“Powerline Technician” Trade Regulation Consultation Discussion Guide

SUBMISSIONS DUE: January 4, 2016

Introduction

This consultation guide is sent on behalf of the Powerline Technician Industry Working Group (IWG). The IWG is made up of officials from Manitoba Hydro and assisted by Apprenticeship Manitoba staff. The IWG reports regularly on its activities and provides recommendations to the Apprenticeship and Certification Board (Board).

The Powerline Technician IWG has developed a regulation to designate Powerline Technician as a Red Seal trade in Manitoba.

Before the IWG makes any recommendations finalizing the trade regulation to the Apprenticeship and Certification Board, the IWG must seek input from employers and employees in the trade. Based on the feedback it receives, the IWG may re-evaluate its recommendations. This discussion guide has been created to solicit your feedback in order to inform the IWG.

Background

Powerline Technician was designated as a Red Seal trade in Canada in 1976. Manitoba is one of the few remaining provinces that has not designated Powerline Technician as a trade. The National Occupational Analysis for Powerline Technician was last updated in 2013. The task of designating Powerline Technician as a new trade was added to the Board’s Strategic Plan for 2014-15.

Proposed Trade Regulation

Definitions

1. The following definitions apply in this regulation.


"powerline technician" means a person who performs the following tasks of the trade to the standard indicated in the national occupational analysis:

(a) constructing, operating, maintaining and repairing overhead and underground electrical transmission and distribution systems;
(b) erecting and maintaining steel, wood, fibreglass, laminate and concrete poles, structures and other related hardware;

(c) installing, maintaining and repairing overhead and underground powerlines and cables and other associated equipment, such as insulators, conductors, lightning arrestors, switches, metering systems, transformers and lighting systems;

(d) splicing and terminating conductors and related wiring to connect power and distribution and transmission networks.

"trade" means the trade of powerline technician.

General regulation applies
2 The provisions, including the definitions, of the Apprenticeship and Certification – General Regulation 154/2001 apply to the trade unless inconsistent with a provision of this regulation.

Designation of trade
3 The trade of powerline technician is a designated trade.

Term of apprenticeship
4 The term of apprenticeship in the trade is four levels, with each consisting of a period of at least 12 months during which the apprentice must complete 1,920 hours of technical training and practical experience.

Certification examination
5 The certification examination for the trade consists of a written interprovincial examination.

Ratios of apprentices to journeypersons
6 Except as otherwise provided in section 8 to 10, an employer must maintain a minimum 1:1 ratio of apprentices to journeypersons in the trade.

Application re Electrician's Licence Act
7 Sections 8 to 10 apply only to an apprentice who, in accordance with The Electricians' Licence Act, may perform a task of the trade while not holding a licence issued under that Act and to an employer who may employ such an apprentice.

Ratio adjustment
8 In respect of the tasks in the first column of the following table, the executive director may authorize the employer to maintain the ratios of apprentices to journeypersons listed opposite in the second column, if he or she is satisfied on the basis of reviewing the applicable apprentice's practical experience record book, that each of the apprentices have prior experience in performing the task:
### Supervision of 4th level apprentices

**9(1)** An apprentice who is in the fourth level of the trade may perform a task of the trade in respect of de-energized and grounded conductors and apparatus and energized low-voltage conductors or equipment without the direct on-site supervision if,

(a) the journeyperson responsible for supervising the apprentice's practical experience

   (i) has assessed in person and documented in writing the risk factors of the worksite and the tasks that the apprentice is to perform,

   (ii) has met with the apprentice to review those risk factors immediately before the apprentice attends the worksite, and

   (iii) has satisfied himself or herself that the apprentice has prior experience performing the task and the apprentice's experience has been documented and verified in the apprentice's practical experience record book;

(b) the apprentice has access to the journeyperson responsible for supervising the apprentice's practical experience and is able to directly communicate with the journeyperson by radio or phone; and

(c) the journeyperson ensures that he or she communicates with the apprentice in person at least once and is available by radio or phone during each workday.

**9(2)** Nothing in this section limits, alters or derogates from an apprentice's right to request and receive direct on-site supervision of a journeyperson while performing a task of the trade.

**9(3)** For certainty, an apprentice performing work under this section is included in the calculation of the ratio of apprentices to journeypersons that the employer must maintain.

### Supervision by 4th level apprentices

**10(1)** The executive director may authorize an employer to permit a fourth level apprentice to supervise the practical experience of a first-, second- or third-level apprentice in accordance with subsection (2), if he or she is satisfied, on the basis of reviewing the applicable apprentice’s practical experience record book, that each of the apprentices have prior experience in the task to be performed.
10(2) This section applies only in respect of the tasks set out in the first column of the following table, and a fourth level apprentice may only supervise the number of apprentices performing the task that is set out opposite in the second column:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>task</th>
<th># of apprentices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working aloft stringing, tying-in low voltage energized and grounded conductors and hardwaring poles</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working on overhead energized low voltage conductors or equipment</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transition: designated trainers

11(1) For the purpose of determining the ratio of apprentices to journeypersons in the trade, a person who is a designated trainer under this section may be included as a journeyperson.

11(2) To qualify as a designated trainer, a person must

(a) make application in a form acceptable to the executive director; and

(b) satisfy the executive director that he or she holds

(i) a limited specialized trade electrician's power line licence issued under *The Electricians’ Licence Act*, or

(ii) a powerline technician certificate of qualification issued by Manitoba Hydro.

Limit on advanced standing

12 The advanced standing that the executive director may grant a person who, before becoming an apprentice, has completed training in the trade in an accredited program must not exceed

(a) 36 months, in respect of the period of the person’s apprenticeship; and

(b) 5,760 hours, in respect of the number of hours that the person must complete as an apprentice in the trade.

Duration of transitional provisions
13 This section and sections 11 and 12 are repealed five years after the day that this section comes into force.

**Coming into force**
14 This regulation comes into force 90 days after it is registered under *The Statutes and Regulations Act*.

**Response**

The deadline for written comments on the proposed recommendations is **January 04, 2016**. You may also include comments to the Powerline Technician IWG regarding issues not addressed in this consultation guide.

Feedback gathered through the consultation will be considered by the Powerline Technician IWG as it reviews and refines its recommendations to the Board.

The Manager of Board Operations and Relations may contact you for more information regarding your response. If you do not wish to be contacted, please indicate this in your response.

**Contact Information**

Written submissions (including electronic submissions) may be directed to:

Powerline Technician Industry Working Group  
C/o Manager, Policy, Legislation and Board Operations  
Apprenticeship Manitoba  
100 – 111 Lombard Ave  
Winnipeg MB, R3B 0T4  
Phone: 204-945-3337  
Fax : 204-948-2539  
E-mail: apprenticeshipboard@gov.mb.ca

Thank you for taking the time to provide the Powerline Technician IWG with feedback to this consultation.