

Issued: March 2, 2018

Program: Steamfitter/Pipefitter

To: ITA Training Providers
Articulation Chair
System Liaison Person
School Districts

Subject: **Steamfitter/Pipefitter**

OPSN No.: **OPSN 2018 003.1**

Effective Date: **April 1, 2019**

This amended notification (**OPSN 2018 003.1**) replaces **OPSN 2018 003** issued on January 8, 2018

The effective date of the New Program Outline has been revised. The **Harmonized Steamfitter/Pipefitter program will be in effect April 1, 2019, as per the Steamfitter/Pipefitter Transition Plan**. ITA will continue to work with training providers on transition planning March - April 2018.

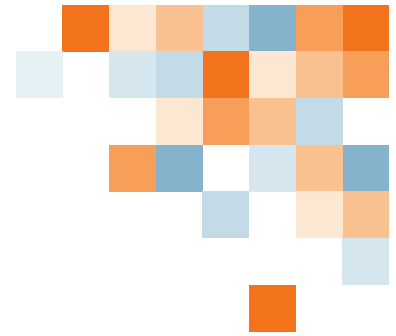
Summary of Change: Please be advised that changes have occurred to the Steamfitter/Pipefitter program as a result of the Pan-Canadian Harmonization Initiative.

These changes are as follows:

- Steamfitter/Pipefitter Program Outline Update
- Increase of Work-based Training Hours – 6,300 hours (from 5,620 hours)
- 4 week duration increase for the **Harmonized Steamfitter/Pipefitter Program:**
 - Level 1 – 210 hours, 7 weeks (from 180 hours, 6 weeks)
 - Level 2 – 210 hours, 7 weeks (from 180 hours, 6 weeks)
 - Level 3 – 240 hours, 8 weeks (from 180 hours, 6 weeks)
 - Level 4 – 240 hours, 8 weeks (no change)

The Harmonized Steamfitter/Pipefitter Program Outline has been posted on the Steamfitter/Pipefitter webpage at www.itabc.ca. The Harmonized Steamfitter/Pipefitter Program Profile will be posted at a later date and will be announced with a subsequent OPSN.

Also be aware that Training Providers are subject to review by Technical Safety BC - TSBC (formerly BC Safety Authority) and must be compliant with TSBC's program approval requirements to deliver Gasfitter – Class B training as per the Safety Standards Act. Further information can be found at www.technicalsaftybc.ca.



Please see [OPSN 2018 002.1](#) for changes to the Gasfitter – Class B program.

Rationale: At the request of industry, the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship’s (CCDA) Harmonization Initiative was launched in Fall 2013, and endorsed by the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM) in 2014. The goal of Harmonization is to *substantively align* apprenticeship systems across Canada by making apprenticeship training requirements more consistent in Red Seal trades.

In consultation with stakeholders, the CCDA identified four Harmonization priorities: trade name, total training hours (in-school plus on-the-job), number of training levels, and the sequencing of the training content.

Steamfitter/Pipefitter is one of eight trades identified for the second phase of Harmonization. After a series of consultations and pan-Canadian webinars, the finalized priorities for the Harmonized Steamfitter/Pipefitter program were as follows:

1. Use of the Red Seal **trade name** – Steamfitter/Pipefitter
 - BC – no change.
2. Consistent **total training hours** (in-school plus on-the-job) – 7,200 hours total
 - BC - Technical training will increase from 780 hours (26 weeks) to 900 hours (30 weeks), and Work-based Training is increased from 5,620 hours to 6,300 hours.
3. Same number of **training levels** – 4-level program
 - BC – no change.
4. Consistent **sequencing** of training content
 - BC – Significant changes required to align to the Harmonized sequencing.

Details: A Steamfitter/Pipefitter program review was conducted in October 2017 to align BC’s Steamfitter/Pipefitter program to the Harmonized sequencing. The review resulted in significant changes to the current sequence of technical training.

ITA is also working on a communication plan to inform apprentices and employer sponsors of the changes to the program.

Attachments: ***Steamfitter/Pipefitter Program Outline Review Details***
Please see OPSN 2018 003 for this attachment.

For more information contact: ITA Program Standards
email: programstandards@itabc.ca

cc: All Staff