

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Division of State Fire

Office of State Fire Marshal

141 Monticello Trail • Columbia, SC 29203

803-896-9800

www.statefire.llr.sc.gov

Office of School Facilities Chapter 5 and 9 Final Inspection Process

The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Division of State Fire, Office of State Fire Marshal (State Fire) will perform final inspections of Fire Service Features that are identified in Chapter 5 and Fire Protection Systems that are identified in Chapter 9 of the South Carolina Fire Code on behalf of OSF through a contract that assigned the responsibility for inspection and limited plan review to the Office of State Fire Marshal. These inspections will be referred to as "OSF State Fire Inspections" and the requirements/systems will be referred to as "Chapter 5 and 9".

The SC Department of Education Office of School Facilities (OSF) retains the role of Building Official with the responsibility of issuing Certificates of Approval prior to occupancy.

I. Requesting the Inspection:

- Inspection request will be entered into the Office of State Fire Marshal Information Management System (IMS) as a Building Inspection request by the Design Professional (DP) or responsible OSF staff member. https://osfm.llr.sc.gov/
- 2. The following personnel should be added as contacts for the request:
 - a. OSF Representative
 - b. General Contractor
 - c. All applicable subcontractors (ie alarm, hood, sprinkler, electric, etc.)
 - d. Third party inspector
 - e. All applicable design professionals
- 3. All systems must be ready for final inspection, to include completed acceptance testing, before the inspection will be made. To ensure that all Chapter 5 and/or Chapter 9 Systems are ready for final inspection, the following documentation will be uploaded into the IMS *at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled inspection date*. Failure to do so may result in the inspection being cancelled.

Required Documentation:

- a. Fire Flow test documentation of water supply
- b. Testing documents of BDAs (if required)
- c. Confirmation from Third Party Inspection firm who has witnessed the final inspections as a representative of OSF and/or owner, noting final acceptance and approval of

- Chapter 5 requirements and/or Chapter 9 Fire Protection Systems. This may be a deficiency log demonstrating all deficiencies are corrected or it may be an inspection report documenting that all Chapter 9 Systems have had a final inspection and are approved.
- d. For water-based fire protection systems: NFPA 13 or NFPA 24 Underground and Aboveground Contractors Materials and Test Certificates and Fire Pump Acceptance Test Results (when applicable).
- e. For fire alarm systems: NFPA 72 Certificate of Completion and device list
- f. For Kitchen Fire Suppression Systems: A compliant Kitchen Hood Fire Suppression System Report.
- g. Other Chapter 9 Systems: Final test and acceptance documents completed to include signatures.

II. Scheduling the Inspection:

- State Fire will conduct the inspection within 14 days of the inspection request. State Fire will assign a
 date to the inspection request and all parties associated with the request in the IMS will receive an
 email notifying them of the inspection date and the assigned Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) who
 will be responsible for the inspection. DSFMs will attempt to call the individual requesting the
 inspection to discuss available dates before scheduling.
- Within 48 hours of the scheduled inspection, if all of the required documents have not been submitted, State Fire will attempt to reach out to the DP to check the status of the inspection readiness. If all Chapter 5 requirements and/or Chapter 9 Systems will not be ready for inspection, the inspection will be cancelled. If the required documents are not uploaded within 24 hours of the inspection, State Fire may cancel the inspection.
- 3. Cancelled inspections and failed inspections will require a new inspection request which will be conducted within 14 days of the request as described above.

III. Conducting the Inspection:

- 1. The DP and all necessary contractors and third-party inspectors must be present at the time of the inspection. OSF is not required to be present.
- 2. The Deputy State Fire Marshal will lead the inspection.
- 3. The "Three Strikes and You Are Out" rule will be applied to each system. Three deficiencies that cannot be immediately corrected will result in a failed inspection. State Fire will not continue the inspection that results in the creation of a "punch list."

IV. Results of the Inspection:

- 1. Inspection reports will be available within 24 hours of the completion of the inspection and will be shared with all persons associated with the inspection request in the IMS.
- 2. OSF is responsible for issuing Certificate of Approval (CA) to allow occupancy of the inspected structure. OSF may issue the CA with or without a passed final inspection from State Fire.

