



Matrixvisa Inc.

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Immigration Law and International Recruitment

Saskatchewan Apprenticeship & Trade Certification Commission

Attention Mr Rick Ewen

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Office (306) 933-5075

1 December 2011

REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON ASSESSMENT OF ELECTRICIANS

Dear Mr. Ewen

1. I am assisting two multi-national companies to bring three foreign trained electricians to Saskatchewan. The one employer is one of the world largest overhead crane companies and a world leader in the manufacturing of underground and open pit mining equipment. The crane company is interested in bringing two foreign trained electricians to Canada to conduct electrical maintenance of overhead cranes. Each applicant must have at least 8000 -10 000 hours experience in electrical maintenance of overhead cranes. The mining equipment supplier intends to bring a foreign trained electrician that has more than 10 years experience in electrical maintenance of specific mining equipment to for the potash industry in Saskatchewan.

2. These employers have difficulty understanding why foreign trained electricians with experience in maintenance and training in the electrical maintenance of overhead cranes and underground mining equipment are not eligible to challenge the Red Seal in the "Electrician" trade in Saskatchewan. These candidates are eligible in Alberta for example, but apparently not Saskatchewan. Essentially the policy prevents Saskatchewan employers to employ foreign trained industrial electricians. Apparently the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship & Trade Certification Commission requires these individuals to repeat their apprenticeships as in SK as Construction Electricians which defeats the object.

3. Mr Surtees (Nick.Surtees@gov.sk.ca & tel 306 787-9076) the Director of Gas and Electrical Licensing from the SK Ministry of Correction Public Safety and Policing

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can issue a restricted industrial license to an individual but only to a person holding an Industrial Red Seal from another Canadian jurisdiction not foreign trained industrial electricians. Mr Surtees explained that pursuant to the Electrical Licensing Act a company with an Electrical Contractor License with a certified Electrician on staff may supervise the work of an uncertified Electrician.

4. In order to complete the request for an assessment by your office for the eligibility of these individuals there is a need to understand the assessment process and the requirements of successful candidates in the trade of "Electrician" in Saskatchewan.

In order to understand the process and requirements, four questions have been formulated.

Question 1.

The website <http://www.saskapprenticeship.ca> refers to the term Electrician.

The enclosed Course Outline also refers to the term "Electrician."

The enclosed Form 6 A also refers to the term "Electrician" It was also noticed that the trade of "Electrician" is also mentioned The Apprenticeship Trade and Certification Commission Regulation.

Is the trade known as "Electrician" or "Construction and Maintenance Electrician" ?

Are there specific policy documents at the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship & Trade Certification Commission where reference it is explained that the trade of "Electrician" in Saskatchewan is actually a "Construction and Maintenance Electrician" ?

Question 2

My understanding of the scope of the work of an Electrician in SK is as follows and quoted from your website:

Quote

Electricians install, repair, test and maintain wiring, controls, motors and other electrical devices in a variety of locations.

What do Electricians do on the job ?

- *Read and interpret drawings, circuit diagrams and electrical code specifications to determine wiring layouts for new or existing installations.*
- *Test continuity of circuits using testing equipment to ensure compatibility and safety of systems, following installation, replacement or repair.*
- *Troubleshoot and isolate faults in electrical and electronic systems and remove and*

replace faulty components.

- *Connect electrical power to sound and visual communication equipment, signalling devices and heating and cooling systems.*
- *Install, replace and repair lighting fixtures and electrical control and distribution equipment.*

Unquote

I also noticed the following in Section 31 (verification of Trade Experience) of The Apprenticeship Trade and Certification Commission Regulation.

Quote

Electrical Trade

*61(1) In this section, "trade" means the trade designated in accordance with Part II as **"electrician trade" and includes all "work of electrical installation" as defined in The Electrical Inspection Act, 1993.***

(2) This section applies to employers, tradespersons, journeypersons, apprentices and any other person in the trade.

Unquote

If a foreign trained electrician performed all the work/duties identified in the enclosed Form 6A will this be sufficient to be eligible to challenge the Red Seal as electrician in SK ?

If not, what type of electrical experience is required/accepted before an approval is provided to a foreign trained electricians ?

What type of electrical experience is not required/accepted when the experience of foreign trained electricians are evaluated ?

In which documents (Act, regulations or internal documents) at the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship & Trade Certification Commission is it indicated what electrical experience is accepted and what electrical experience is not accepted as part of the required 10 800 hours of experience needed ?

