flues, connecting pipes, and hearth appliances. Gets little, if any, training from ASHI or other programs.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>F.I.R.E. Certified Fireplace Inspector, <i>or</i> CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep.</p>
<p><b>Retail Hearth Store:</b> Sell and install wood-burning fireplaces, furnaces, fireplace inserts and stoves; sell and install gas heating stoves and fireplace inserts, gas logs, and pellet stoves.</p>	<p>Some jurisdictions require a Master Mechanical License. (<i>No hearth stores have this in greater KC</i>) <i>Note: Wichita Requires NFI Certification</i></p> <p>Some jurisdictions require a Master Mechanical License. (<i>No stores have this in greater KC</i>)</p>	<p>NFI Certified Gas Specialist <i>or</i> HVAC license NFI Certified Pellet Specialist NFI Certified Woodburning And NFI Certified Gas Specialist OR HVAC</p>
<p><b>Insulation Contractors, HVAC contractors, pool and recreation stores, etc.</b> Sell and install gas logs, gas and woodburning fireplaces and stoves</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Not allowed unless they have the above certifications</p>
<p><b>Hardware and farm stores:</b> Some sell wood-burning furnaces, and stoves, gas stoves, gas logs. Some stoves are NOT EPA Certified or UL listed appliances. There are no technicians on hand to explain how to install or operate appliances, or explain proper flues/chimneys.</p>	<p>Homeowners are likely installing these themselves—many without proper flue liner or chimney, or proper clearances.</p>	<p>Suggest that only EPA Certified, UL listed stoves be allowed and that they hand out a list of qualified licensed technicians or website link with each sale.</p>
<p><b>Masonry Heater Builder:</b> A person who builds masonry heaters and masonry bake ovens. Includes commercial and residential bake ovens.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p><i>Certified Heater Mason</i> by the Masonry Heater Association of North America</p>
<p><b>Mason:</b> Builds and repairs chimneys. Gets little, if any training on codes and construction methods.</p>	<p>None, or does job under a contractor who has a contractor license.</p>	<p>Certification from approved masonry trade organization. Cannot reline flues.</p>

## Current and Suggested Licensing Requirements for Chimney Sweeps and Hearth Stores

*Note: The following is wording suggested to use to address members of the Senate or House in order to assure them that we are most interested in public safety.*

### The Facts:

- The chimney and hearth industries have been largely unregulated since the beginning of our U.S. history.
- Some cities, counties, and states are beginning to see the problems with this issue and are starting to require licensing.
- Other trades, such as electrical, plumbing, HVAC, contractors, etc. are licensed and regulated in order to protect the public. We feel that the chimney and hearth industry needs licensing for the same reason.
- **The HVAC License** does not address wood-burning fireplaces, wood-burning fireplace inserts, wood-burning stoves, prefabricated or masonry chimneys, metal chimneys, connecting pipes, termination caps, clearances to combustibles, flues or flue liners serving these appliances. The BLOCK test has no questions on these issues. It covers little on gas burning fireplaces, gas logs, or gas inserts, and nothing on pellet stoves. We feel that the HVAC License is not adequate for the industry, and that the NFI Gas, Wood and Pellet Certifications, and CSIA Certification are more appropriate, address these specific items, and are more than adequate to assure a level of competency for sweeps, inspectors, or installers.
- The home inspection industry is adding more depth to their inspections in terms of chimneys, flues, and appliances, yet they have no required training in this area and have wording that does not include inspection of these systems in their reports. We feel that a Level II internal camera inspection (see NFPA Levels of Inspection) by a Certified and qualified inspector is the only way to assure an adequate inspection for homebuyers and homeowners.
- With these new licensing requirements the level of competency will be raised to the same standards as other licensed trades, while assuring those in the trade that their business will remain viable. This will help to assure that businesses have the required knowledge to service, inspect, and install wood and gas heating chimneys, flues, and appliances, and ensure an increased measure of safety for the public.

## Current and Suggested Licensing Requirements for Chimney Sweeps and Hearth Stores

### Overview of requirements for each Certification:

#### **CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep:**

**Cost:** \$900 every three years.

\$2,500 for the 1-week training school in Indianapolis (optional)

**CEUs:** A minimum of 48 CEU Credits must be obtained for re-certification every three years, or retesting is necessary. A card is issued annually.

**Test materials:** Successful Chimney Sweeping Manual; National Fire Protection Association 211 Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid-Fuel Burning Appliances; International Residential Code

#### **National Fireplace Institute Woodburning Specialist:**

**Cost:** \$400 every three years.

**CEU's:** A minimum of 48 CEU Credits must be obtained for re-certification every three years, or retesting is necessary.

**Test materials:** Woodburning Hearth Systems Reference Manual

#### **National Fireplace Institute Gas Specialist:**

**Cost:** \$400 every three years.

**CEU's:** A minimum of 48 CEU Credits must be obtained for re-certification every three years, or retesting is necessary.

**Test materials:** NFI Gas Systems Reference Manual

#### **F.I.R.E. Certified Fireplace Inspector:** (This is a privately owned program)

**Cost:** \$2,500 for the six-day course

**CEU's:** A minimum of 48 CEU Credits must be obtained for re-certification every three years, or retesting is necessary. Approved by ASHI, CSIA, NFI, and others.

**Test materials:** National Fire Protection Association 211 Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid-Fuel Burning Appliances; International Residential Code;

#### **Certified Heater Mason:**

**Cost:** \$450 initial cost for the manual and test.

**Test materials:** MHA Heater Mason's Reference Manual, Occupational Analysis Manual, Policies and Procedures Manual, IRC.

**Also required to qualify:** A demonstration of skills is required in person at the annual meeting, study under a master heater builder is required with three projects submitted for review, and proof of competency from an approved apprenticeship program is required.

**CEU's:** A minimum of 24 CEU Credits must be obtained for re-certification every three years through the MHA.

#### **CSIA Master Chimney Sweep:**