

# What is Apprenticeship?

## **Your Ticket**

Certificate of Apprenticeship, Certificate of Qualification, and Interprovincial Standard Endorsement - also known as Red Seal - are commonly referred to in the trades as your "ticket". The Interprovincial Standard Endorsement is often called a "Red Seal" because it is identified as a Red Seal or sticker on the Certificate of Apprenticeship or Qualification.

What does having a "ticket" do for your career? Being a certified tradesperson identifies you as a highly skilled worker, someone in demand by employers and someone who is paid an excellent wage.

## **Certification**

When apprentices finish their entire program - including all required workplace and in-school training - they are required to write a completion exam. Upon successful completion of the program and writing of the completion exam, the apprentice is awarded a Certificate of Apprenticeship, as well as a Certificate of Qualification and, if applicable, the Interprovincial Standard Endorsement, also known as Red Seal. The apprentice is now considered a qualified, highly skilled journeyman.

Certification is a lot more than just a piece of paper. Certification increases earning potential and employment options, and, in the case of Red Seal trades, makes it possible to work in any province or territory across Canada.

## **Certification Examinations**

The completion exam is most often written on the last day of the final level of in-school training. In most cases, the exam will be arranged so that the entire class will write as a group in their training centre. In all examinations, the pass mark is 70% and the time limit for the exam is four hours.

The Interprovincial Endorsement Standard does not require a separate exam. Instead, the Red Seal trades have exams created by a national panel to be used as the Certificate of Apprenticeship completion exam. This means one exam is written to achieve both certifications. A passing mark must be achieved in the Interprovincial Endorsement Standard exam to receive the Certificate of Apprenticeship for the Red Seal Trades.

*(Reprinted from the Ministry of Advanced Education – Industry Training website)*