

Canada-Alberta Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Annex

Pilot on Occupation Specific Work Permits

Steamfitter-Pipefitter

Background

The TFW Annex is an addition to the *Agreement for Canada-Alberta Cooperation on Immigration*. The Annex includes an agreement to implement a number of pilots.

One of the pilots allows Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to issue an occupation-specific work permit for TFWs working in Alberta in the steamfitter-pipefitter trade (NOC 7252). Initially, this permit allows TFWs to be employed for up to one year by one employer or a Group of Employers recognized by CIC and Human Resources and Skill Development Canada while working toward trade certification.

Once certified, foreign workers can apply for a two-year open work permit, allowing them to move between employers without the employer applying for a labour market opinion.

Eligibility

Steamfitter-pipefitter is a compulsory trade in Alberta. To work in this occupation, TFWs need a job offer from an employer and an approval letter from Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) for the Qualification Certificate Program before they come to Alberta. More information on the AIT certification requirements to work in a trade in Alberta can be found at www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca.

For applicants who are not currently trade certified, work permits will be issued for one year allowing the foreign worker time to become certified under the Qualification Certificate Program. Once certified, CIC will issue an open work permit for an additional two-year period.

TFWs currently certified and working in the steamfitter-pipefitter trade in Alberta are eligible to apply for the two-year open work permit before the expiry of their current work permit.

The job letter from the employer must indicate a wage that is consistent with the prevailing wage paid to Canadians in the same occupation in Alberta and that the working conditions for the occupation meet current provincial labour market standards.

Applicants are required to meet all applicable federal temporary resident criteria including leaving Canada at the end of the period authorized for their stay. They must also meet all admissibility criteria in order to obtain status as a temporary resident in Canada.

Application

Eligible TFWs applying from abroad may apply for a work permit either overseas or,

if applicable, at a port of entry into Canada. If applying from outside Canada, go to www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM1295B.PDF and www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/menu-outside.asp.

If applying from inside Canada, mail your application to 6212-55 Avenue, Unit 555, Vegreville, AB T9C 1X6 or apply on-line at www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/extend-worker.asp. An application fee will apply.

Duration

The pilot will operate from June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2015. However, all applicants must apply to the pilot within the first year (by May 31, 2012).

To read the Annex, visit www.employment.alberta.ca and click on “Publications” under the Immigration tab.

For more information, call the toll-free Immigrate to Alberta Information Service at 1-877-427-6419 in Alberta or 780-427-6419 outside Alberta.