

Update on Apprenticeship Ratios in the Residential Construction Sector Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the ratio change for the Residential Construction Sector ?

The ratio for the residential construction sector has recently been increased from 2:1 to 3:1.

2. Why is the change for only the Residential Sector?

Industry has identified that the current 2:1 ratio in the sector, coupled with labour shortages in the skilled trades and the impact of the recent wildfires, continues to be a barrier to increasing housing supply in Nova Scotia.

3. Is the change for all Residential Sector Trades?

No. It is only for the non-compulsory trades.

4. How long is the change in effect for?

Initially, this is approved for 2 years. The policy change will be reviewed within 2 years of implementation and the Agency will be notifying employers of this change via email.

5. Is there an application process to be approved for a 3:1 Ratio?

No. Any non-compulsory trades in the Residential Construction Sector will automatically be approved for a variance change to 3:1. There is no application process for this variance. The ratio will be verified by an Industry Training Consultant during the registration process.

6. Can a compulsory trade be approved for a 3:1 ratio?

Yes, it is possible. For compulsory trades, applications for ratio variance can be submitted by completing the ratio variance form located here:

<https://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/employers/forms-employers>

- For compulsory trades in the Residential Construction Sector, a ratio variance approval may be issued to any employer who has apprentices in their final level of training. These ratio variance applications can be processed by our regional staff who can respond within 48 hours.
- All other employers in the compulsory trades can apply through an expedited ratio variance request process. These applications will be subject to an expedited review and a response will be issued within 14 days.