ISSUE

Chapter 9-2500 (Fire Suppression Workers) of the Philadelphia Code clearly states that the layout, on-site fabrication, testing, inspection, certification, work and practice concerning the construction, installation, alteration, extension, removal, repair, servicing, maintenance or renovation of fire suppression systems shall be performed only by those individuals that possess valid fire suppression system worker certificates or apprentice permits.

Regional and national fire pump manufacturers and their authorized representatives however, routinely service fire pumps that they sell as part of a warranty service agreement. Since fire pump manufacturers and their authorized representatives are not installers and they are not necessarily locally based, it is not practical for their employees to obtain City of Philadelphia fire suppression system worker certificates or apprentice permits.

POLICY

The Department will not require that employees of fire pump manufacturers or their authorized representatives possess fire suppression system worker certificates or apprentice permits, provided that the on-site work performed is limited and is part of a warranty agreement.

The company must possess a valid City of Philadelphia Business Privilege License.

DIRECTION

Fire pump manufacturers or their authorized representatives that supply labor do not need to employ certificated workers or apprentices provided that the work performed is part of a warranty agreement and is limited to the following types of services:

1. Assisting in the initial start-up and flow testing including verifying voltages and amp readings, and the measurement of rpm’s.
2. Troubleshooting and diagnostic testing with related partial disassembly and re-assembly of existing fire pumps.
3. Making minor warranty related repairs such as (but not limited to) the replacement of broken couplings or frozen pressure switches.
4. Performing routine warranty related maintenance such as (but not limited to) simple repacking or cleaning, or the replacement of shaft sleeves, bearings, and other similar parts.

All such work must meet code standards and manufacturer’s specifications.

The following are examples of the types of work that **cannot be performed** by fire pump manufacturers or their authorized representatives unless the on-site individuals possess fire suppression system worker certificates or apprentice permits, as required by section 9-2500:

1. Installing a new fire pump or replacing an existing fire pump.

2. Installing, servicing, testing, repairing or maintaining any part of a fire protection system including sprinklers, piping, fittings, and valves that are downstream of the main shut-off valve or that are not identified with a warranted fire pump.