

METHODS OF OBTAINING TRAINING CERTIFICATES

ESSB 5831 (as passed House) would have required persons performing HVAC/R work to have an appropriate certificate. One appropriate certificate would have been a trainee certificate.

Initial Applications for Trainee Certificates

Any person would have been permitted to apply for a trainee certificate. The Department of Labor and Industries (Department) would have been required to prescribe the form and manner of the application, and to issue a trainee certificate to an applicant upon receipt of the application.

The trainee certificate would have authorized the person to perform HVAC/R work within the specified scope of work, so long as the person was on the same job site and appropriately supervised by a certified mechanic. The trainee certificate would have been valid for a maximum of two years.

Renewals of Trainee Certificates

A trainee seeking to renew a trainee certificate would have been required to provide the Department with a list of employers for the previous two-year period and the number of hours of HVAC/R work performed under each employer.

The trainee also would have been required to demonstrate satisfactory completion of 60 hours of training. The Department, with the advice of the HVAC/R Board, would have been required to determine the contents of the training courses, and to establish the requirements for satisfactory completion of the courses.

A trainee who did not pass any portion of the examination for any mechanic certificate would have been prohibited from performing HVAC/R work in excess of 2,000 hours beyond the hours required to be eligible to take the examination for an HVAC/R Mechanic III certificate. (The hours for this certificate vary depending on the supervision requirements.)

Concurrent Trainee Status

The Department would have been required to create a single document for a person who applies to be both an HVAC/R trainee and an electrical trainee. Likewise, hours of training required for renewal of trainee certificates would have accrued concurrently, and would have been capped at 60 hours in any renewal period.

Prepared For: Joint Legislative Task Force on the HVAC/R Industry
Meeting on October 22, 2008

Prepared By: Jill Reinmuth, Office of Program Research
360-786-7134 or reinmuth.jill@leg.wa.gov