Frequently Asked Questions

A survey of employers and employees working in or close to the structural steel and plate fitter trade is being conducted. These questions and answers should help you to better understand the issue.

Q: What is the purpose of the survey?
A: The structural steel and plate fitter trade is currently an optional certification trade. An application has been made to redesignate the trade as a compulsory certification trade. Before redesignation can happen, employers and employees working in the trade and those who do similar work (welders, boilermakers, and ironworkers) need to explain how they might be affected. A survey will help determine the level of support for redesignation.

Q: What would redesignation as a compulsory certification trade mean?
A: If trade certification becomes compulsory, it would mean that anyone working in the trade would have to become a certified journeyman or a registered apprentice to work in the trade.

Q: What do structural steel and plate fitter workers do?
A: Structural steel and plate fitters work mostly in manufacturing shops building steel structures, along with welders, ironworkers, or boilermakers. Steel structures can involve tanks, vessels, machines, bridges, building components, or other related items.
Structural steel and plate fitters lay out the patterns for a project on the steel, cut and form the steel, and ensure that all of the parts fit together so that welders, ironworkers, or boilermakers can complete the project.

Q: Will all structural steel and plate fitter workers be included in the proposed redesignation?
A: No – only those working in fabrication shops involving fabrication of steel structures (as defined by CAN/CSA-S16.1 of the Alberta Building Code) and steel bridges will be required to have compulsory certification.

Q: I'm an uncertified worker in the structural steel and plate fitter trade. How will a change to compulsory certification affect me?
A: If you are currently working as an uncertified worker in the trade, you will need to become certified, or register as an apprentice, in the trade. You may be able to challenge an exam for qualification as a certified journeymanperson or, as a registered apprentice, complete the three year training program - the choice depends on the amount of experience you have in the trade.

Q: If I need to become certified, will I need to do it right away?
A: There is normally a time period to allow employers and workers time to become certified or registered as apprentices before any enforcement of the new trade regulation takes place.

Q: When is the survey taking place?
A: The survey will take place between September and November of 2006.

Q: I'm a welder, boilermaker, ironworker, or other related tradesperson and currently do some of the work of a structural steel and plate fitter. Will I have to stop doing this work?
A: You may or you may not, depending on the amount of structural steel and plate fitting work you are doing.
For example, if you are a welder trained in some of the skills related to the structural steel and plate fitter trade, you may be able to continue performing those tasks without having to be certified as a structural steel and plate fitter. But, if most of the work you are doing is structural steel and plate fitter work, you would be expected to become certified in the structural steel and plate fitter trade.

Q: Will I be asked to do a survey?
A: We’ll be randomly contacting about 2500 people who work in the trade or a related trade. If you’re not contacted directly, you do not need to complete a survey.
Structural Steel and Plate Fitter Industry Survey

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

An Initiative of:

Alberta Advanced Education
Apprenticeship and Industry Training Division