

Foreign Credentials and Skills Assessment for the Construction Industry

Helping immigrant workers fit into the construction industry

Do you deal with foreign-trained workers who may have the knowledge, experience and skills for construction work? Are they looking for employment in the construction industry without being sure of how their skills compare with the Canadian standard? Do they need help in putting a portfolio together for employers?

Then, the Foreign Credentials and Skills Assessment (FCSA) Program is the tool you need to help these immigrants become integrated into Canada's workforce.

It's a step-by-step approach to identifying what type of construction work foreign-trained workers may be best suited to in Canada, and what to do next in their search for employment or an apprenticeship.

Getting started without starting over

The cornerstone of the program is the *FCSA Workbook*. The workbook provides employment counsellors and others with a way to identify how the skills and competencies of immigrants compare to those needed in Canadian construction trades.

The workbook includes the following:

- A chart that lists the major skills and abilities needed for 26 trades. After completing the chart, you will understand how the knowledge and skills of an immigrant worker compares with the Canadian standard for that trade.
- Forms to help summarize what skills and experience immigrant workers have or lack, and to make a plan for next steps. If they are qualified in a given trade, they could work toward a Red Seal certification instead of starting over from the beginning.
- A template and checklist of what should be included in the immigrant worker's portfolio, and suggestions on how to layout their work history.

Information for Counsellors



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The Construction Sector Council (CSC) is a national organization committed to the development of a highly skilled workforce – one that will support the future needs of the construction industry in Canada. Created in April 2001, and financed by both government and industry, the CSC is a partnership between labour and business.

The *FCSA Workbook* was developed by the CSC in partnership with the British Columbia & Yukon Territory Building & Construction Trades Council, the B.C. Industry Training Authority and the B.C. Government.

The *FCSA Workbook* is available electronically at www.csc-ca.org, as well as at www.bcbuildingtrades.org and www.itabc.ca.

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Canada

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Replenishing Canada's construction industry

To remain healthy and vibrant, Canada's construction industry needs a steady stream of qualified workers, including those who are foreign-trained. You can help them find out where they fit in with the Foreign Credential and Skills Assessment Program.

