

Non-SOPEEC Practical Experience Assessment Certification and Examination Guide



Effective: March 2018

Document Uncontrolled if Printed



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1. Background

This certification and examination guide (the “guide”) describes and sets out policies and procedures related to the Operating Engineers Certification Program administered by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (“TSSA”).

The guide has been established to provide a set of reference points and guidelines to examination candidates, certificate holders, Accredited Training Providers, and the industry in general.

In reference to power plant engineering, the previous Ontario designation ‘Stationary’, the current designation ‘Operating’ and the standard Canadian designation ‘Power’ all have the same meaning and cover the same jurisdiction of work, in all Provinces and Territories, in Canada.

The guide and information contained herein are subject to revision and enhancement as and when required.

2. Definitions

In this guide:

- **“SOPEEC”** means Standardization of Power Engineering Examinations Committee.
- **“Non-SOPEEC”** means all jurisdictions that do not subscribe to the SOPEEC model for the standardization of power/operating engineer examinations and certification.

3. General

In accordance with the established *SOPEEC Policy for evaluation of practical experience of Foreign Qualified or International Power Engineers, Naval Marine Engineering and Marine Engineering Qualifications for Power Engineering Certification*, this policy serves to provide a uniform assessment program for the recognition of Non-SOPEEC Operating (Power) Engineers, Naval Marine and Marine Engineers experience and qualifications for eligibility to challenge the SOPEEC Operating (Power) Engineering and TSSA Operator examinations for certification issued under Ontario Regulation 219/01 (Operating Engineers).

This policy applies to Non-SOPEEC Operating (Power) Engineers, or candidates with Naval Marine/Military and STCW (Standards of Training Certification and Watch Keeping) Marine experience and qualifications.

Candidates assessed under this policy may be deemed eligible to write the 4th, 3rd, or 2nd Class examinations and/or Compressor Operator, Refrigeration Operator B examination(s), provided that their credentials, experience and qualifications can be verified to be in compliance with the standards established in Ontario Regulation 219/01 (Operating Engineers).



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In all cases the candidate will be required to meet the requirements for certification for the classification for which they have been assessed, including writing and passing the examination(s), before a certificate of qualification is issued. *Table 1: Assessment Criteria*, below, outlines the minimum documented experience requirements for each level of certification outlined in this guide.

Note the following:

- A candidate who has attained at least twelve months proven and documented practical experience in the operation and maintenance of boilers from a non-SOPEEC jurisdiction (which is equivalent to that required in Ontario for at least 4th class certification) regardless of the certification held in the non-SOPEEC jurisdiction, may, upon assessment, be considered to obtain the 4th class Operating Engineer’s certificate upon the successful completion of the required examinations
- All documented experience for Operating (Power) Engineers must have been obtained in the operation and management of boilers as indicated on Tables 3 of the *Operating Engineers Regulations*.
- All documented experience for Refrigeration Operators Class “B” must have been obtained in the operation and management of Refrigeration technology as indicated on Tables 6 of the *Operating Engineers Regulations* along with the Director’s Order.
- All documented experience for Compressor Operators must have been obtained in the operation and management of Non-Refrigeration Compressors as indicated on Tables 5 of the *Operating Engineers Regulations*.
- The practical operating experience and examinations requirement cannot be bypassed by having achieved academic status such as an Engineering Degree in Mechanical, Electrical, Power, etc.
- All documentation submitted must be translated to English by a certified translator, and the original certified translated documents are required to be submitted on the day of the assessment.

Table 1: Assessment Criteria

Certificate Classification	Minimum Documented Experience Requirements
Operating (Power) Engineer – Second Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Naval Marine Engineers who hold a Certificate 3A, with documented experience in the operation and management of boilers. • First/Second Class STCW Marine Engineer Officer steam endorsed. • First/Second Class STCW Marine Engineer Officer (Motor) with documented experience at First/Second Class level in the operation and management of boilers.
Operating (Power) Engineer – Third Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Naval Marine Engineers who hold a Certificate 2A, with documented experience in the operation and management of boilers. • Third Class STCW Marine Engineer Officer steam endorsed. • Third Class STCW Marine Engineer Officer (Motor) with documented experience at Third Class level in the operation and management of boilers.
Operating (Power) Engineer – Fourth Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Naval Marine Engineers who are QL5 Qualified, with documented experience in the operation and management of boilers. • Fourth Class STCW Marine Engineer Officer steam endorsed.



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Certificate Classification	Minimum Documented Experience Requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth Class STCW Marine Engineer Officer (Motor) with documented experience at Fourth Class Level in the operation and management of boilers.
Refrigeration Operator Class B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Naval AMOC certificate 1 with verified documented experience in Refrigeration. • STCW Marine Engineer (any level) Officer steam or motor endorsement with documented experience in Refrigeration. • Documented experience in Refrigeration from the candidates home jurisdiction (outside of Canada).
Compressor Operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Naval Certificate 1 with verified documented experience in air and gas Compression. • STCW Marine Engineer (any level) Officer steam or motor endorsement with documented experience in air and gas Compression. • Documented experience in air and gas Compression from the candidates home jurisdiction (outside of Canada).

4. Assessment Documentation, Dates and Times

An assessment candidate must provide the following on the day of the assessment:

- Original detailed documentation attesting to the practical experience gained in the non-SOPEEC jurisdiction.
 - Examples include but are not limited to a: third party testimonial, employment letter detailing work experience, etc.
 - Original documentation must be presented on the date of the assessment.
- A copy of acceptable government issued photo identification in the format of an Ontario Drivers Licence or Canadian Passport (health cards will not be accepted).

Dates and Times:

- Location: TSSA Head Office, 345 Carlingview Drive, Toronto Ontario M9W 6N9
- Times: Unless otherwise indicated on the TSSA Operating Engineers website, assessments will be held on a monthly basis, on the **third Wednesday** of each month, commencing at 9:00 a.m.
 - Assessment candidates are requested to report to the 1st floor reception between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on the day of the assessment.
 - Office Hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., candidates are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes prior to the assessment start time and must be aware that they will not be granted access to the building before 8:00 a.m.

Note the following:

- Appointments are not required, or given; assessments are conducted on a first come first served basis, up to a maximum of twelve (12) assessment candidates.
 - In the event more than twelve (12) persons show up for assessments that day, such unassessed candidates will be given a future appointment.



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5. Assessment Results

As a result of the assessment process, a candidate who has been approved will receive the equivalent practical time allowance toward an Operating/Power Engineer or Operator certificate. Assessment candidates who do not qualify for a practical time allowance are required to complete the requirements for certification as outlined in Ontario Regulation 219/01, and the corresponding Certification and Examination Guides available at www.tssa.org.

Assessment candidates who qualify for the equivalent practical time allowance will:

- Receive formal correspondence from TSSA indicating the classification for which they have received a practical time allowance; and,
- Per Ontario Regulation 219/01: Candidates for any class of certification as an Operating Engineer or Operator who have passed the required examinations, or any parts thereof, must obtain their certificate of qualification within five (5) years of such passing or re-writing of the examination will be required.

Note the following:

- An assessment approval letter does not permit an assessment candidate permission to work without a valid certificate. It is an offence to perform work as an Operating/Power Engineer or Operator in Ontario before obtaining a valid certificate of qualification.
- Assessments are considered a one-time opportunity, and an assessment candidate will not be permitted to reapply for an assessment.