

Issued: February 27, 2017

Program: Automotive Service Technician

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

Subject: **Automotive Service Technician (AST) Program Update**

OPSN No.: **OPSN 2017 002**

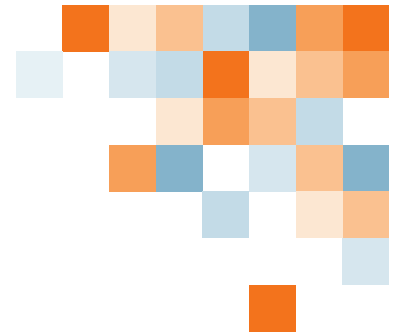
Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Summary of Change: Please be advised that a new Program Outline has been posted to the Industry Training Authority (ITA) [website](#). For details, please see ***Automotive Service Technician Program Outline Review Details*** (attached).

Please note, the following changes have been made to the AST program in BC:

- The final level will be called Automotive Service Technician (not AST 4)
- **An increase in work-based training (WBT) hours:** from 6,000 hours to 6,360 hours
- **An increase in the hours of technical training:** 30 hours at Level 2 and 30 hours at Level 4

Rationale: The AST National Occupational Standard (NOA, 2011) was reviewed and updated as part of **the Harmonization Initiative** (see *General Information* below for more details). After a series of consultations, workshops and pan-Canadian webinars, a new Red Seal Occupational Standard (RSOS) was developed to replace the NOA, including the following finalized priorities for AST:



AST	Changing in BC?	What will it be?
TRADE NAME	YES	Automotive Service Technician*
NUMBER OF TRAINING LEVELS	NO	4
TOTAL HOURS Technical + work-based training	YES	7200 hours Increased by 420
TRAINING SEQUENCE order of subjects taught	YES	Some changes to sequence

* BC will maintain the progressive credential model (i.e. a Certificate of Qualification at each of the 4 levels), but the final certificate will be called Automotive Service Technician, not Automotive Service Technician (AST 4).

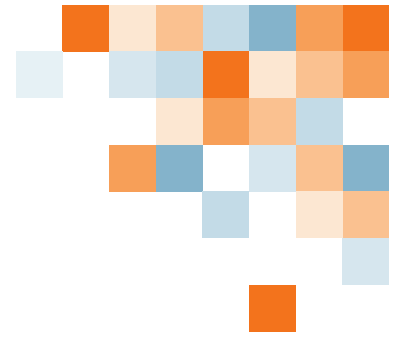
The revised RSOS and the finalized harmonization recommendations triggered a full program review in BC. As part of this program review and because of the change to the content mandated by the RSOS, a training duration analysis was also conducted, followed by industry consultation.

Details:

A review of the BC AST Program to align it to the (draft) RSOS was conducted in September 2016. During the Program Outline review, a need for more technical training time was identified. A training duration analysis was conducted and resulted in a proposal to increase the hours as detailed in the attached document, **AST Total Training Time: Details**.

Subsequently, ITA consulted more broadly with industry and this consultation validated the need for more technical training time. **The increase has been approved and will be in effect as of September 1, 2017.**

ITA will be working with the training providers to identify strategies for transitioning to the harmonized program. ITA is also working on a communication plan to inform apprentices and employers of the changes to the program.



GENERAL INFORMATION: The Harmonization Initiative

At the request of industry, the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA)'s 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:

1. Use of Red Seal **trade name**
2. Consistent **total training hours** (in-school and on-the-job)
3. Same number of **training levels**
4. Consistent **sequencing** of training content, including use of most recent National Occupational Analysis.

For more information on the Harmonization Initiative, please visit our website at <http://www.itabc.ca/our-trades-training-system/pan-canadian-harmonization-initiative>.

Attachments: *Automotive Service Technician Program Outline Review Details*

This attachment provides details of the revisions made to the AST Program Outline during the review process.

AST Total Training Time: Details

This attachment provides details of the increased technical training time and work-based training time.

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