



# Certification Guideline Operating Engineers Program

## Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to provide information about TSSA's certification requirements for operating engineers.

## Background

The Government of Ontario has amended the *Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000*, to provide the Minister of Government and Consumer Services (The Minister) authority to approve alternate rules for the Operating Engineers regulation. The [Alternate Rules for O. Reg 219/01](#) are posted on the TSSA website.

Part 2 of Alternate Rules for O. Reg 219/01 (Operating Engineers) establishes an Alternate Table 8 for accrediting Qualifying Experience Time (QET). Alternate Table 8 provides applicants for certificates more flexibility than the existing requirements of Table 8 in O. Reg 219/01.

## Certification Requirements

Certification for operating engineers is required by regulation ([O. Reg 219/01](#)). This certification program establishes a set of requirements used to assess the experience of certification holders for certification requirements. See [Alternate Table 8](#) for more information.

## Highlights:

- QET is expressed in hours to facilitate the counting of hours for irregular shifts and overtime.
- Certificate holders and first-time applicants have the option to pursue exams and meet the experience requirements concurrently or at their own pace.
  - For example, a certified fourth-class Operating Engineer who has successfully challenged his/her third-class exams and is acquiring fourth class QET can begin writing any second-class exam before achieving third-class certification.
- Compressors, refrigeration, and steam prime movers are recognized for up to one third QET.
- Out-of-province and/or unattended plant QET gained under the supervision of an Operating Engineer may be accepted.
- A QET reduction is available to applicants who have completed an accredited training program.
- As defined in the regulation, QET is the period of time during which a certified person performs duties related to the operation and maintenance of the registered plant at their current level. QET is required for an individual to apply for a higher level of certification.



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## Alternate Table 8

TSSA applies Alternate Table 8 to all applicants. The following link provides more information: [Alternate Rules for O. Reg 219/01.](#)

## Forms

Please view the forms for certification [here](#).

To apply for certification, you must submit the completed application for an Ontario Certificate of Qualification as an Operating Engineer or Operator, complete all required exams and pay the appropriate fees.

Please submit completed documentation to: [certandexams@tssa.org](mailto:certandexams@tssa.org)

## Fees

Please consult the appropriate [fee schedule on the TSSA website](#) for more details.

## Questions?

Please review the [Operating Engineers Alternate Rules Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) on [TSSA.org](http://TSSA.org).

If your question is not answered in the FAQs, please contact TSSA customer service via 1-877-682-8772 to speak with a TSSA representative.