

1. SPECIAL STEAM-POWERED TRACTION ENGINE OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATION

1.1 Introduction

This document is designed to outline ABSA's certification procedures and requirements for the Special Steam-powered Traction Engine Operator's Certificate of Competency. The certification requirements can be found in the [Power Engineers Regulation](#) and in the Special Steam-powered Traction Engine Operator's Reference Syllabus (AB-240), 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 Steam-powered Traction Engine Operator's Certificate of Competency. The holder is authorized to supervise a "historic boiler" as shown in Row 8 of Table 1 of the Schedule.

Note: A steam locomotive operating on a railroad subject to provincial legislation that has a capacity greater than 20 kW must be supervised by a person who holds a Power Engineer's Certificate of Competency of a class that meets or exceeds the requirements shown in Table 1 of the Power Engineers Regulation.

B. Job and Task Description

A Special Steam-powered Traction Engine Operator's scope of practice may include the following:

- provide constant supervision of a historic boiler," which can be a boiler forming part of a traction engine, threshing machine, steam locomotive, or other power plant of historic interest while it is in operation

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 Steam-powered Traction Engine Operator must be competent in the operational and safety requirements of historic boilers and steam traction engines in general.

Candidates must successfully complete a course satisfactory to the Administrator.

D. Prerequisites

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

- pass a course satisfactory to the Administrator
- pass the Special Steam-powered Traction Engine Operator's Certificate of Competency examination
- pass a practical examination demonstrating the safe operation of historic boilers
- work experience as specified in the Power Engineers Regulation

More information regarding these prerequisites can also be found on the ABSA [website](#).

E. Code 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 the examination
- pay examination fee
- satisfy certification prerequisites
- pass the required examinations

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

The recertification requirements for power engineers are as follows:

- pass a practical examination
- submit a completed application form using form [AB-73](#)
- pay the renewal fee indicated on the application form

Note: A Special Steam-powered Traction Engine Operator's Certificate of Competency must be renewed every 2 years, and to be eligible for renewal, the applicant must pass a practical examination that is satisfactory to the Administrator regarding the safe operation of historic boilers.

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 exams for Special Steam-powered Traction Engine 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 Steam-powered Traction Engine Operator may be subject to informal surveillance through the recertification practical examination and as a result of any involvement in incidents related to historical boilers.

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-240](#).

1.4 Development, Review, and Validation

Industry/volunteer subject-matter experts are consulted as needed to review and validate AB-240.

1.5 Ongoing Review

Ongoing review of the AB-240 is achieved informally through industry-stakeholder consultation and feedback.