V. Appeals:

a. The DP or Contractor who disagrees with the results of an inspection or the actions of any DSFM may immediately appeal in writing by emailing the Assistant State Fire Marshal (ASFM) and describing the basis of the appeal and the suggested next action. The ASFM will consult with interested parties and provide a response to the appeal as soon as possible and no more than 72 hours after the receipt of the appeal. If the ASFM is not being available, the Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal (CDSFM) will answer the appeal.

ASFM: <u>Nathan.ellis@llr.sc.gov</u>
 CDSFM: Curtis.smith@llr.sc.gov

VI. Quality Control:

In an effort to encourage accurate, timely, quality work by DPs, contractors, and Third Party
Inspection Firms, State Fire may publish the results of inspections in a public facing platform.
Numbers and percentages of scheduled inspections, failed inspections, and cancelled inspections will
be published and used to assign a "grade" to the parties mentioned above. Address and names of
projects will not be published.

VII. Plan Reviews:

- Fire Sprinkler Plan Review. In accordance with SC Code of Law 40-10, State Fire will review fire sprinkler plans when requested by the AHJ. The process for submitting fire sprinkler plans into the IMS has not changed. Guidance can be found on our website._ https://statefire.llr.sc.gov/osfm/index.aspx
- 2. Fire Alarm Plan Review. For "Fire Alarm Only" projects, which do not include any other trades, State Fire will review and issue an approval for fire alarm plans prior to system component installation. State Fire requires that the submittal include engineered plans and/or engineered specifications with a contractor's shop drawings. A SC Licensed Engineer is required. A letter of compliance, certifying that the Contractor's shop drawings comply with the appropriate codes is required. Plans and documents will be uploaded into the IMS Plan Review module. Upon State Fire plan approval, OSF will issue a School Building Permit (SBP). Construction or installation of the new fire alarm must not begin without the SBP having been issued by OSF.
- 3. **Site Plans.** State Fire will review site plans for compliance with the following: fire apparatus access road, fire flow, fire hydrant locations, FDC location, etc. Plans will be uploaded into the IMS Plan Review module.

VIII. Questions or Issues

For assistance or questions with IMS, plan review, inspection scheduling, or paperwork you may contact Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal Chad Kelly at chad.kelly@llr.sc.gov or (803) 603-0552.

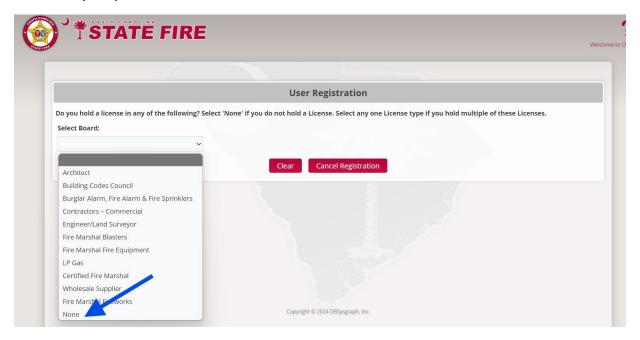
Step 1: Create your personal user account in the IMS.

Go to https://osfm.llr.sc.gov and choose "First Time Users Click Here". Follow the instructions to set up a personal user account.

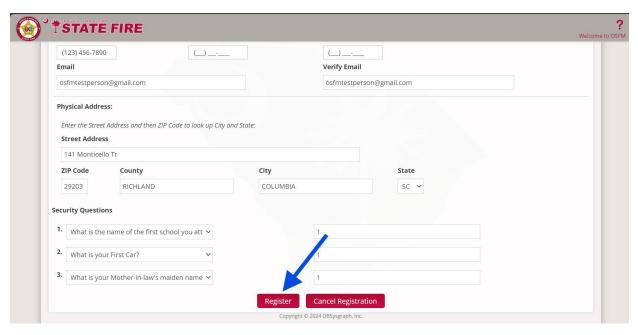


Verify that you are not a robot by entering the code you see on the screen.

