

Update – November 25, 2019: Mine Electrician

NSAA Board was asked to work with Kameron Coal (Donkin Mine), industry members and regulatory bodies in the safe re-activation of the Mine Electrician trade. As a result, the NSAA Board approved the establishment of a TAC on June 15, 2016. The TAC met seven times between March 2017 and January 2020. The mandate of the Mine Electrician TAC was to make recommendations on revisiting and revising regulatory provisions; improving the Mine Electrician profile; enhancing participation of employers, journeypersons, and apprentices, and developing an apprenticeship training pathway and certification program.

An initial Trade Regulation Review was conducted to determine the regulatory processes required for reactivation. Further TAC recommendations resulted in reactivation of the Mine Electrician trade and in May 2019, the status of the trade was changed to active on the NSAA website. Subsequent discussions focused on defining the scope of the trade. As this trade shares similarities with Industrial and Construction Electricians, the committee sought to clearly differentiate scope of trade and reach a consensus on what skills overlapped and those that were unique for Mine Electricians. By August 2019, a detailed provincial occupational analysis, a comparison with the Electrical trades, and a gap analysis were drafted, reviewed and validated.

Finally, the committee agreed to propose a Mine Electrician certification with additional requirements for a Coal Mine Electrician (e.g. mine safety training based on M421 CSA Standard training) and a training standards subcommittee was struck, as was a separate committee Examination Committee to advise on a new certification exam.

In January 2020, the TAC reviewed a summarized proposal for the Development of Curriculum Standards and Training Pathway and reached consensus to move forward with the creation of a new exam and a curriculum standard based on occupational standards. In addition, members participated in an extensive workshop to decide the importance (weighting) of each identified skill. The result would guide training and evaluation and also determine which skills would be mandatory for sign off in an apprenticeship logbook.

It was announced that the Trade Qualifier exam fee was to be waived to better incentivize applicants to consider the Mine Electrician trade option. Finally, in the Spring of 2020, a mining electrician expert who recently retired from NSCC was contracted to develop a Mine Electrician Certification exam and has since completed a draft exam of 100 multiple choice questions based upon the Provincial Occupational Standards that the TAC had created. Finally, this Fall, after the exam committee validates the exam and revisions are made, the exam will be ready for future use.

The work of these TACs has been concluded.