

# Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic (Residential) Trade Regulation: Consultation Discussion Guide

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS DUE: Monday, April 4, 2011**

## Introduction

This guide is sent on behalf of the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic (RACM) (Residential) Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC), which is appointed by the Apprenticeship and Certification Board (herein “Board”). PACs make recommendations to the board about

- the standards and requirements for training and certification, and for upgrading, and
- the content of regulations made or proposed to be made by the board.

Before it makes recommendations, PACs must seek input from employers and employees in the applicable trade or occupation.

The RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC will be making recommendations to the board on how to accommodate gas training now that Gasfitter has been designated as an apprenticeable trade. ***The RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC is seeking your input on the proposed recommendation below.*** Based on the feedback it receives, the PAC may re-evaluate its recommendations. This discussion guide has been created to solicit your feedback on this important matter.

## Background

On May 14, 2008, the Board unanimously approved the designation of the gasfitter trade in principle to support two licences:

1. commercial and industrial gasfitter licence (herein “Gasfitter A licence”); and,
2. domestic gasfitter licence (herein “Gasfitter B licence”).

The Board then established a Gasfitter PAC in November 2008. The Gasfitter PAC developed the Provincial Occupational Analysis in spring 2009 which has since been validated by a diverse working group. The Board re-affirmed its intent to designate Gasfitter as a trade subject to Ministerial approval on June 21, 2010. The Gasfitter PAC has recommended to the Board a series of provisions that will collectively form the Gasfitter Trade Regulation for both the Gasfitter A and B licences.

The RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC met on March 7, 2011 to discuss how gasfitter training could be accommodated to support the “B” licence. Different options were reviewed as to how the RACM (RESIDENTIAL) trade could accommodate gasfitter training. Its recommended option is outlined below and the RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC is looking for your feedback.

### **Proposed recommendations**

Gasfitter training, which includes both levels of training to obtain the “B” licence, is recommended to be mandatory within the RACM (Residential) curriculum. This means that RACM (Residential) apprentices would be required to take both levels of gasfitter training within their term of apprenticeship. The term of apprenticeship, in this option, is four years, but with a slight reconfiguration. Levels 1-3 will focus on RACM (Residential) curriculum coupled with the level one gasfitter training. At the end of level 3, apprentices will write the provincial RACM (Residential) exam. Level 4 will focus solely on the second level of gasfitter training and at the end of level 4, apprentices will write the provincial Gasfitter exam. The decision to keep the second level of Gasfitter training at the end of the apprenticeship was made by the Board and as such the PAC must accommodate this in its recommendation. Apprentices would thus receive both levels of training for Gasfitter. They would be eligible to apply for a Gasfitter “B” licence using their RACM (Residential) Certificate of Qualification upon successful completion of the 4-level term of apprenticeship.

***The RACM (Residential) PAC is asking for your feedback on this important question:***

***Should gasfitter training to support the “B” licence be mandatory within the trade of RACM (Residential)?***

It should be noted that apprentices, once successful, would have the option to apply for a “prior learning assessment” in order to receive a Gasfitter Certificate of Qualification without further technical training or examination. To re-iterate, however, the training provided in the four-level RACM (Residential) apprenticeship, with or without a Gasfitter Certificate of Qualification, will qualify apprentices for a Gasfitter “B” licence.

In addition, the RACM (Residential) PAC is recommending changes to ratios. The PAC is recommending a ratio of 2:1 (apprentices to journeypersons) for a period of five years.

**The RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC is asking for your feedback on this important question:**

***Should the trade pursue a ratio of 2:1 (apprentices to journeypersons) for a period of five years?***

The RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC is also recommending the following scope based on the 2006 Provincial Occupational Analysis:

**A "RACM (Residential)"** means a person who plans, installs and maintains the following in residential buildings, to the standards indicated in the provincial occupation analysis for the trade:

- (a) residential HVAC systems;
- (b) hydronic radiant floor heating systems;
- (c) geothermal heating systems;
- (d) solid fuel appliances; and,
- (e) potable water heaters.

"Residential HVAC system" described in point (a) above means the following heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment:

- equipment that utilizes single phase electrical energy not exceeding 240 volts, 6 gauge wire or 60 amps, including the installation of electrical heating equipment up to and including 103,000 British thermal units per hour (BTh)/30 kilowatts (kW), excluding the electrical connection to the main panel for electric heating only,
- equipment that utilizes fossil fuels with inputs not exceeding 400,000 BTh/118 kw,
- cooling equipment not exceeding 65,000 BTh/19kw in rated capacity,
- ventilating equipment not exceeding 700 cubic feet per minute (cfm)/329 litres per second (l/s)

The RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC also recommends that a limitation on the scope of work be applied. Since this is a compulsory trade, only certified RACM (RESIDENTIAL) journeypersons and registered apprentices would be able to perform the tasks outlined in the proposed scope above. However, since plumbers install and maintain potable water heaters, it is proposed that a limitation be added to allow other tradespersons to plan, install and maintain potable water heaters. Additionally, since geo-thermal is an emerging technology, coupled with the fact that the Board has received a request from industry to designate geo-thermal as an apprenticeable trade, the PAC is proposing that a limitation be added to allow other tradespersons to plan, install and maintain geo-thermal heating systems.

**The RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC is asking for your feedback on this important question:**

***Is this scope reflective of the work of a RACM (RESIDENTIAL) tradesperson?***

The level chart for technical training is attached in Appendix A. Please review the level chart and provide feedback on the following question.

**The RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC is asking for your feedback on this important question:**

***Is the level chart (found in Appendix A) reflective of the tasks of the trade to support technical training?***

## Response

### Feedback

Your feedback on the proposed recommendation is extremely important in order to develop a responsive trade regulation. Please review the proposed recommendations and submit a written response. ***Only written responses with a corresponding name and contact information will be considered.***

If there is any other feedback of which you feel the RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC should be aware, please feel free to send in any additional comments as well.

The PAC will be inviting stakeholders to provide written comments by **Monday, April 4, 2011**. There can be no extension given for this deadline.

### How Feedback Will Be Used

Feedback gathered through the consultation will be collected and summarized in a Consultation Summary Report, which will be considered as the RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC refines its recommendations. The Consultation Summary Report will be made available to stakeholders.

Respondents should be aware that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Any automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your organization's IT system may not be respected.

### **Contact Information**

Written submissions (including electronic submissions) may be directed to:

RACM (RESIDENTIAL) Provincial Advisory Committee  
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Thank you for taking the time to provide the RACM (RESIDENTIAL) PAC with feedback. Your responses will be taken into consideration by the PAC to help improve the proposed recommendation.