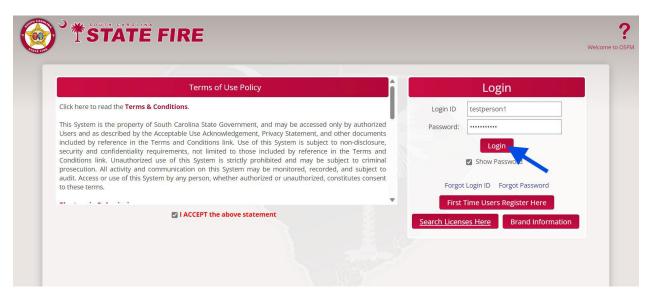
If you are a license holder of select licenses issued by LLR, you may pull your information from the LLR licensing system. This is not required. You may select "None" and enter all of your information. Often, there is "bad information" in the LLR system such as an incorrect email address. You will not be able to edit incorrect information. It may be easier to select "none" and enter your personal information.



Create your login (unique to you, can be any series of letters of numbers) and Enter all of your personal information and click "Register".



Verify your email address by using the temporary password you receive in your email to log into the IMS.

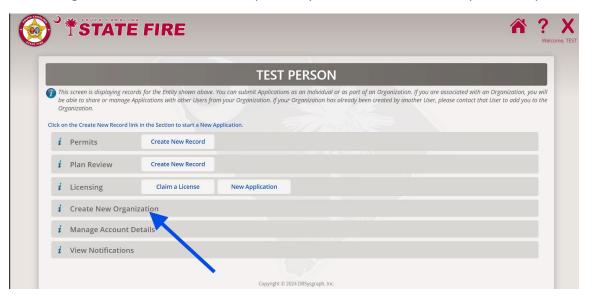


Once you create your permanent password, click "Home". This will take you to your dashboard.

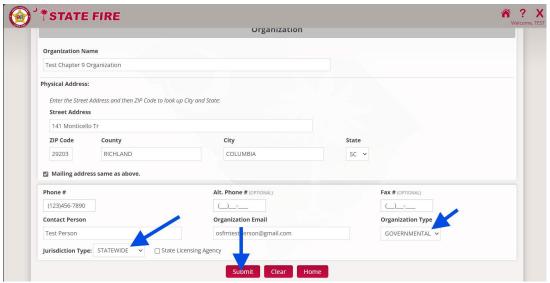
Step 2: Create your organization.

Building Inspections cannot be requested from individuals. In the OSFM IMS, only government organizations can request a building inspection. So, the next step is to create your organization. From your dashboard, click "Create New Organization".

Note: Multiple personal accounts can be associated with the same organization. The first user to create the organization is by default, the administrator. Additional users can be added to the organization and be given admin rights if the admin chooses to do so. Admins will have the ability to manage the organization. All members of the organization will be able to request inspections and retrieve inspection reports.

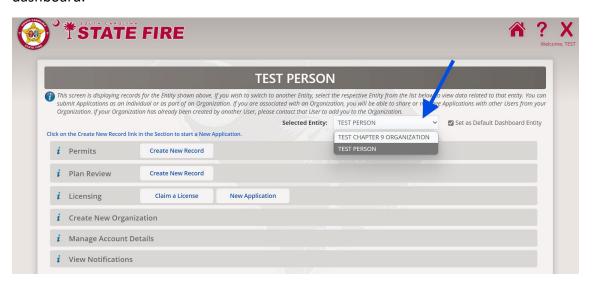


Because the IMS was created for government organizations to be able to request building inspections from OSFM, you must choose "Government" with "Statewide" jurisdiction. Then click "Submit".



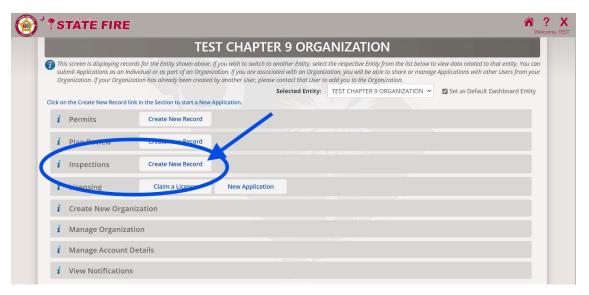
OSFM Staff will review and approve your newly created organization. You will receive an email once we have approved it. Then you will be able to request inspections.

