

Calculation of Experience in Guarded Status Plants

September 23, 2025
ITS 25-006

Purpose

This bulletin provides clarification on how Inspection and Technical Services (ITS) determines the amount of qualifying experience that may be credited when time is obtained in Guarded Status Plants authorized under Section 7 of the Power Engineers Regulation.

Definitions

Constant Supervision - means the supervision that requires a power engineer to be present continuously in or near an operating area.

Certificate – an authorization issued under this Act to operate a specific plant or class of plant.

Plant – a steam plant, pressure plant or refrigeration plant, or any combination thereof, and all appurtenances and appliances connected therewith.

Guarded Status Plant – a plant equipped with automatic safety controls that is permitted by the minister to operate under section 7.

Refrigeration Plant – a pressure plant in which refrigerants are vaporized, compressed and liquefied in their refrigerating cycle, including the complete installation of machinery and all appurtenances connected therewith.

Steam Plant – an installation designed or used for generating, utilizing, confining or storing, under pressure, steam or liquid, including the boiler thereof and all appurtenances and appliances connected therewith.

Background

The *Power Engineers Regulation* defines *constant supervision* as the requirement for a power engineer to be present continuously in or near the operating area of a plant.

Section 7 provides exemptions from constant supervision for certain refrigeration, air compressor, and low-pressure steam plants equipped with a full set of automatic safety controls. If the owner submits a request, and the Minister is satisfied that all requirements are met, the plant may be approved as a *Guarded Status Plant*.

At a Guarded Status Plant, operators are required to conduct daily checks and safety device testing. Constant supervision of the plant is not required and therefore the operator does not need to remain in the operating area continuously.

Experience Requirements

- Schedule A of the regulation specifies that 1,800 hours = 1 year of experience, and 150 hours = 1 month.
- In Guarded Status Plants, operators will normally accumulate a maximum of one hour of qualifying experience per day to reflect the time spent completing daily checks, testing safety devices, and recording results.
- Additional experience credit may be granted if the power engineer's employer can verify and document extended periods of qualifying duties that meet the intent of constant supervision.

ITS Policy on Guarded Status Experience

1. Daily Check Credit

- Power engineers performing daily checks in Guarded Status Plants may only claim the actual time spent performing duties related to the operation of the Plant. Duties must be similar to those under constant supervision, e.g. performing tests, checks and recoding the results.
- This does not constitute full-shift operating experience.

2. No Full-Day Credit

- Credit toward certification will not be granted on the basis of a full day or shift for Guarded Status Plants, since constant supervision is not required.

3. Application Toward Certification

- Guarded Status experience may be applied toward certification requirements, but it typically represents only a fraction of the total hours required.

ITS has determined that operating experience obtained in Guarded Status Plants will only be credited for the time actually spent performing power engineer operating duties (related to the operation of the plant), and not for an entire operating shift. This ensures consistent application of the regulation and fairness across all certification pathways.

If you have any questions or need more information about this code, please contact us at ITSTrades@gov.mb.ca.

References

This bulletin is issued with reference to the following sections of the Power Engineers Regulation:

- Section 6(2): Limitation on absence from the operating area.
- Section 6(4): Requirement for constant supervision by a shift engineer.
- Section 7: Exemption of constant supervision
- Schedule A, Section 1(2): Calculation of experience.
- Schedule A, Section 2(1): Requirements for operator's certificates.