

Notice to Unionized ECAA Contractors
Re: Foreign Trained Electrical Workers
AIT Qualification Policy

Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) has developed a Qualification Applicant Procedure/Responsibilities paper to assist applicants with foreign credentials who wish to gain certification as a tradesperson in Alberta. The paper also outlines roles and responsibilities for prospective employers of these individuals, as well as the role that government plays in the process.

The applicant must pay a fee of \$450.00 and provide proof of working experience in the trade. The government will then issue a receipt to the applicant which allows the applicant to work in the trade under the supervision of a journeyperson. The applicant then starts preparing to challenge the exam and finds an employer.

After a period of time the employer must assess the applicant's relevant experience for their needs and at that time considers options for the applicant while he is preparing for the exam:

- i) The employer can continue to pay the applicant at the journeyperson rate of pay.
- ii) The employer can offer the applicant employment at a lesser rate of pay until he gains certification.
- iii) The employer can offer to indenture the applicant as an apprentice at the appropriate level based on the skills in the trade that the applicant has demonstrated.

Before the applicant can attain certification in the trade the employer must write a letter to the government attesting to on the job knowledge and skill competency in relation to other certified individuals in the trade.

At a recent Joint Conference Committee meeting ECAA and IBEW developed a procedure that is intended to compliment the AIT Qualification process for individuals who choose to be dispatched through the Local Union dispatch system.

- * These applicants will be dispatched as restricted journeypersons.

- * Contractors will assess the person's skills after 30 days and not more than 60 days of employment. The Union will provide a list of restricted journeypersons and ECAA/IBEW will confirm that the assessment for these applicants is being done in a timely manner.

- * Contractors will notify the Union if the applicant's assessment places him at something less than journeyperson status.

- * Should the contractor wish to indenture the applicant as an apprentice, and the applicant agrees, the applicant has the option of requesting an evaluation at the Training Centre Evaluation Facility to determine his/her appropriate apprentice level. The contractor will call the Training Centre to book an evaluation. The contractor agrees to accept the results of this evaluation.