After your organization is approved by OSFM, you can log in again. Now you will see a drop-down menu on your dashboard. Select your organization, and set this as your default dashboard.

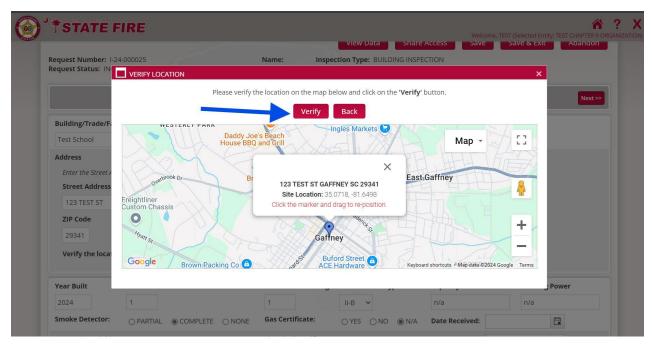


Step 3: Request Building Inspection

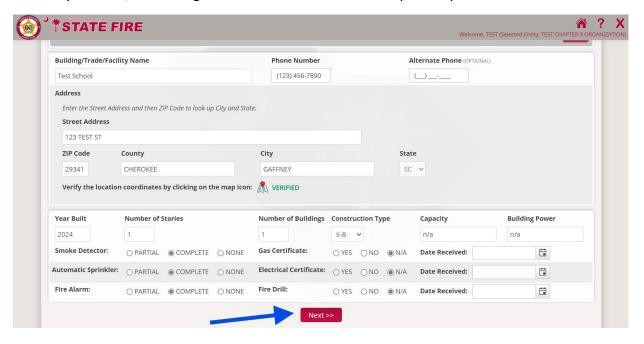
The new dashboard for your organization will give you the ability to request a Building Inspection. Click "Create New Record."



Follow the instructions and enter the necessary information. Verify the address on the map.



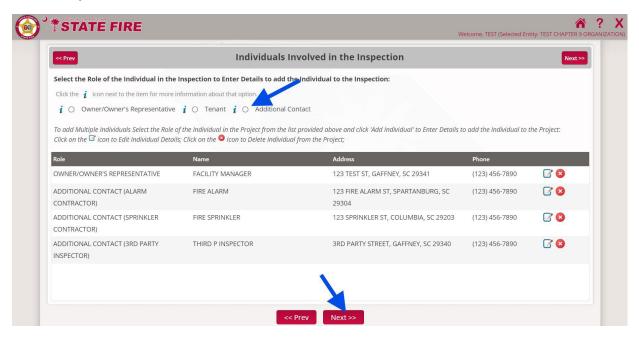
You may enter N/A for things that are irrelevant to the Chapter 9 systems. Click "Next".



Step 4: Add Individuals Involved in the Inspection:

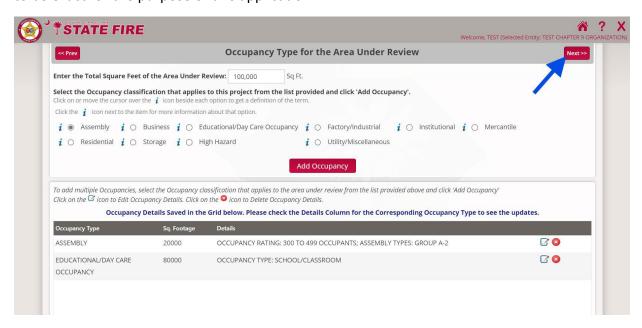
OSFM requires that you include at least the Third Party Inspection firm contact, each Chapter 9 fire protection system contractor, and the Architect/Engineer of Record (if this is not the person making the inspection request.) You may add as many contact persons as you wish. Each person will receive an email regarding scheduling and inspection reports.

