

August 25, 2009

## [News Release for Motor Vehicle Body Repairer \(Metal and Paint\)](#)

### Questions and Answers Regarding the Compulsory Certification of:

- Boilermaker
- Motor Vehicle Body Repairer (Metal and Paint)
- Steamfitter/Pipefitter

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### Why is the government making certification compulsory in these trades?

The Government of Nova Scotia wants to ensure that those who are performing the work in trades that are potentially dangerous to workers, the general public and the environment are well trained and certified to carry out the work.

The work of a motor vehicle body repairer (metal and paint) is potentially dangerous to workers and the motoring public if performed improperly. And the work of a boilermaker or a steamfitter/pipefitter is extremely dangerous. Therefore, training to a high industry standard must be mandatory in order to protect workers, the public and the environment by requiring that anyone performing the work of these trades train as an apprentice or hold a certificate of qualification in these trades.

### What does Compulsory Certification mean?

Compulsory Certification means that only those individuals who possess a Certificate of Qualification in the trade, are registered apprentices in the trade, or who hold a valid Temporary Permit to work in that trade are permitted to work in that trade.

A trade is specified as a Compulsory Certified trade by an Order in Council.

Skilled trades are valuable to our province and safe practices within the trades are essential to maintaining worker and public safety now and into the future.

## **Who will need to become certified?**

Any person who is performing the work of these trades will need to become certified or become an apprentice to train as a tradesperson.

A person who has obtained a Certificate of Qualification in a designated trade is “certified”.

## **Will people who have worked in these trades for many years have to become certified?**

Yes. In fact, the majority of the people currently working in these trades are already certified.

The Apprenticeship Training and Skill Development division of the Department of Labour and Workforce Development will work with individuals who are performing the work of these trades, but who are not certified, to assist these individuals in preparing to become certified.

## **What is involved in becoming a certified tradesperson?**

In order to become certified in a trade in Nova Scotia, the individual must pass a certification examination for that trade.

The Boilermaker, MVBR (Metal and Paint) and Steamfitter/Pipefitter trades are Interprovincial (Red Seal) trades. Nova Scotia subscribes to the Red Seal program and administers the Interprovincial (Red Seal) examinations for these trades. An individual who achieves a score of at least 70% on the certification examination for one of these trades will receive a Certificate of Qualification in the trade, bearing the Interprovincial Red Seal.

The first step toward challenging the certification examination is to contact the Apprenticeship Training and Skill Development division of the Department of Labour and Workforce Development and discuss your experience, training, and qualifications with an Industrial Training and Certification Officer.

The Training Officer will assess the current experience and hours in the trade that an individual has performed. An individual who can demonstrate a minimum of 12,000 hours (about 6 years) of work experience in the trade and has met all the skill requirements of the trade may be eligible to challenge the certification examination. This person is called a “trade qualifier”. There is a standard application and approval process for all trade qualifiers.

The Apprenticeship Training and Skill Development division can be contacted at: 424-5651 or 1-800-494-5651 or visit our website at: [www.nsapprenticeship.ca](http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca)

To obtain a copy of the trade regulations, visit: [www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/rxaa-1.htm#atq](http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/rxaa-1.htm#atq)

For more information on the Red Seal, visit: [www.red-seal.ca](http://www.red-seal.ca)

## **Will Compulsory Certification apply only to new people entering these trades?**

Compulsory Certification will apply to new people entering the Boilermaker, MVBR (Metal and Paint) or Steamfitter/Pipefitter trades, as well as anyone who has been performing the work in these trades. New entrants to these trades will be required to complete a training pathway to certification through apprenticeship.

Those who have experience working in these trades, depending on their hours and experience, will be able to write the certification examination to become a certified journeyman.

It is important that the regulations regarding compulsory certification be applied consistently across the province for anyone performing the work of these trades. Apprenticeship training relies on certified journeymen to train and mentor apprentices in the trades.

## **Is it controversial to specify these trades as compulsory certified?**

We understand that implementing Compulsory Certification may be controversial; however, applications to specify Boilermaker, MVBR (Metal and Paint) and Steamfitter/Pipefitter as compulsory certified trades were made from these industries to the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Board. The applications were based on the evidence that the work of these trades is potentially very dangerous to workers, the general public and the environment and that those who are performing the work in these trades need to be trained and certified to industry standards in order to carry out the work.

