

Issued: March 3, 2014

Program: Landscape Horticulturist

To: ITA Training Providers
HortEducationBC (HEBC)
All School Districts

RE: OPSN 2014 004

**CHANGE TO ITA STANDARDIZED LEVEL EXAMS IN THE HORTICULTURE
TECHNICIAN FOUNDATION PROGRAM**

Timing: Effective: Immediately

Information: An Official Program Standards Notification (OPSN) was issued on 21st June 2013 (OPSN 2013 010) communicating that all Landscape Horticulturist Levels 1, 2 & 3 classes completing training sessions after September 1, 2013 were to be scheduled to write an ITA Standardized Level Examination. This also included the application of Standardized Level Exams for Level 1 and 2 in the Horticulture Technician Foundation program.

Please be advised that with immediate effect, the Industry Training Authority (ITA) will be changing the format of the Standardized Level Examinations (SLEs) applied to the Horticulture Technician Foundation Program.

Background Currently Horticulture Technician Foundation students are required to successfully complete the Level 1 and 2 Landscape Horticulturist exams as a completion requirement to achieve their Certificate of Completion.

In the Landscape Horticulturist apprenticeship program, once the training provider has entered the in-school percentage score and ITA has entered the exam percentage scores, ITA Direct Access will automatically calculate the final percentage score. This final percentage score is calculated by blending the SLE percentage score and the in-school technical training percentage score.

The in-school technical training percentage score is multiplied by 80% and the ITA SLE percentage score is multiplied by 20%. These two scores are combined to determine the final level percentage score. This result is the final percentage score that is recorded in ITA Direct Access.

Due to the fact that there are **two** marks generated from the Level 1 and 2 exams in the Horticulture Technician Foundation program this has created a problem for reporting of marks and there have been some misleading notifications sent out to students indicating that they had failed when they had in fact passed based on their overall mark.

In order to overcome this problem one exam has been built covering the competencies delivered in both Level 1 and Level 2. The new single ITA Standardized Horticulturist Foundation exam consists of 140 questions.

***Horticulture
Technician
Foundation
Program***

Horticulture Technician Foundation students are required to successfully complete the ITA Standardized Horticulturist Foundation exam as a completion requirement to achieve their Certificate of Completion. One exam has been produced which is a blend of Level 1 and Level 2.

Students completing the Horticulture Technician Foundation program will have a percentage score put into ITA Direct Access for each of the bullets listed below.

- The Horticulture Technician Foundation program and
- ITA Standardized Horticulturist Foundation exam.

Once the candidates have completed the Foundation program, training providers are required to submit a percentage score for the in-school component of the Foundation program. The marks are to be submitted to ITA's Training Provider Contact.

The ITA will administer and invigilate the ITA Standardized Foundation Horticulturist exam, score and record exam results in ITA Direct Access. ITA will enter the in-school percentage score and standard level examination percentage score in ITA Direct Access – trainingprovidercontact@itabc.ca

Once an in-school Foundation percentage score and the ITA Standardized Horticulturist Foundation exam score have been entered into ITA Direct Access, the system will automatically calculate the final percentage score. The final score for the Foundation program is determined by blending the in-school percentage score and the ITA Standardized Horticulturist Foundation exam score. The in-school percentage score is multiplied by 80% and the ITA Standardized Horticulturist Foundation exam percentage score is multiplied by 20%. These two scores are combined to determine the final Foundation percentage score.

Foundation students will be required to have an ITA Direct Access registration number prior to writing the ITA Standardized Horticulturist Foundation exam. Training providers are required to have students complete an ITA Direct Access Registration form available on www.itabc.ca. These forms should be submitted together with the Exam Request Form to the ITA six weeks prior to the scheduled exam date.

A final score of 70% or greater is required to pass the Horticulture Technician Foundation program.

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

ITA will be hosting a conference call for interested participants who wish to discuss this Horticulture Technician Foundation Program OPSN on **Thursday 6th March at 9.00am**. Participants can dial-in at 1-866-323-9093. After connecting please use the participant code: 3492857.

***For more
information
contact:***

Diane Evans
Industry Training Authority
Tel: (778) 785.2418
Email: devans@itabc.ca

cc: ITA Staff