

## **Trade of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic Regulation Update**

On December 18, 2020, the Manitoba government amended the trade regulation for the trade of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic, Manitoba Regulation 160/2020. The following details the changes that have been made to the regulation and will be in effect beginning March 18, 2021.

### **Scope of the Trade**

A Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic is defined as a person who performs the following tasks of the trade to the standard indicated in the occupational analysis:

- (a) Installs, maintains and services residential, commercial, industrial and institutional heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration units and systems;
- (b) Lays out reference points for installation, assembles and installs components, installs wiring to connect components to an electric power supply and calibrates related controls;
- (c) Measures, cuts, bends, threads and connects pipe to functional components and utilities;
- (d) Maintains and services systems by testing components, brazing or soldering parts to repair defective joints, adjusting and replacing worn or defective components and reassembling repaired components and systems.

The definition of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic (Residential) is amended to expand the ventilating equipment that Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanics in the residential sector can work on from 700 cfm to 1,200 cfm.

### **Tasks Excluded from the Scope of Compulsory Trade**

Hydronic radiant floor heating systems and geothermal heating/cooling systems remain tasks excluded from the scope of compulsory trade. However, a person who is performing tasks with respect to refrigeration-specific equipment is considered to be working in a compulsory certification trade if these tasks involve hydronic radiant floor heating systems or geothermal heating systems.

### **Term of Apprenticeship**

The term of apprenticeship for the trade of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic (Commercial) is four levels, while Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning

Mechanic (Residential) is three levels, with 1,800 hours per level. The final level of Gasfitter training and certification is no longer a mandatory component of the apprenticeship program for the Commercial and Residential trades. Level one Gasfitter training continues to be embedded in the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic training and will be recognized upon the completion of the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic programs.

## **Wage Rates**

The minimum wage rates were updated to reflect the reduced number of levels in the trade. The following wage rates will apply to apprentices as of March 18, 2021:

- (a) 50% of the reference wage rate during the first level;
- (b) 60% of the reference wage rate during the second level;
- (c) 70% of the reference wage rate during the third level; and
- (d) 80% of the reference wage rate during the fourth level.

## **Commonly Asked Question**

*I am a Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic apprentice who is currently in the final level of Gasfitter. Do I need to complete my Gasfitter certification before I can become certified?*

Once the regulatory amendments come into force on March 18, 2021, apprentices who have successfully completed the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic certification exam will gain Red Seal certification in the trade of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic (Commercial) or provincial trade in the subcomponent trade of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic (Residential). Apprentices will be given the opportunity to complete Domestic Gasfitter training and certification, but it will no longer be mandatory to gain certification in Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic.

For the regulation update, see [web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/index\\_annual.php](http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/index_annual.php). For more information on the apprenticeship and certification system, please visit the Apprenticeship Manitoba office nearest to you or visit our website at [www.manitoba.ca/tradecareers](http://www.manitoba.ca/tradecareers).