

Re-issued: July 31, 2013

Program: Welder

To: ITA Training Providers
Resource Training Organization (RTO)
ACE IT School Districts

RE: OPSN 2013 011.1 REVISED

UPDATE ON THE TRANSITION TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR THE WELDER FOUNDATION, APPRENTICESHIP AND SPECIALTY METALS ENDORSEMENT TRAINING PATHWAYS

Timing: Effective January 6, 2014 – Welder Foundation
Effective March 31, 2014 – Welder Level 1, 2, 3 and the Specialty Metals Endorsement program

Information: Please be advised that ITA has approved a new training delivery standard for the Welder Foundation, Apprenticeship and Specialty Metals Endorsement pathways. A revised program profile and program outline is posted on the ITA website at www.itabc.ca. Training providers are responsible for reviewing the revised program outline and will need to consider planning these changes for the scheduled launch dates.

Background The updated program standards are a result of a review conducted by the Resource Training Organization (RTO) and has involved extensive consultation with industry through regional meetings, meetings with training provider program advisory committees and implementation and transition planning through a Welder Training Implementation and Transition Committee.

The changes within the Welder delivery model include:

- Training content that represents the current needs of the welding industry,
- The discontinuation of the current Welder C, B & A modular training structure,
- The introduction of a 28-week Foundation program which will lead to a Certificate of Completion (CofC) and provide credit for Welder Level 1, 2 and 300 work-based hours when candidates register as Welder apprentices,
- An updated apprenticeship delivery model which will have three 8-week training sessions,
- An updated work-based training period of 4500 hours,
- A training model which will lead to one final certification assessment at the end of Level 3 - the Interprovincial Red Seal examination,
- A training structure which will have one provincial credential with a Red Seal endorsement, and
- The introduction of a new post-Red Seal 5-week Specialty Metals Endorsement program.

On January 6, 2014 training providers will be expected to implement the Welder Foundation program. The Welder Foundation training delivery structure is the same as the current Welder C program. Instructional materials, program outline competencies and learning resources are identical.

What will change?

- Effective January 6, 2014 the Welder C CofQ will be replaced with a Welder Certificate of Completion (CofC),
- Candidates who have completed a Welder C in-school training session prior to January 6, 2014 will have an opportunity to acquire a Welder C CofQ credential. ITA will no longer issue a Welder C CofQ credential after January 31, 2015,
- Once candidates who complete the Welder Foundation program become employed and registered as apprentices in the ITA system; credit for Level 1, 2 and 300 work-based hours will be issued, and
- The Welder C CofQ exam will be removed and replaced with two level exams. Preferably training providers will have classes writing Level 1 exams at the end of the Level 1 training sessions and the Level 2 exams at the end of the Welder Foundation training session. These level exam marks will be blended with the in-school percentage mark to produce a final percentage mark in the program which will be recorded in ITA Direct Access. An assessment guideline will be issued in the second OPSN in mid-August 2013 to identify how in-school marks are to be finalized and placed into ITA Direct Access for Welder Foundation.

Effective March 31, 2014 new class intakes for the new Welder Level 1, 2 & 3 and the Specialty Metals Endorsement will begin.

In preparation for the launch date of the new Welder program standards, training providers planning to deliver training sessions for the apprenticeship pathway will be required to prepare instructional materials for Level 1, 2, 3 and the Specialty Metals Endorsement program.

Other than the delivery of the new Welder Foundation program there are three options training providers should consider when planning for the new model.

What are the options?

1. Effective March 31, 2014 training providers delivering the current Welder C program should prepare to deliver Welder Level 1 & 2 classes.
2. Effective March 31, 2014 training providers delivering the current Welder B program should prepare to transition over to deliver Welder Level 3 classes.
3. Effective March 31, 2014 training providers delivering the current Welder A program should prepare to transition over to deliver the Specialty Metals Endorsement program.

A second Official Program Standards Notification (OPSN) in mid-August 2013 will map out the transition processes for candidates who have not completed the certification for Welder C, as well as map out the in-school marking process for the Welder Foundation program. A third OPSN in mid-September 2013 will address the transition processes for candidates who have not completed certification for Welder B or A, as well as map out the in-school marking processes for Welder Level 1, 2, 3 and the Specialty Metals Endorsement program.

Training provider procedural processes that are to be followed for Welder C, B & A candidates on wait lists:

In preparing for the implementation of the new standards, training providers are required to discontinue registering candidates on wait lists for Welder C, B and A classes on September 13, 2013.

How will candidates who are on wait lists to be handled?

- **Welder C**

Candidates who are unable to start a Welder C program prior to January 6, 2014 must be notified by the training provider that the Welder program training standards are changing. Wait list candidates need to be transitioned over to the new Welder Foundation wait list.

ITA will also mail out a letter to ITA registered Welder C candidates and indicate that program training standards are changing and provide information on what their options are for continued training. The ITA letter will focus on transitioning to the new Welder Level 3. Completion of Level 3 will lead to a Welder Certificate of Qualification (CofQ) with a Red Seal Endorsement. Reference to the revised Welder profile and the revised program outline on the ITA website – www.itabc.ca will be noted in the letter.

- **Welder B & A**

Candidates who are unable to start a Welder B or A program prior to March 31, 2014 must be notified by the training provider that the Welder program training standards are changing. Wait list candidates who are unable to start a Welder B or A program prior to March 31, 2014 must complete an ITA Welder Wait List form to continue training in Welder B or A programs. Training providers are required to contact candidates on wait lists and indicate that ITA will provide Welder B and A training for candidates who complete the attached ITA Wait List form provided the form is returned to ITA prior to November 1, 2013.

Arrangements on the number of Welder B and A classes after March 31, 2014 will be determined with each training provider after November 1, 2013. The ITA Wait List forms will be reviewed and training providers will be contacted by ITA for delivery of Welder B and A classes. Servicing these Welder B and A classes will be completed by August 29, 2014.



ITA will mail out a letter to ITA registered Welder B and A candidates to indicate program training standards are changing and provide information on what their options are for continued training. The letter will focus on the new Welder program providing one Welder Certification with a Red Seal Endorsement, as well as information on the Specialty Metals Endorsement program. Reference to the revised Welder profile and the revised program outline on the ITA website – www.itabc.ca will be noted in the letter.

***Follow-up:
ITA
Communication***

ITA will be hosting a conference call for interested participants who wish to discuss this Welder OPSN on Wednesday, September 4th at 11:00 a.m. Participants can dial-in at 1-866-323-9093. After dialing the number you will need to link into the call by pressing 2023696.

***For more
information
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