

CONSTRUCTION

NOC 7313

REFRIGERATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING MECHANIC

(T.Q.A.A., compulsory certified trade)



WORK DESCRIPTION

What would I be doing?

Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanics install, assemble, and repair components of large and small refrigeration and air-conditioning systems in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. They

- read plumbing and building codes,
- install or connect piping for the purpose of conveying refrigerant of all types for either primary or secondary cooling,
- overhaul or repair equipment,
- test, adjust, maintain all control on refrigeration or air-conditioning systems, including air balancing.

PLACE OF WORK

Who needs Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanics?

Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanics may be employed in

- **Residential buildings**
homes/apartments and condominiums
- **Industrial buildings**
municipal buildings, factories, hospitals, ice arenas, refrigerated trucks, box-cars, and ships.
- **Commercial**
business offices, storage facilities,

heating / air conditioning companies, and computer companies.

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic is a compulsory certified trade, T.Q.A.A. trade. A person must have a valid Certificate of Qualification or be registered as an apprentice to work in this trade. Under TQAA, for **compulsory trades**, the Cooperative Education student **must be a registered apprentice and may be paid** according to the Regulations.

SALARIES/WAGES

The salary of the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanics depends on the employer. In unionized places the wages and conditions of work are negotiated collectively. The rate of wages for an apprentice is a specified percentage of a journeyperson's wage according to experience and level of training.

In the Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford area, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanics can earn \$ 13.14 - \$ 23.08 per hour, averaging \$ 17.98 per hour.

(Next)

PROSPECTS of EMPLOYMENT in the Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford area

RATING: fair

At the present time, there is not a lot of growth in the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic trade.

APPRENTICESHIP IN THE REFRIGERATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING TRADE

- takes 4 to 5 years or about 9000 h, including 720 h of in-school training; prior education and experience may shorten the time to complete all the competencies,
- must pass the Certificate of Qualification exam to receive both a Certificate of Apprenticeship and a Certificate of Qualification with journeyman status
- offers an Interprovincial Trade Certification (Red Seal).

In-School Education:

An OYAP student must be 16 years old and have completed Grade 10 (or equivalent). Otherwise, Grade 10 is the minimum requirement, however, completion of Grade 12 (OSSD) is advantageous. The following competencies are valuable:

English, *Communication and planning skills,*
Mathematics,
Physics,

Construction Technology (Mechanics)

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, pipe and fitting materials, trade communications, equipment, tools and instruments, trade calculations and physics, brazing, soldering, welding, refrigeration and Air-Conditioning systems, 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. Must be signed as an apprentice to qualify for Cooperative Education.
- 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 or being registered as an apprentice is needed to start working as a Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic. A Journeyman may:

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

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Maintenance Worker, Pipe Fitter,
- Steamfitter-Pipefitter,
- Sheet Metal Worker.

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: United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada - Local 787 1 905 790 1019