

**Information Bulletin No. IB15-007**

**June 15, 2015**

**Expiry of Examination Papers Passed and Operating Experience Gained  
for Certification under the Power Engineers Regulation (AR 85/2003)**

This Information Bulletin supersedes IB12-007 issued on June 26, 2012.

**In accordance with the provisions of the Power Engineers Regulation**, to achieve a Certificate of Competency as a power engineer in the province of Alberta, a person must meet a prescribed level of work experience with pressure equipment and successful completion of examinations.

Examination syllabi are reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. This policy establishes that an examination paper required for power engineer certification will be valid for seven years from the date the examination paper was passed. Seven years after an examination paper was passed, it can no longer be considered towards higher certification and the examination paper will have to be written again.

With work experience, legislation, technology, machinery, power engineering examination syllabi and power plant operating processes are continually changing and improving. The validity of power engineering operating experience decreases with the passage of time and at some point becomes meaningless in the interest of public safety. Operating experience older than seven years will not be accepted for higher level of certification. To achieve certification, an applicant will have to re-submit up-to-date pressure equipment work experience.

**Effective date of this policy**

This policy came into effective July 1, 2012. As of this date, examination papers passed and work experience gained more than seven years prior to certification are not valid for higher level of certification.

**Application**

This Policy reflects the overall goal of eventual expiration of examinations and operating experience towards higher power engineering certification. The rationale is to address the above issues, and to encourage timely completion of power engineer certification upgrading. There are cases that can and should be considered on their individual merits on an exception basis. Accordingly, the Manager of Education and Certification has been directed to use discretion in the application of this policy.

If individuals believe that they have justification for requiring more than seven years to complete examinations for higher certification, they should submit this justification in writing to the Manager of Education and Certification together with an action plan outlining the process and timeline for completion of the required examinations.

There may also be valid reasons for failing to acquire the required operating experience during the seven year period. An individual may accept work in a related field where operating experience cannot be earned. In this type of situation it is possible to stop the clock on the seven years while this related work is undertaken. A typical acceptable example may be the case of a power engineer deciding to be a power engineering instructor at a college. Again, the responsibility would be with the individual to present a written request to the Manager of Education and Certification for consideration.

### **Background**

Statistics on average period of time to complete each class of certification and consultation with the Pressure Equipment Sub Council, support this policy that a sunset clause for a period of seven years is practical and logical for the interest of public safety. This policy provides a positive direction to encourage examination candidates to have a workable plan for next class of certification while ensuring the integrity of the power engineer certification system.

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