



MEMBER BULLETIN

August 10, 2016

Red Seal Certification for Heavy Equipment Operators

The Ontario College of Trades has begun issuing notices to local construction associations informing them that individuals will be able to achieve a Red Seal endorsement on their Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Certificate of Qualification (CofQ) beginning in the summer of 2016 (notice is attached to this bulletin). This change will bring operator training in the province in line with a nationally accepted standard and will allow for greater worker mobility for those with an Ontario-based CofQ.

For all those currently enrolled in an apprenticeship program for HEO to achieve their CofQ and for existing operators who would like to obtain a CofQ under the current testing regime, they must do so *before* the Red Seal endorsement comes into effect in the summer of 2016. At that point, an applicant or apprentice will have to go through the Red Seal exam in order to obtain a CofQ.

It should be noted that **HEO remains a voluntary trade and a CofQ is *not* required** in order to operate equipment under this trade in Ontario. However, for those seeking to optionally obtain a CofQ, the more stringent Red Seal testing regime will soon be in place.

If you have any questions about HEOs becoming a Red Seal trade, please contact Patrick McManus (905-629-7766 ext. 222 or patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org).