The Apprenticeship Board established ad hoc advisory committees consisting of representatives from Boilermaker, MVBR (Metal and Paint) and Steamfitter/Pipefitter from across the province. These committees reviewed the applications, consulted with broader industry and made recommendations to the Board to specify these trades as compulsory certified. The Board accepted the recommendations and made them to the Minister of Labour and Workforce Development. These trades were specified as compulsory certified by Orders in Council.

There has been a great deal of input from industry to demonstrate the importance of mandatory training and certification in these trades due to the hazardous nature of the work.

## **Will these changes cause job loss in Nova Scotia?**

**Boilermaker:** The majority of boilermakers in Nova Scotia are already certified, so we are anticipating very minimal job loss. Also, most establishments are currently required to hire a certified boilermaker to comply with other safety legislation. Department of Labour and Workforce Development staff will work with those who are not certified to assist them in achieving certification.

**MVBR (Metal and Paint) and Steamfitter/Pipefitter :** The Apprenticeship Training and Skill Development division will work with individuals in these trades to assist them in achieving certification by providing assistance with the certification exam. We are also offering preparation courses and allowing people in these trades to write the exams at no cost for one year. This will minimize the economic implications of potential job loss for those businesses.

## What is the cost to challenge a certification examination?

**Boilermaker and Steamfitter/Pipefitter:** Commencing on March 17, 2009 until March 17, 2010, the fee to apply and challenge the certification examination is waived. After March 17, 2010, the regular application and examination fee of \$ 654.86 will apply.

**MVBR (Metal and Paint):** Commencing on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 until August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the fee to apply and challenge the certification examination is waived. After August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the regular application and examination fee of \$ 654.86 will apply.

The Apprenticeship Training and Skill Development division is providing these opportunities at no cost in order to promote certification and to further build capacity of journeypersons in these trades in order to train more apprentices.

## If I am a journeyperson, what will it cost me to train an apprentice?

The cost to train an apprentice is undertaken by the employer. A journeyperson is responsible for supervising and training an apprentice. The employer is responsible for paying the apprentice's wage and releasing the apprentice to attend technical training.

The cost to a journeyperson is primarily in the time spent training. Generally, for every dollar invested in an apprentice, an employer makes 49 cents return on their investment over the life of the apprenticeship.

There are incentives for employers and apprentices. For a list of incentives, visit our website at: [www.nsapprenticeship.ca/financial\\_assistance.shtml](http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/financial_assistance.shtml)

## What are the benefits of certification?

Compulsory certification ensures that persons performing the work of the trade have met a high industry standard. Compulsory certification is about training that leads to certification. Training and certification promote safety and current work practices.

Compulsory certification assists in ensuring that there is a supply of trained labour to perform trade specific work and that there are certified journeypersons to train and mentor the next generation of skilled workers.

Compulsory certification may lead to better employment opportunities and increased wages for tradespeople. Certified tradespeople may also have a competitive advantage over those who are not certified.

## How is the department planning on enforcing Compulsory Certification?

Enforcing compliance with the regulations would be on a complaint basis.

**Boilermaker and Steamfitter/Pipefitter:** Compliance will begin in March 2010.

**MVBR (Metal and Paint):** Compliance will begin in August 2011.

The Apprenticeship Training and Skill Development division will work with industry, as well as Nova Scotians, to ensure a seamless transition with these changes. It is always

best to “Ask For the Card” when hiring a tradesperson in the province. The card provides proof of certification.

### **What Does “Ask for the Card” mean?**

A photo identification card is issued to all certified journeypersons and registered apprentices in Nova Scotia. This card identifies that the individual possessing the card has either passed the certification examination, thereby having met industry standards for the trade, or is an apprentice being trained to the standards for the trade.

By “Asking for the Card”, a person is requesting confirmation that the person performing the work of the trade has been trained or is currently being trained to industry standards in that trade.

[\*\*News Release for Boilermaker and Steamfitter/Pipefitter\*\*](#)

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