



THE RIGHT SKILLS ► A PROVEN ADVANTAGE

## ★ OFFICIAL PROGRAM STANDARDS NOTIFICATION ★

Issued: March 11, 2009

**To:** Industry Training Organizations  
ITA Training Providers  
ACE IT School Districts  
Common Exam Initiative – Phase II Working Group

**RE:** **REF: 2009 002**  
**COMMON EXAM INITIATIVE UPDATE**

**Timing:** Effective March 11, 2009

**Information:** Please be advised that the ITA has put the implementation of common level exams on hold pending the resolution of several issues that have been identified.

The current practice of blending standardized level examinations with course marks contravenes the existing ITA Examinations Policy which requires a passing mark of 70% or greater on a common level exam to achieve course credit. It has come to our attention that there are concerns with this policy and that there may be better ways to achieve the objectives of the ITA Board with regard to standardized assessment of technical training outcomes. To this end the ITA Board has identified a number of key principles that can be used as a basis for identifying potential alternative policy options.

The ITA will initiate a process shortly to facilitate a discussion of policy options with training providers and ITOs based on principles articulated by the ITA Board.

Until further notice:

- common exams that have already been implemented will continue to be administered using the existing mark-blending practices until a new policy is put in place and implemented;
- field testing of common exams will continue as normal; and,
- designated (private) training providers will continue to be required to administer invigilated level exams for all technical training levels.

Program specific direction for common exams that are currently under development, in field testing or in regular delivery will be forwarded shortly.

Questions regarding policy options and the consultation process should be directed to Jeff Nugent at the contact information below.

Questions regarding procedures for administering common exams during the interim period should be directed to Sandy Steward at the contact information below.

Thank you for your patience as we work out the issues involved with this important initiative.

**For more  
information  
contact:**

Sandy Steward  
Industry Training Authority  
Tel: (604) 214-8713  
Email: ssteward@itabc.ca

Jeff Nugent  
Industry Training Authority  
Tel: (604) 214-8712  
Email: jnugent@itabc.ca

**Copy:**

ITA Staff