

Changes to the Steamfitter-Pipefitter Apprenticeship Program

Updated 2018-July-17

Alberta's steamfitter-pipefitter apprenticeship program is increasing to a four-period program in the 2018/2019 academic year. Industry has made this change to increase mobility and employability of Alberta steamfitter-pipefitter (SF-PF) trained workers throughout Canada.

Find out how the change will affect your apprenticeship in the chart below. More detailed, general information is available on pages 4 and 5.

TT = technical training; OTJ = on-the-job

Apprentice standing in current program					
FIRST YEAR APPRENTICE					
Program	Passed Technical Training?	Passed AIT Exam?	Hours completed?	What's needed to finish period	Next Steps
New 4-period	Y	Y	Y	Complete – move to new second period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete remaining periods of new 4-period program with 1,560 OTJ hours per period.
New 4-period	Y	N	N	Write supplemental and complete 1,560 OTJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If successful, move to second period of new 4-period program. Successfully complete remaining periods with 1,560 OTJ hours per period. If unsuccessful – successfully complete new 4-period program with 1,560 OTJ hours per period OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge current first period by August 31, 2018
New 4-period	N	Y	N	Successfully complete first period TT in new program and complete 1,560 OTJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If successful, move to second period of new 4-period program OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge current first period by August 31, 2018 Successfully complete remaining periods of new 4-period program with 1,560 OTJ hours per period.
New 4-period	N	N	Y	Successfully complete first period TT in new program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete remainder of new 4-period program with 1,560 OTJ hours per period. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge current first period by August 31, 2018

Changes to the Steamfitter-Pipefitter Apprenticeship Program

SECOND YEAR APPRENTICE					
Program	Passed Tech Training?	Passed AIT Exam?	Hours completed?	What's needed to finish period	Next Steps
3 4 split period (Not required to complete fourth period OTJ)	Y	Y	Y	Complete – move to new third period NOTE: All 3 4 split period OTJ hours must be completed by Dec. 31, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete remainder of new 4-period program with 1,500 hours per period (existing OTJ hours). OPTION: two-week course and challenge new third-period AIT exam. Will need to successfully complete fourth-period TT. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge current third period by August 31, 2018. If successful, will not need to take new fourth-period TT.
3 4 split period (Not required to complete fourth period OTJ)	Y	N	N	PASS supplemental by August 31, 2018. Complete 1,500 OTJ by Dec 31, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete third period of new 4-period program with 1,500 hours per period (existing OTJ hours). OPTION: two-week course and challenge new third-period AIT exam. Still need to successfully complete fourth-period TT. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge current third period by August 31, 2018.
New 4-period	Y	N and failed supplemental	N	See next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retake second period TT under new 4-period program at 1,560 hours. Successfully complete remaining periods with 1,560 OTJ hours per period. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge current second period by August 31, 2018
New 4-period	N	Y	N	Successfully complete second period TT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete remaining periods with 1,560 OTJ hours per period. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge current second period by August 31, 2018
New 4-period	N	N	Y	Successfully complete second period TT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete remaining periods with 1,560 OTJ hours per period.

Changes to the Steamfitter-Pipefitter Apprenticeship Program

THIRD YEAR APPRENTICE					
Program	Passed Tech Training?	Passed AIT Exam?	Hours completed?	What's needed to finish period	Next Steps
Current 3-period	Y	Y	Y	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive journeyman certificate.
Current 3-period	Y	Y	N	Complete 1,500 hours for all three periods by Dec 31, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive journeyman certificate.
3 4 split period (Not required to complete fourth period OTJ)	Y	N	N	PASS Supplemental by December 31, 2018. Complete 1,500 hours OTJ training by Dec 31, 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not have to attend any TT in the new 4-period program.
3 4 split period (Not required to complete fourth period OTJ)	Y	N and failed supplemental	N	See next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have until August 31, 2018 to challenge current 3-period program. OPTION: two-week course and challenge new third period AIT exam. Still need to successfully complete fourth-period TT. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete third and fourth periods of technical training in the new program. Complete 1,500 OTJ training hours by December 31, 2024.
3 4 split period (Not required to complete fourth period OTJ)	N	Y	N	Attend third period TT in new program. Complete 1,500 OTJ training hours by December 31, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have until August 31, 2018 to challenge current 3-period program. OPTION: two-week course and challenge new third period AIT exam. Still need to successfully complete fourth-period TT. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete third and fourth periods of technical training in the new program.
3 4 split period (Not required to complete fourth period OTJ)	N	N	Y	Challenge exam by August 31, 2018 to complete current 3-year program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPTION: two-week course and PLA new third period AIT exam. Still need to successfully complete fourth-period TT. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete third and fourth periods of technical training in the new program.

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What are the changes to the program?

The Steamfitter-Pipefitter apprenticeship program (SF-PF) is increasing from a 3-period program to a 4-period program in the 2018/2019 academic year.

SF-PF apprentices will be in one of three programs:

- 3-period program (current 2008 course outline)
- 4-period program (new 2018 course outline)
- 3/4-period program (3 periods of on-the-job (OTJ) hours and 4 periods technical training (TT) 2018 course outline)

What are the key dates?

May 8, 2018:

Apprentices moving to the new 4-period program will see this reflected in their MyTradesecrets (MTS) account. There will be no requirements added until August 31, once eligible second and third period apprentices have had the chance to successfully complete the current three-period program.

