



BULLETIN

BC Construction Association

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ITA Announces New Tracking System

The Industry Training Authority has announced that effective February 1, 2006 sponsors and their apprentices will receive more frequent reports of training results. At the same time, sponsors will be asked to regularly record and report to the ITA all of the work-based training hours completed by an individual apprentice.

In the new system, the apprentice's hours in the trade are to be tracked and recorded periodically throughout the apprenticeship rather than the current system of just doing so at the final sign-off. The sponsor (generally the employer) will be expected to submit reports to the ITA which in turn will be entered by the ITA into the Apprenticeship Information Management System (AIMS). The ITA will then issue regular statements of training progress to the apprentice and the sponsor. Once all the requirements of training are met, the ITA will send a final statement of training progress to the sponsor and the apprentice. Included in the final statement will be a request to the sponsor to recommend the apprentice for certification (similar to the current process of final sign-off).

Take note therefore, that as of February 1, 2006 all sponsors must start tracking and recording their apprentices' work-based training hours for their own records. They are then to wait for further instructions from the ITA. Some time down the road, the ITA will send the sponsors a statement of their apprentices' training records and with it will come a request to report work-based training hours. Specific instructions on how to report hours will be provided at that time.

This switch to an hour-based system will clearly require more work of the sponsor. However, the ITA has stated that their intention is to keep the increase in red tape to a minimum. Sponsors can expect to be prompted by

the ITA to report hours when one of the following events happens:

- the ITA receives results for technical training taken by an apprentice;
- an apprentice takes and passes an examination (level or final) through the ITA;
- the ITA receives and processes a notice for a change of sponsor for a trainee; and/or
- there has been no training activity received or recorded by the ITA for an apprentice for 16 months.

The first requirement to report after February 1 will likewise depend on the happening of these events. If there is a compelling need to receive the first statement of training progress prior to the happening of one of these events, the sponsor or the apprentice can make a written request to the Industry Training Authority after March 1, 2006.

According to the ITA, apprentices registered prior to the Feb. 1, 2006 will be granted credit for the work-based training hours accumulated prior to the change. For each registered apprentice, the ITA will calculate accumulated work-based training hours up to the transition date, based on the assumption that the apprentice has been working full-time in a job applicable to their apprenticeship since their start date. The accumulated work-based training hours will be reported on the first statement of training progress that the ITA will send to both sponsors and apprentices.

If the sponsor or the apprentice believes that the figure calculated by the ITA is in-

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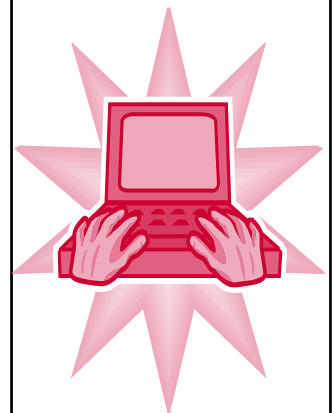
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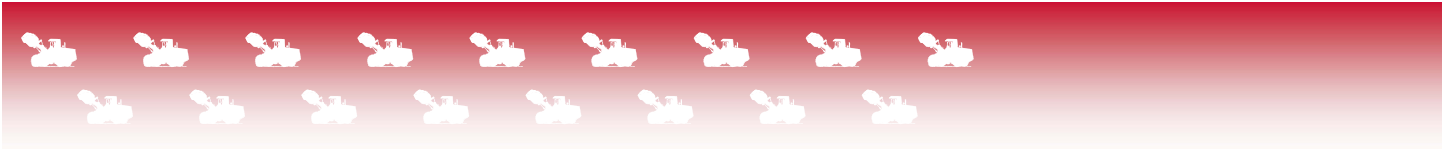
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correct, then the sponsor and/or the apprentice can apply to the ITA to have the apprentice's record re-considered. This request must be supported by appropriate documentation showing the apprentice's actual work-based training hours from the start date of the apprenticeship through to February 1, 2006.

New responsibilities on the apprentice will be to ensure the work-based training hours recorded on their statement summary are correct. Any disputes over the information are to be taken to the sponsor first and then, if they cannot be settled, to the ITA.

The benefit to apprentices by going to this hour based reporting system is noted, by the ITA, to be that apprentices can now have the opportunity to finish their apprenticeship more quickly. In the new system all hours spent training on the job will count towards the total work-based training

hours required for the trade.

If a sponsor has 10 or more apprentices they will have an option to either submit hours each time they get a request for an individual apprentice's hours, or to submit all training hours for all their apprentices once per year. If they choose the latter, they must advise the ITA by filling out a special form that will be sent in the mail.

For more information on this new tracking system please refer to the ITA website: www.itabc.ca/industryhours.

If you still have questions, you can also contact the Industry Training Centre at:

Lower Mainland: 604-775-2860

Toll Free: 1-866-660-6011

Employer inquiries: 604-660-3386

Email: itc@gov.bc.ca

2005 National Codes Available

The 2005 National Construction Codes are now available. They include the 2005 National Building Code (NBC), the 2005 National Fire Code (NFC) and the 2005 National Plumbing Code (NPC).

For more information or to purchase them, go to: www.nrc.gc.ca/virtualstore

Starting in December 2005, the NRC, in coordination with the provinces and territories, is offering technical seminars on the 2005 National Construction Codes.

For more details on dates and registration information, go to: www.nationalcodes.ca/seminars

Important Reminder Notice to British Columbia Companies

To help save your company time and money, the Province of British Columbia has introduced a new Business Corporations Act. It implements significant changes and improvements to corporate law governing companies incorporated in B.C., including a new electronic registry.

Companies that were incorporated prior to March 29, 2004 must register on this new system by filing a transition applica-

tion by March 28, 2006. Registration, which is mandatory, will also enable companies to take advantage of these changes and to continue receiving important information notices. There is no filing fee for registration.

Visit government's website at: www.fin.gov.bc.ca/registries/transition.htm for further information or call **1 888 356-8017** toll-free.



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The mission of the BCCA is to provide leadership and excellence in the representation of and service to British Columbia's construction industry