

**Issued: March 2, 2018**

**Program: Plumber**

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

**Subject:** **Plumber**

**OPSN No.:** **OPSN 2018 001.1**

**Effective Date:** **April 1, 2019**

This amended notification (**OPSN 2018 001.1**) replaces **OPSN 2018 001** issued on January 8, 2018

The effective date of the Harmonized Program Outline has been revised. **The Harmonized Plumber program will be implemented April 1, 2019, as per the Plumber Transition Plan.** ITA will continue to work with training providers on transition planning March - April 2018.

**Summary of Change:** Please be advised that changes have occurred to the Plumber program as a result of the Pan-Canadian Harmonization Initiative.

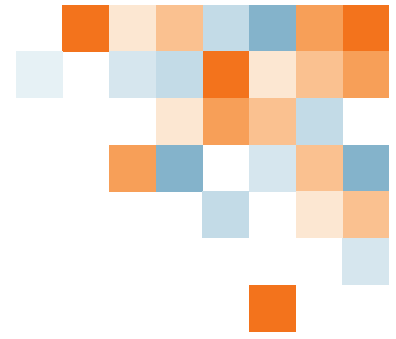
These changes are as follows:

- Plumber Program Outline Update
- Reduction of Work-based Training Hours – 6,300 hours (from 6,420 hours)
- 4 week duration increase for the **Harmonized Plumber Program:**
  - Level 1 – 210 hours, 7 weeks (from 180 hours, 6 weeks)
  - Level 2 – 240 hours, 8 weeks (from 180 hours, 6 weeks)
  - Level 3 – 210 hours, 7 weeks (from 180 hours, 6 weeks)
  - Level 4 – 240 hours, 8 weeks (no change)

The Harmonized Plumber Program Outline has been posted on the Plumber webpage at [www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca). The Harmonized Plumber Program Profile will be posted at a later date and will be announced with a subsequent OPSN.

Also be aware that Training Providers are subject to review by Technical Safety BC - TSBC (formerly BC Safety Authority) and must be compliant with TSBC's program approval requirements to deliver Gasfitter – Class B training as per the Safety Standards Act. Further information can be found at [www.technicalsaftybc.ca](http://www.technicalsaftybc.ca).

Please see [OPSN 2018 002.1](#) for changes to the Gasfitter – Class B program.



**Rationale:** At the request of industry, the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship's (CCDA) 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: trade name, total training hours (in-school plus on-the-job), number of training levels, and the sequencing of the training content.

Plumber is one of eight trades identified for the second phase of Harmonization. After a series of consultations and pan-Canadian webinars, the finalized priorities for the Harmonized Plumber program were as follows:

1. Use of the Red Seal **trade name** – Plumber
  - *BC – no change.*
2. Consistent **total training hours** (in-school plus on-the-job) – 7,200 hours total
  - *BC - Technical training will increase from 780 hours (26 weeks) to 900 hours (30 weeks), and Work-based Training is reduced from 6,420 hours to 6,300 hours.*
3. Same number of **training levels** – 4-level program
  - *BC – no change.*
4. Consistent **sequencing** of training content
  - *BC – Significant changes required to align to the Harmonized sequencing.*

**Details:** A Plumber program review was conducted in September 2017 to align BC's Plumber program to the Harmonized sequencing. The review resulted in significant changes to the current sequence of technical training.

ITA is also working on a communication plan to inform apprentices and employer sponsors of the changes to the program.

**Attachments:** ***Plumber Program Outline Review Details***  
Please see OPSN 2018 001 for this attachment.

**For more information contact:** ITA Program Standards  
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**cc:** All Staff