

1. SPECIAL OILWELL OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATION

1.1 Introduction

This document is designed to outline ABSA's certification procedures and requirements for the Special Oilwell Operator's Certificate of Competency. The certification requirements can be found in the [Power Engineers Regulation](#) and in the Special Oilwell Operator's Reference Syllabus (AB-56), which can be found on the ABSA website using this [link](#).

1.2 Elements

A. Scope of Certification

The [Power Engineers Regulation](#) states the scope of certification for the Special Oilwell Operator's Certificate of Competency. The holder is authorized to supervise power plants as shown in Row 6 of Table 1 of the Schedule.

B. Job and Task Description

A Special Oilwell Operator's scope of practice may include the following:

- general supervision of an oilfield boiler with a capacity of up to 1,000 kw

More information regarding the scope of practice of a Power Engineer can be found in Sections 1–4 of the [Power Engineers Regulation](#).

C. Required Competence

A Special Oilwell Operator must be competent in the operational and safety requirements of oilfield boilers.

It is recommended that candidates review Special Oilwell Operator's course material as well as be familiar with the Safety Codes Act and applicable Regulations.

D. Prerequisites

The [Power Engineers Regulation](#) states that the prerequisites for certification include the following:

- work experience as specified in the Power Engineers Regulation
- pass the Special Oilwell Operator's Certificate of Competency examination

E. Code of Conduct

The [Safety Codes Act](#) (41(1)) states the following with respect to codes of conduct:

The Power Engineers Regulation states the following with respect to code of conduct for a power engineer:

“Unsafe operation

5(1) A power engineer

(a) must take reasonable actions necessary to maintain a power plant, heating plant or thermal liquid heating system in a safe operating condition, and

(b) shall not operate a boiler, pressure vessel, power plant, heating plant or thermal liquid heating system if that power engineer is of the opinion that it is unsafe to do so.”

1.3 Certification Process Requirements

A. Criteria for Initial Certification and Recertification

The certification requirements are as follows:

- apply for examination
- pay the examination fee
- satisfy certification prerequisites
- pass the required examination paper

The [Power Engineers Regulation](#) (AR 85/2003) states that a “certificate of competency remains valid so long as it is renewed annually on or before the date specified by the Administrator.”

The recertification requirements for power engineers are as follows:

- submit a completed application using the Annual Renewal of Engineers' and Operators' form ([AB-73](#))
- pay the renewal fee indicated on the application form
- or renew and pay online through the Power Engineer/Inspector Login

Information regarding certification and recertification can be found on the ABSA [website](#).

B. Assessment Methods for Initial Certification and Recertification

Applicants must meet the minimum requirements for initial certification, as outlined above in 8.3 A. A certificate is issued after a candidate passes the required exam for Special Oilwell Operator's certification. No additional fees are required before a certificate is issued.

Applicants may contest the outcome of an assessment in accordance with ABSA's policy on certification appeals. A request for an exam remark can be applied for using the Request for Exam Re-Mark form ([AB-242](#)).

C. Surveillance Methods and Criteria

It should be noted that a Special Oilwell Operator may be subject to informal surveillance as part of the ABSA audit of their employer's quality management system.

D. Criteria for Suspending and Withdrawing Certification

The Alberta [Safety Codes Act](#) (42(3)) states that an Administrator may suspend or cancel a certificate of competency if the Administrator, on reasonable and probable grounds, is of the opinion that the person

- no longer complies with the requirements of this Act for a certificate of competency or
- does not comply with this Act when acting pursuant to the certificate of competency

E. Criteria for Changing the Scope or Level of Certification

Criteria for changing the scope or level of certification are detailed in [AB-56](#).

1.4 Development, Review, and Validation

Industry/volunteer subject-matter experts are consulted as needed to review and validate AB-56.

1.5 Ongoing Review

Ongoing review of the AB-56 is achieved informally through industry-stakeholder consultation and feedback.