



**Apprenticeship and  
Trade Certification  
Commission**

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May 1, 2012

Mr. Jacobus Kriek

Dear Mr. Kriek:

**RE: Your Access to Information Request 2012-02**

Thank you for your access to information request received in this office on April 10, 2012, requesting copies of the meeting minutes for the Saskatchewan Electrician Trade Board for February and March 2012.

Please find attached records responsive to your request. Please note that, pursuant to section 8 of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act), some of the information contained in the attached records has been deleted because it would disclose personal information about an identifiable individual. Access to this information is denied pursuant to section 29(1) of the Act.

If you would like to exercise your right to request a review of this decision, you may do so by completing a "Request for Review" form and forwarding it to the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner within one year of this notice. Your completed form can be sent to #503 – 1801 Hamilton Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 4B4. This form is available at the location you applied for access or by contacting the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner at (306) 787-8350.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (306)787-0123.

Yours truly,

Dawn Stanger  
Privacy Officer, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification  
Commission

cc: Joe Black, CEO, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification  
Commission

**Present:**

[REDACTED]

DRAFT

**SATCC:**

Dean Frey, Program Development Officer

**Regrets:**

[REDACTED]

1. The meeting was called to order at: 11:00h
2. The board met to discuss the issue of foreign trained and certified electricians coming to Saskatchewan and if there is any interest in designating Industrial Electrician in Saskatchewan. These issues were discussed in length. The issue of foreign workers in Saskatchewan with a work permit, or permanent residency determines which practice can be followed. The training and certification of the foreign worker from their home country determines whether the worker is an Industrial Electrician or Construction Electrician. These issues result in several scenarios for foreign workers coming to Saskatchewan and this has caused some confusion. The board requested Dean Frey email the members with the initial discussion regarding foreign trained and certified workers. A subsequent conference call needs to be arranged to further discuss these issues before a decision is made by the board.

NB

M/S [REDACTED] to get written clarification of the board initial suggestions and arrange for another conference call to further discuss.

**Action:** Dean Frey to email board with initial suggestions and arrange for another conference call.

3. The meeting was adjourned at: 12:35h

**Present:**

[REDACTED]

DRAFT

**SATCC:**

Dean Frey, Program Development Officer

**Regrets:**

[REDACTED]

1. The meeting was called to order at: 11:30h
  
2. The board met to continue the discussion regarding foreign trained and certified Construction and Industrial Electricians coming to Saskatchewan and if there is any interest in designating Industrial Electrician in Saskatchewan.
  - The certification path for foreign trained and certified Construction Electricians was discussed. The board agreed the foreign trained and certified electricians coming to Saskatchewan require one year of work experience whether they wish to challenge the journeyperson examination or take upgrader training. The practical experience is very important for the foreign trained and certified worker. The boards decision regarding this issue is as follows:

**Construction Electricians** – if the foreign trained and certified worker has full time in the trade (4 years/7200 hours) and is a certified journeyperson in their country of origin and deemed to be equivalent, SATCC requires them to work for one year, then challenge the journeyperson examination; *or, work one year in the trade complete the electrician upgrader program, then challenge the journeyperson examination.*

- The certification path for Industrial Electrician was discussed. Currently, all foreign trained and certified industrial electricians must complete the entire Saskatchewan apprenticeship program. SATCC is concerned foreign trained and certified industrial electricians do not want to take four levels of training and will seek certification elsewhere. They could go to another jurisdiction where they could just need to challenge an examination. Once certified in Canada, these foreign trained and certified industrial electricians can enter Saskatchewan and be allowed to work here with no additional training or certification required. SATCC would like to be proactive and ensure the foreign trained and certified industrial electricians are trained and tested in Saskatchewan to ensure legitimacy of the certification they receive. The board felt the foreign trained and certified industrial

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Trade Board  
March 7, 2012  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (conference call)

DRAFT

electricians should be required to work one year in the trade before they are allowed to attend the upgrader program. The boards decision regarding this issue is as follows:

**Industrial Electricians** – all foreign trained and certified industrial electricians who have completed an apprenticeship program in that trade must complete the electrician apprenticeship program; or, *work one year in the trade then successfully complete the upgrader program to be eligible to challenge the journeyperson examination.*

- The board discussed the designation of Industrial Electrician trade in Saskatchewan. The board felt that only one designation of Electrician is necessary. Our apprenticeship model/system encompasses both Construction and Industrial Electrician. Industrial Electrician is more specific to plant/facilities and mines where most of the scope is maintenance type work. Construction Electrician covers construction/installation along with the same maintenance type work. Having only the one designation of Electrician ensures the apprentices get the most well rounded training to enable them to work in both areas; industrial and construction locations. As apprenticeship is 85% on-the-job training the employer should be responsible for any training specific to industrial or construction locations. The boards decision is as follows:

NB

NB

**Designation of Industrial Electrician decision point – No.**

M/S [REDACTED] to approve the proposed certification processes for foreign trained and certified Construction and Industrial Electricians and the designation of Industrial Electrician as a trade in Saskatchewan as follows:

**Construction electricians** – if the foreign trained and certified worker has full time in the trade (4 years/7200 hours) and is a certified journeyperson in their country of origin and deemed to be equivalent, SATCC requires them to work for one year, then challenge the journeyperson examination; or, *work one year in the trade, complete the electrician upgrader program, then challenge the journeyperson examination.*

**Industrial electricians** – all foreign trained and certified industrial electricians who have completed an apprenticeship program in that trade, must complete the electrician apprenticeship program; or, *work one year in the trade then successfully complete the upgrader program to be eligible to challenge the journeyperson examination.*

**Designation of Industrial Electrician – No**

**Carried.**

**Action:** Dean Frey to submit to Chris Stubbs.

3. The board has concerns with foreign trained and certified workers; examples include the difficulty communicating because of a lack of English skills. This can be a safety hazard, a barrier for them to gain work experience in the trade, and make it difficult for them to mentor apprentices once they are certified. Being allowed to use a translator when they write the Interprovincial (IP) journeyman examination does not force them to improve their English language skills. If they can pass the IP journeyman examination in English this would show employers they are able to communicate enough in English to eliminate these concerns. A comment from [REDACTED]

"The concerns I hear from our electricians about foreign workers is mostly around their ability to speak English. If they become journeymen [person] they are then expected to mentor and train apprentices and that would be an issue if they have problems communicating. Also, they are concerned that foreign workers sometimes do not understand our safety training and tailgate meetings. Our company currently employs several foreign workers and appreciates the efforts they make to work in our province. It is sad to think a foreign journeyman [person] has to spend four years before they can once more be considered a journeyman in our trade. *However, I think we must require them to understand English and they should have to challenge the exam in English to prove their ability to communicate without the assistance of interpreters.*"

M/S [REDACTED] to suggest foreign trained and certified must write the IP journeyman examination in English and not be allowed the use of a translator.

**Carried.**

**Action:** Dean Frey to submit to Chris Stubbs.

4. The meeting was adjourned at: 12:30h