Question 3.

When a foreign trained electrician is assessed for the trade of Electrician, what is assessed:

Training or experience or both ?

What weight is enclosed to each factor ?

It seems as if the Apprenticeship Trade and Certification Commission Regulation indicates the importance of "experience" in Regulations 26 and 31.

Quote

Section 26

(5) In determining the date of commencement of work in a designated trade, the commission may consider **work performed outside Saskatchewan to be work in the trade.**

(6) A tradesperson who satisfies the commission that he or she holds valid qualifications in a designated trade in another province or territory of Canada or another country equivalent to the Journeyman Certificate of Qualification is eligible to write the journeyman trade examination in the trade.

Unquote

According to page 73 of the report named "Understanding of the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Trained Workers in the Red Seal Trades" dated Feb 2011 the following was mention on Page 73: "For compulsory trades a credential is mandatory.....Even though SATCC considers the applicant credential, they still rely heavily on the applicant's work experience and scope of work"

Thank you for your time, Mr Ewin.

Respectfully yours



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Member in Good Standing of ICCRC as required by the Section 91 (1) & (7) (a) Immigration and Refugee Protection Act of Canada

Enclosure 1: SK Form 6A

Enclosure 2: SK Electrician Course content

Enclosure 3: Page 73 from the report "Understanding of the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Trained Workers in the Red Seal Trades" dated Feb 2011



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**FORM 6A
Verification of
On The Job Experience**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Apprentice/Tradesperson _____ Social Insurance Number _____

Current Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____ Phone Number _____

Employer (Firm Name) _____ Name and Certificate Number of Supervising Journeyman _____

Address of Employer _____ City _____ Postal Code _____ Phone Number _____

Electrician	Trade Time Exposure In Hours
Period of Employment _____ to _____ (DD/MM/YY) (DD/MM/YY)	
Type of Work (please print) _____	
Occupational Skills: perform routine activities; organize work, tools and equipment	
Distribution and Services: service entrance, sub-panels, feeders, transformers; bonding, grounding and cathodic protection; power generation systems; high voltage systems	
Branch Circuit Wiring: raceway and cable systems; power and lighting systems; heating and cooling systems; emergency lighting systems	
Motor and Control Systems: installs motors and motor controls	
Signaling and Communication Systems: signaling systems; communication systems	
Upgrading, Maintenance and Repair: upgrade and maintain systems, perform preventative maintenance	
Total Hours	

I Certify The Above Hours Are Accurate _____
Date (DD/MM/YY) _____ Apprentice/Tradesperson (signature) _____

I Certify The Above Hours Are Accurate _____
Date (DD/MM/YY) _____ Employer Representative (signature) _____

Employer Representative (print name clearly) _____

For Commission Use Only		
Time Assessed: _____	Approved By: _____	Date: _____ (DD/MM/YY)



Electrician *A Guide to Course Content*

Electricians install, repair, test, and maintain wiring, controls, motors and other electrical devices in a variety of locations.

Training Requirements: 7200 hours (4 years) including two 8-week, one 9-week and one 8-week training sessions at SIAST Palliser Campus in Moose Jaw; the first three levels are also available at SIAST Woodland Campus in Prince Albert. An apprentice must successfully complete the required technical training and compile enough on-the-job experience to total at least 1800 hours each year.

* Any person who is not a journeyman electrician must become registered as an apprentice to work in this trade.

Entrance Requirements: Individuals must be working in the trade and under the supervision of a certified tradesperson.

Employers usually prefer to hire workers who have completed Grade 12. Academic requirements for entry into this trade are no longer related to high school grade level. High school completion will ensure entry into the trade. Individuals who have not completed Grade 12 should contact the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission for an assessment of their qualifications.

The information contained in this pamphlet serves as a guide for employers and apprentices. The pamphlet briefly summarizes the training delivered at each level of apprenticeship training. An apprentice spends approximately 15% of the apprenticeship term in a technical training institute learning the technical and theoretical aspects of the trade. The hours and percentages of technical and practical training may vary according to class needs and progress.

The content of the technical training components is subject to change without notice.