May 28, 2018:

4-period program class registration opens.

August 31, 2018:

All first period apprentices will transition into the 4-period program. On-the-job hours will increase to 1,560 in MyTradesecrets.

All second period apprentices who have not successfully complete second period technical training and/or AIT exam will transition into the 4-period program. On-the-job hours will increase to 1,560 in MyTradesecrets.

Any third period apprentices must have successfully completed the third-period technical training requirements and the AIT exam or challenged the third-period exam by this date.

Any third period apprentices who have not successfully completed either third period technical training or the AIT exams by this date will transition to the 3/4-period program.

- Apprentices will still have to complete the new third- and fourth-periods of technical training but do not have to complete on-the-job hours for fourth-period and hours will remain at 1,500 per period.
- There is a two-week prep course that apprentices may be eligible to take to better prepare them to challenge the new third period exam.

December 31, 2018:

Deadline for apprentices to complete any supplemental exams.

December 31, 2024

Deadline for apprentices in the 3-period or 3/4-period program to complete their 1,500 on-the-job hours requirements.

*NOTE: Apprentices who **do not** successfully complete the second or third period technical training requirements or miss any of these deadlines transition into the 4-period program.*

What are the details about the two-week SF-PF Prep Course?

This prep course is available to those apprentices that successfully completed the second-period technical training requirements in the 3-period program. NAIT, SAIT and Red Deer College are the only technical training providers offering the course in the fall of 2018. **Apprentices should contact the training provider for more information. This prep course will not be available through MyTradesecrets.**

A non-refundable \$200 registration will be required, and there will be no exam fee. Seating is limited so apprentices need to check with the training provider for dates and availability.

The prep course length is two weeks (60 hours) and includes an exam. Approximately 65% of the new third period course outline was covered in the previous second period course outline.

Apprentices are expected to review their Individual Learning Models (ILMs) or second period technical training material ahead of time as it will not be reviewed in depth during the prep course.

Prep course content will include 35% of the material from the new third period course outline that was not included in previous second period course outline. These new topics include:

- Section #2 Instrument & Trade Technologies (A and B)
- Section #3 Welding Processes (D, G, H), and
- Section #5 Process Diagrams & Mitre Elbow (A).

By learning the additional 35%, an apprentice should be better prepared to challenge the new third period exam.

What happens to existing apprentices if all the third period classes are full during the 2017/2018 academic year?

Eligible apprentices may apply to challenge their provincial examination to complete their third period by August 31, 2018.

Apprentices who are not eligible to challenge their third period provincial examination, will transition into the 3/4-period program.

Changes to the Steamfitter-Pipefitter Apprenticeship Program

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Can a third-period apprentice write the Red Seal exam if they have successfully completed all of their technical training requirements?

If all three periods of technical training and provincial examinations have been successfully passed before December 31, 2018, then apprentices will be eligible to write the SF-PF Red Seal examinations at any time.

What is the deadline to challenge the third period exam under the 3-period program?

Eligible apprentices have until August 31, 2018 to challenge the third period of the 3-period program. After this date, eligible apprentices will have to challenge based on their progression within the 4-period program.

If an apprenticeship contract is cancelled in 2018, can an apprentice renew into the 3-period program within 30 days of notification?

Contract renewals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If apprentices are eligible to complete the third period technical training requirements before August 31, 2018, then they will be renewed in the 3-period program. If they are not eligible to complete the third year technical training requirements before August 31, 2018, they will transition into the 3/4-period program. If they successfully completed third-period technical training but did not pass the AIT exam, they may be eligible to complete the current 3-period program by writing a supplemental AIT exam by December 31, 2018.

How will this change affect the Trades Qualifier Program?

The on-the-job hours and months requirements will increase to 9,360 on-the-job and 72 months for trades qualifiers.

Can existing apprentices attend technical training outside the province?

Yes. However, existing apprentices require approval from AIT and the jurisdiction that offers the technical training. If approved to attend technical training outside of Alberta, apprentices will still need to challenge the existing third period by August 31, 2018.

For apprentices who complete all technical training requirements outside of Alberta, the minimum apprenticeship contract must be at least one term of on-the-job hours for a minimum duration of 12 months plus the final period Alberta industry examinations (theory and practical).

NOTE: Every jurisdiction delivers their own apprenticeship training program(s) and curriculum(s). The technical training program from another jurisdiction may not be exactly the same as the program offered by AIT. It is the responsibility of the apprentice to make-up any topics they may have missed while taking technical training in another jurisdiction.

Why make the change? Who initiated it?

AIT, on behalf of the Steamfitter-Pipefitter Provincial Apprenticeship Committee (PAC), surveyed the SF-PF industry in the fall of 2016. The survey invited those employing, training and working directly with people in the SF-PF trade to share their views about increasing technical training hours, apprenticeship periods, and updating the course content. Feedback from that survey supported this change.

Changing to a 4-period program will harmonize with other SF-PF programs across Canada. The result will increase the mobility and employability of Alberta SF-PF trained workers throughout the country.

In the new 4-period program, enhancements were made to construction drawings and rigging (e.g. critical lifting), and more performance objectives (i.e. labs) have been added to the program. In addition, topics identified in the new Red Seal Occupational Standard (RSOS) have also been aligned to the new curriculum.

More information will be available in August 2018 on tradesecrets.alberta.ca or

call the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Information Line

1-800-248-4823

Please refer back to this document on Tradesecrets.alberta.ca for updates.

Page 5