

WELDER FITTER (A.C.A., non-restricted trade)

WORK DESCRIPTION

What would I be doing?

Welder Fitters perform some or all of the following duties:

- read and interpret blueprints, or welding process specifications,
- operate manual or semi-automatic welding equipment to fuse metal segments using processes such as gas tungsten arc (GTAW), gas metal arc (GMAW), flux-cored arc (FAX), plasma arc (PAW), shielded metal arc (SMAW), resistance welding and submerged arc welding (SAW),
- operate manual or semi-automatic flame-cutting equipment,
- operate blazing and soldering equipment,
- operate metal shaping machines such as shears and brakes.

Welder-fitters work indoors and outdoors, usually in industrial settings that may be noisy and potentially hazardous. The work often involves lifting and carrying heavy objects. There is a lot of standing. Shift work is not unusual and a five day work week of 35 to 40 hours is standard.

PLACE OF WORK

Who needs Welder Fitters?

- manufacturing companies,

- machine shops that produce structural steel and platework, boilers, heavy machinery, aircraft, ships,
- welding contractors,
- many are also self-employed.

CONDITIONS OF WORK

A welder is a non-restricted certified trade.

A person may or may not have a valid Certificate of Apprenticeship or be registered as an apprentice to work in the trade. An apprenticeship is recommended. A Cooperative Education student, who is not a signed apprentice, does not have to be paid. An apprentice **may** be paid wages.

SALARIES/WAGES

The salary depends on the employer, years of experience, and level of training. In unionized places the wages and conditions of work are negotiated collectively.

In the Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford area, unionized Welder Fitters can earn \$ 18.65 - \$ 31.09 per hour, averaging \$ 24.87 per hour.

(Next)

PROSPECTS of EMPLOYMENT in the Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford Area

RATING: *poor*

At the present time Welders (Welder Fitter) is not a good occupation.

APPRENTICESHIP IN THE WELDER-FITTER TRADE

- takes 3 to 4 years or about 6000 h, including 720 h of in-school training; prior education and experience may shorten the time to complete all the competencies,
- must complete apprenticeship to receive a Certificate of Apprenticeship,
- there is no Certificate of Qualification,
- An Interprovincial Trade Certification (Red Seal) is not available in this trade in Ontario.

In-School Education:

An OYAP student must be 16 years old and completed Grade 10 (or equivalent).

Otherwise, all apprenticeship applicants must successfully complete Grade 12 (OSSD) or equivalent. The following competencies are valuable:

English,	<i>Communication and</i>
Mathematics,	<i>mechanical skills,</i>
Physics,	<i>good hand-eye</i>
Manufacturing	<i>co-ordination.</i>

(Machining),

Design Technology (Drafting).

OYAP students must be full-time students in high school and those who obtain apprenticeships will complete the apprenticeship curriculum in college or an approved Training Delivery Agent.

Specific skills learned in school are:

safety, applied trade calculations, engineering drawings/blueprint reading,, cutting, soldering, welding, brazing, operating welding equipment,

operate shaping machines and shop maintenance.

On the Job Training

- As a high school Cooperative Education credit (towards O.S.S.D.), learning is connected to one of the school subjects.
- The Apprentices must follow a program in the **Apprenticeship Training Standards** book which is given to them in the workplace when they register. As each competency is achieved the employer signs it off.

OPPORTUNITY TO GROW

A Certificate as a journeyman is not required to start working as a welder but an apprenticeship is recommended. After that, a Welder Fitter may:

- become a foreperson or a supervisor,
- start own business,
- work in related areas or occupations.

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Brazing and Soldering Machine Operators,
- contractors and supervisors,
- Underwater Welders.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Whom should I call?

School Guidance/Co-Op Office

Apprenticeship Office 519 675 7788

London: 1 800 265 1050

Apprenticeship web: www.edu.gov.on.ca

EMOLTB web site: www.localboard.on.ca

Training Hotline: 1 800 387 5656

Union: Ironworkers Union Local 736

905 570 8703