Note: Individuals Involved cannot be added after the inspection request is submitted. Please try to be complete and accurate when completing this information on the initial request.

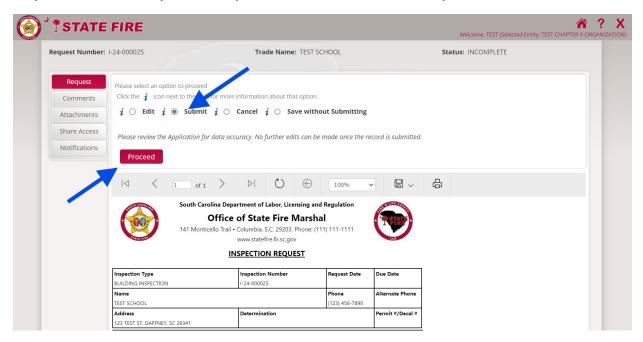


Step 5: Enter Occupancy Details

Enter Occupancy details and click "Next". Occupancy details may be estimates and do not have to be exact for the purpose of this application.



Step 6: Review the Inspection Request details and submit the request.



Step 7: Upload required documents as Attachments

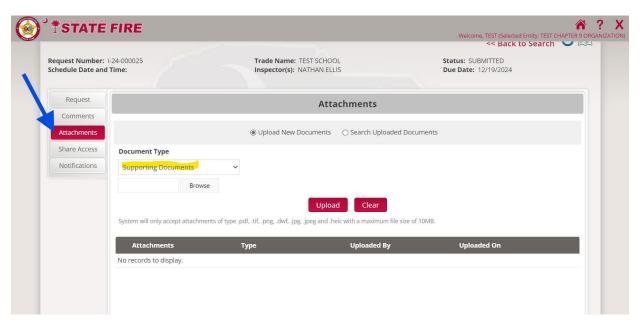
All systems must be ready for final inspection before the inspection will be made. To ensure that all Chapter 9 Systems are ready for final inspection, the following documentation will be uploaded into the IMS at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled inspection date. Failure to do so may result in the inspection being cancelled.

Required Documentation:

- Testing documentation of water supply
- Testing documents of BDAs (if required)
- Confirmation from Third Party Inspection firm who has witnessed the final inspections
 as a representative of OSF and/or owner, noting final acceptance and approval of
 Chapter 5 requirements and/or Chapter 9 Fire Protection Systems. This may be a
 deficiency log demonstrating all deficiencies are corrected or it may be an inspection
 report documenting that all Chapter 9 Systems have had a final inspection and are
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- For fire alarm systems: NFPA 72 Certificate of Completion and device list

- For Kitchen Fire Suppression Systems: A compliant Kitchen Hood Fire Suppression System Report.
- Other Chapter 9 Systems: Final test and acceptance documents completed to include signatures.

To upload documents, Choose the "Attachments" tab on the left side of the Inspection Request screen. Chose "Supporting Documents". The documents can be uploaded as one combined file or as individual documents.



Step 7: A Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) will schedule the inspection. The inspection will be scheduled at the DSFM's convenience within 14 days of the request. DSFM's are encouraged to contact you to offer their available days prior to scheduling. Once a date and time have been scheduled, Individuals associated with the project will receive an email notifying them of the date and time.

Note about scheduling the inspection: Per our policy with OSF, State Fire will attempt to complete the inspection within 14 days of the request. The DSFM should offer the requesting individual their open days within the 14 day period. If the DSFM has no available days, or if the available days are not acceptable to the individual making the request, the DSFM will pass the request up to their Supervisor, a Senior DSFM (SDSFM). The SDSFM will attempt to fill the inspection request by finding a DSFM who can perform the inspection at an acceptable time. If the SDSFM cannot find an available DSFM to perform the inspection, they will pass the request up to the Chief Deputy SFM (CDSFM). The CDSFM and SDSFM will work with the individual making the request to complete the inspection at the soonest available agreed upon time.

