



Plumber Red Seal Examination Codebook FAQ

Why are codebooks no longer being supplied for use when writing the Plumber Red Seal exams?

When a new National codebook is released, code-related questions on Red Seal examinations must be verified and revised to reference the new code. The challenge is that provinces and territories do not always adopt the new codebook at the same time. This means that some Red Seal examinations may reference one version of the code and others reference the new code.

There are various logistical issues for examination administration, including purchasing, tracking, inspecting, and storing many hundreds of copies of codebooks, only to replace them before too long. Using and reusing physical material in this way also increases the risk of compromise of examinations.

At the same time, it is clearly very important to ensure that candidates' ability to use code materials to answer the code-related questions on the examination is assessed. To resolve the problems of inconsistencies in application, a decision was made to use a Reference Material Booklet containing necessary codebook reference material in lieu of a full codebook. This action addresses the logistical issues and makes it no longer necessary to provide, inspect and monitor physical copies of the codebooks used by candidates writing the plumber Red Seal examinations.

This approach has been implemented with success in the administration of some provincial examinations.

Are apprenticeship authorities allowed to use copyrighted codebook material in the Red Seal Reference Material Booklets?

Yes, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has granted permission to use the material that is included in the reference booklet, which was extracted directly from the Canadian National Plumbing Code.

What information is included in the Reference Material Booklet that is being utilized in lieu of a codebook?

The Reference Material Booklet contains all necessary information and any needed chart or table to answer all code-related questions.

Will code clauses or tables will be identified in a question, or will the candidate have a separate booklet to select which table to use?

All diagrams and tables needed to answer a question are referred to in body of the question, such as "Refer to figure 1" or "Refer to table 1" and are contained in the Reference Material Booklet.

Has the exam been made easier or harder because of the lack of codebook?

The validity of exam content is not affected by the use of the Reference Material Booklet in lieu of a full codebook. All material required to answer the code-related questions will be provided; candidates will still be required to extract the information from the Reference Material Booklet. The questions will not direct the candidate to an exact code reference; they will have to locate the information in the Reference Material Booklet.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please speak with your Provincial/Territorial Apprenticeship Authority representative.