Level One - 8 weeks

Basic Theory

- intro to electricity, circuits and devices
- DC theory
- cells and batteries
- meters
- fasteners

Wiring Methods

- installation methods and standards of various electrical cables, raceways and conduit wire fill
- cable selection and terminating
- residential data cabling

Basic Wiring Circuits

- conductor selection and code tables
- conductor termination, box fill and connection of circuit devices
- bonding
- electromagnetism
- residential branch circuits
- signal systems and remote control lighting relays
- overcurrent devices

Planning, Layout and Services

- single dwelling services
- residential wiring plans including blueprints and wiring design
- lighting

Related Training

- mathematics

Safety

- Occupational Health and Safety Requirements
- Arc flash, personal protective equipment and rigging

Level Two - 8 weeks

Basic Theory

- AC theory
- AC meters
- R, L and C circuits
- three phase theory and alternators

Wiring Methods

- hazardous locations and patient care areas
- hydraulic bending

Transformers

- theory of operation, polarity, voltage and current ratios and connections - single phase transformers
- basic instrument transformers

Industrial Electronics

- basic electronic components
- rectification
- oscilloscopes

Electric Motors and Controls

- DC machines (generators and motors)
- single phase motors
- three phase motors
- basic motor control

Planning, Layout and Services

- code selection and determination for hospitals, schools, motels and row housing units and code requirements for the sizing of motor branch circuits

Related Training

- mathematics using trigonometry, vector operations and algebraic equations.

Level Three - 9 weeks

Rigging

- OH&S
- hoisting
- scaffolds and ladders

Transformers

- impedance, polarity testing, regulation, current and potential and auto transformers
- paralleling transformers

Heating Controls

- domestic burners
- industrial burners
- residential/commercial electric heat

Alarm Systems

- operation of fire alarm systems
- installation and maintenance

Industrial Electronics

- three phase rectifiers, zener diodes, bipolar transistors, integrated voltage regulators
- semi-conductor sensing devices, optical couplers, SCR and firing circuits and field effect transistors
- J-FETS and MOS-FETS
- Data cabling

Electric Motor Control

- three phase motor control

Planning, Layout and Services

- lighting requirements for commercial, institutional and industrial buildings
- three phase services
- large single phase balanced services and miscellaneous three phase loads
- thermit welding

Level Four - 8 weeks

Basic Theory

- power factor correction

Transformers

- three phase transformers
- high voltage installations and metering

Industrial Electronics

- linear integrated circuits
- thyristor circuits and applications
- digital integrated circuits
- programmable logic controllers

Electric Motors and Controls

- motor speed control
- AC reduced voltage motor control
- paralleling rotating machines

Related Training

- program review
- CEC Review

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**Saskatchewan
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**UNDERSTANDING THE ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION OF
FOREIGN TRAINED WORKERS IN THE RED SEAL TRADES:
*A Cross-Canada Review of Methodology and Processes in Apprenticeship
Systems to Assess and Recognize Credentials and Trade Experience***

Red Seal and Provincial Certification

The SATCC uses the same application process for individuals challenging the Provincial or Red Seal trades (compulsory or non-compulsory). Saskatchewan (SK) has very few trades that do not have Red Seal designation.

CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT

Process

Internationally trained workers seeking recognition of qualifications obtained outside of Canada are required to provide proper documentation such as credentials and records of work experience. An English translation of the credential and other documents is required with the translation being the responsibility of the applicant.

SATCC conducts the credential assessment for all trades. The Hairstylist Trade Examining Board, which is appointed by SATCC, assists with the assessment process for the Hairstylist trade. No outside agency or institution is used to support the credential assessment process, nor does SATCC use public or private credentialing assessment bodies.

Credentials are not required when an internationally trained worker is applying to challenge the Red Seal exam for voluntary trades. In these cases a credential helps support the applicant's work experience and scope of work. For compulsory trades, a credential is mandatory for the application process to proceed; otherwise, the applicant must indenture as an apprentice.

The SATCC examines the credential to determine the type of training that was taken and the length of training. The credential is also used to identify the scope of training and further supports and aligns trade time. Even though SATCC considers the applicant's credential, they still rely heavily on the applicant's work experience and scope of work for the final approval.

When assessing the credential, SATCC examines the curriculum outline (i.e. via the internet) especially when they have questions in regards to the institution status and to determine what type of training took place in a particular program. The SATCC wants to ensure that the certificate has been awarded and that the dates of issue are accurate. The SATCC does not phone international institutions, most of the communication occurs by email.

Approximately fifty percent of the time, SATCC staff has face-to-face interviews with the candidates. Most of the interviews occur in the central office and the balance take place in field offices across the province. Apprenticeship staff members feel that the personal interviews help to get a better understanding of the applicant's trade knowledge and experience as well as their language abilities.