

★ OFFICIAL PROGRAM STANDARDS NOTIFICATION ★**Issued: February 18, 2010****Program: Welder C**

To: ITA Training Providers
Resource Training Organization (RTO)
Welding Articulation Committee
BC Safety Authority
ACE IT School Districts

REF: **REF: 2010 003**

RE: **WELDER C PROGRAM STANDARDS**

Timing: Effective: Immediately

Information: Please be advised that the current Welder C program standards will remain in effect until further notice. Existing funded training delivery models also continue to be in effect. The September 2010 implementation date referenced in previous Welder C notifications for planning purposes will not see a redefined program standard for Welder C implemented at this time.

This notification is a follow-up to previous communications about the delayed implementation of a Welder C program; and is an update on the status of a review of Welder program standards undertaken by the Resource Training Organization (RTO).

The review of Welder program standards by the RTO is undertaken on behalf of the ITA and, by extension, the BC apprenticeship system and Welder training community. The RTO has released a paper outlining the rationale for the review that is appended to this OPSN and available on the ITA website. All parties involved in delivering Welder programs and supporting Welder apprentices in BC are encouraged to review this discussion paper and actively participate in the consultation process underway.

Background

Two previous OPSN notifications that related to Welder C program standards implementation were distributed in March and October of 2009. Key points from these OPSNs are summarized below.

OPSN 2009 001, March 5th, 2009
IMPLEMENTATION DELAY FOR WELDER LEVEL 'C'
CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION (C of Q) EXAMINATION

- Implementation of the Welder 'C' C of Q exam as a certification requirement for the Welder 'C' program is delayed.
- All other certification requirements remain in effect; this includes the delivery of in-school training based on the Program Outline approved by the ITA in February 2008.

OPSN 2009 001.1, October 7th, 2009
IMPLEMENTATION DELAY FOR NEW WELDER LEVEL C
PROGRAM STANDARD

- The RTO is undertaking a review process to verify the required competencies and instruction time.
- A copy of the current program profile "Welder Level C Profile" and new program profile, "Welder Level C Profile 2010" are on the ITA web site. For planning purposes, an implementation date of September 2010 is identified.
- Current work-based training requirements are described in a table found in this OPSN.

**For more
information
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RESOURCE TRAINING ORGANIZATION COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE WELDING REVIEW AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

PURPOSE

As the result of the work of industry representatives, training providers, the Industry Training Authority (ITA) and other stakeholders over the last few years, a new Welding program model has been developed and proposed for implementation.

As the industry body responsible for overseeing Welding training standards on behalf of the ITA, the Resource Training Organization (RTO) reviewed and consulted a range of industry stakeholders on these proposed changes.

Since substantive concerns among various industry groups, employers, and training providers have been received, the RTO has requested that the ITA delay implementation of the Welding changes until the RTO has conducted a review and province-wide consultation on this matter. This communiqué briefly summarizes the rationale for this review, as well as its intended objectives, outcomes and process.

The RTO is committed to working with key industry, labour, post-secondary education, and government stakeholders for the betterment of the welding trade. Clear, on-going communication is critical to the effectiveness of this project.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

RTO and its industry stakeholders are not assured that proposed changes in the new Welding program address key program requirements. As a result of issues which have become apparent over the last year, a program review and extensive consultation need to be conducted to identify and address key issues such as completion of revised curriculum, progressive credential limitations, harmonization with other jurisdictions and national standards, provincial consistency but regional responsiveness, very low Red Seal completion, declining apprenticeship registration, cost-effectiveness, etc.

In recent years, Welding training in BC has had the highest training costs and lowest Red Seal attainment in Western Canada. The RTO shares the goal with industry, training providers and other stakeholders to create and implement world-class Welding training that leads to increased numbers of journeyperson Welders, increased program efficiencies, increased completion rates, increased Red Seal certification, and a better Welding program overall.

REVIEW OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

The objectives of the welding review and consultation process are to:

1. Clearly communicate: a) the rationale, objectives, outcomes, process and opportunities for participation among key stakeholders; and b) the results and next steps of this process.
2. Obtain input on the key issues from all key stakeholders throughout the province.
3. Resolve as many of the key issues as possible, with particular reference to those most impacted (i.e. employers, apprentices, workers, training providers).
4. Develop a plan of action – supported in principle by key stakeholders – for moving forward with the implementation of whatever changes may be needed in the Welding trade and training.

The review is intended to validate the key issues identified regarding the new Welding training model and program outline; specifically, it is intended to achieve the following outcomes:

- Review of proposed changes in light of industry needs, including validation of appropriate content and duration of the overall program and individual program levels;

- Alignment of the new Welding program with national (Red Seal) standards and identification of barriers to increased Red Seal certification;
- Comparison of credential alignment with other Canadian jurisdictions;
- Consideration of cost-effectiveness of the current program model;
- Determination of the demand for individual Welding Levels C, B, A, and determination of the overall effectiveness and validity of the progressive credential pathway;
- Satisfaction among industry, labour, apprentices, training provider representatives that they have been sufficiently consulted; and,
- Industry and stakeholder support and commitment on resolved issues and next steps.

REVIEW PROCESS

The RTO has engaged the services of Kerry Jochen of Human Capital Strategies to conduct this provincial trade review. This review will capture in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner, feedback from a broad range of stakeholders including employers and apprentices, labour, government and training delivery organizations. It is anticipated that this review will be conducted in a series of focus group sessions and online surveys during March and April, 2010; and that the overall review will be completed by June 2010. Any program changes and revisions will follow and embrace RTO's philosophy of inclusion, broad representation and transparency.

Information gathered in the feedback sessions will be collated and analyzed in a final report which will be widely distributed. A Program Review Committee will be established for this project by the RTO. This Committee will comprise representatives of employers who have apprentices and journeypersons, including small, medium and large enterprises, labour, apprentices, and both public and private training providers.

The final report will also contain a recommended strategy to address issues in a timely and effective manner and possibly include a budget for pilot delivery.

Further communication will be forthcoming.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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