

Notice of Change

New Product Implementation and Release Website Information

Trade/Occupation Name & Code: Powerline Technician (434A)

Implementation Date of New Standard: Monday April 17th, 2023

Implementation Plan:

Apprenticeship Training Standards:

- Apprentices who began their apprenticeships on the former 2003 Apprenticeship Training Standard can complete their program using the performance objectives in that standard.
- All apprentices with Training Agreements registered on or after Monday April 17, 2023 must be trained to the new Training Standard.
- On or after Monday April 17, 2023 any apprentice who loses his or her Training Standard must be trained to and completed with the new standard even if they began their apprenticeship with the previous versions.

Standard Access

Apprenticeship Training Standards:

- The new Logbook will be available on the Skilled Trades Ontario website.

General Description of Changes

The structure of the Powerline Technician Apprenticeship Training Standard was revised significantly to harmonize with the Red Seal Occupational Standard (RSOS) for the trade. The new Training Standard has 17 Skill Sets, whereas the previous Training Standard was comprised of 14 Skill Sets. Many of the Skill Set titles were revised to be more current and align with the RSOS.

In the new Apprenticeship Training Standard, skills are to be demonstrated in both a non-energized and energized environment, as relevant. In comparison, the prior Training Standard separated skills by the context in which they are performed such as non-energized and energized environments.

There are both new mandatory skills and optional skills. In particular, new content on the use of fall protection equipment was added to adhere to Working at Heights (WAH) legislation and align with the RSOS. Some safety related content, not previously referenced in the prior Training Standard, was also added. This includes skills on handling workplace hazardous materials, climbing structures and the use of specific access equipment. Skills reflecting competencies always performed by Powerline Technicians that were omitted in the previous document, such as performing basic line clearing after a power outage, were integrated into the new standard.

New optional skills reflecting RSOS content were also incorporated into the new Standard. While these skills are part of the trade, they were made optional because they are not commonly performed in Ontario and dependant upon the Utility company and the location. For example, installing submarine cable and installing submersible transformers.