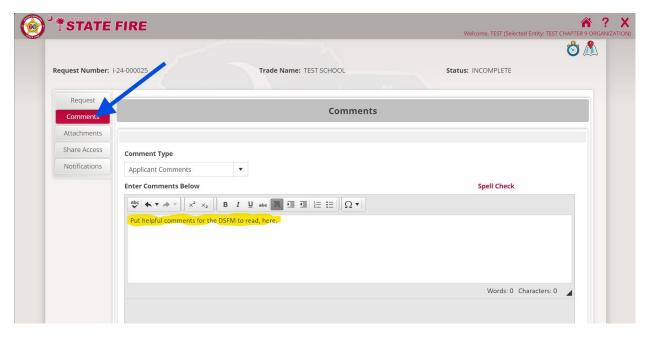
Note about Cancelling or Rescheduling an Inspection: You may cancel an inspection at any time. If you cancel an inspection, a new request will have to be generated. If you need to reschedule an inspection, please reach out to the DSFM who is responsible for the inspection.

Step 8: Receive a report.

Once the inspection is complete, the DSFM will complete the report. When the report is completed, it will be automatically emailed to you from the IMS. You may also view and download the report from the IMS at any time. Reports and all records associated with the inspection request will remain available in the IMS for 3 years from the date of the report.

Comments:

DSFMs and the Individual making the Request can use the comments section of the Inspection Request to put notes relevant for the inspection. For example, DSFMs may make notes about attempts to contact individuals involved, or notes about available days. The Individual making the request may put notes about available dates or the status of certain portions of the systems that need to be inspected. Comments will remain a part of the inspection request file, but will not be published as part of the report. Comments are useful for documenting details related to the inspection request in a way that everyone involved can see them.



For Assistance:

If you have questions about the process or need assistance with registering as a user, navigating the IMS, or requesting an inspection, please reach out to OSFM by contacting any DSFM or one of the following:

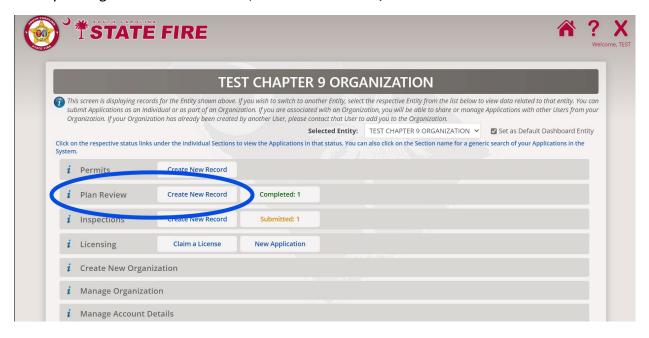
Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal Chad Kelly (chad.kelly@llr.sc.gov) 803-603-0552 Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Curtis Smith (curtis.smith@llr.sc.gov) 803-543-0809 Assistant State Fire Marshal Nathan Ellis (nathan.ellis@llr.sc.gov) 803-414-7161.

Requesting a "Fire Alarm Only" or "Site Plan" Plan Review

For "Fire Alarm Only" projects, which do not include any other trades, State Fire will review and issue an approval for fire alarm plans prior to system component installation. State Fire requires that the submittal include engineered plans and/or engineered specifications with a contractor's shop drawings. A SC Licensed Engineer is required. A letter of compliance, certifying that the Contractor's shop drawings comply with the appropriate codes is required. Plans and documents will be uploaded into the IMS Plan Review module as a State Construction Project using the OSF project number. Upon State Fire plan approval, OSF will issue a School Building Permit (SBP). Construction or installation of the new fire alarm must not begin without the SBP having been issued by OSF.

For "Site Plan" plan reviews State Fire will review and issue an approval for site plans prior to the issuance of a OSF SBP. State Fire requires that the submittal include engineered plans completed by a SC Licensed Engineer. The plans shall include the available fire flow. Plans and documents will be uploaded into the IMS Plan Review module as a State Construction Project using the OSF project number. State Fire Site Plan Approval does not automatically trigger the issuance of a SBP. Construction must not begin without the SBP having been issued by OSF.

From your organization's dashboard, select Plan Review, Create new Record.



Select, **Special Request Review** and complete the process which includes uploading the plans and specifications.

