

Hot Topics for Tennessee cities and towns

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Deadlines for Certification of Building and Fire Inspectors

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All deadlines for building and fire inspector certification went into effect July 1, 1995. The state Fire Marshals' Office intends to enforce this new law.

After July 1, 1995, uncertified inspectors in Tennessee can no longer perform building or fire inspections. However, building or fire inspectors who have held their position for less than a year have 12 months from the date of their appointment to become certified. Inspectors hired after July 1, 1995, have one year from their appointment date to become certified.

Cities with uncertified inspectors who were employed on or before July 1, 1994, should not allow these people to continue inspections after July 1, 1995. For your own protection, inform them in writing that as of June 30, 1995, they are no longer the city's building or fire inspector. If the city takes any personnel action, be sure to follow all federal and state laws and any local charter or ordinance provisions that apply to changing job duties, transfers, demotions, or dismissals.

Cities with uncertified inspectors have at least three solutions to this problem:

- appoint a new building or fire inspector who you reasonably believe will become certified within one year of the appointment;
- contract with an individual or firm for your fire or building inspections; or
- enter an interlocal agreement with one or more cities or counties to hire a building or fire inspector.



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The Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) was created in 1949 by the state legislature to enhance the quality of government in Tennessee municipalities. An agency of The University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service, MTAS works in cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League and affiliated organizations to assist municipal officials.

By sharing information, responding to client requests, and anticipating the ever-changing municipal government environment, MTAS promotes better local government and helps cities develop and sustain effective management and leadership.

MTAS offers assistance in areas such as accounting and finance, administration and personnel, fire, public works, law, ordinance codification, communications, and wastewater management. MTAS houses a comprehensive library and publishes scores of documents annually.

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