

Canadian Recreation Facilities Council (Western Division) Facility Operator Master Certificate (WFOMC)

The Canadian Recreation Facilities Council (Western Division) has developed the Facility Operator Master Certificate. The certification recognizes recreation facility professionals who have met specific education and training requirements. The certification encourages facility operators and professionals to develop and enhance their skills and abilities in areas that will benefit themselves, their employer, their career and the facility, which they operate.

The goal of the certification is to work towards achieving 5 designations, which include, general operator, pool operator, arena operator, park operator and supervisor operator. The certificate is intended to meet the need for trained operators and their efficient operation of facilities. Once a designation is completed, facility operators and professionals are able to take their training in any western province/ territory and have it recognized anywhere in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and the North West Territories. Once completed all 5 designations the professional will be recognized as a Master Facility Operator.

Purpose

The purpose of the Facility Operator Master Certification is to recognize the education and training facility operators and professionals have achieved in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and the North West Territories and have it transferable to anywhere with in those provinces/territories.

Background

Discussion began in 1999 between the Western provinces/territories (B.C., Alberta, Nunavut, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories) to develop a series of Facility Operator Designations. Facility operators and professionals can pursue an individual designation and could acquire all designations to receive a Facility Operator Master Certificate.

On November 2, 2000 all provinces and territories received approval from their Board of Directors to continue with the concept of the Western Facility Operator Master Certification.

In 2003, Mike Bryson the Executive Director of Alberta Recreation Facility Personal reviewed all provincial and territorial course manuals to examine the course content between offered courses. It was determined that the core content was consistent.

On February 27, 2005 at the Western CRFC meeting the agenda revisited the certificate and it was decided that this was the best time to finalize and implement the certificate.

In May, 2005 Melissa Raymer (S.P.R.A) sent out a course review questionnaire, to define a curriculum standard that could be applied unilaterally, that each province and territory were responsible for completing.

On September 30, 2005 at the CRFC Western Meeting in Calgary, Melissa Raymer (S.P.R.A.) and Mike Bryson (ARPA) presented a draft Western Facility Operator Master Certificate strategy. Comments and suggestion from the meeting have now been incorporated in the strategy and has been approved for board and staff review.

Benefits of a Facility Operator Master Certificate

- Provide facility operators and professionals the opportunity to pursue an individual designation or designations toward a facility operator master certification.
- To help guide provincial associations in the creation of new courses specific to their membership and western standards.

- To help potential employers in the selection of a candidate with the recognized skills.
- Set short and long term professional development plans for staff.
- Facility operators and professionals can enhance their skills and knowledge in topics relevant to their career.
- Provide flexibility for recreation professionals to move to another western province/territory with out having to become re certified.

Facility Operator Master Certificate Designations

The Facility Operator Master Certification committee members of the CRFC (Western Division) have developed the flowing six (6) designations as curriculum standards. (See Appendix 1 for flow chart)

Facility Operator General Designation

- First Aid/CPR B
- WHMIS
- Custodial Maintenance

Facility Operator Pool Designation

- Pool Operator Level 1
- Pool Operator Level 2

Facility Operator Arena Designation

- Arena Level 1
- Arena Level 2

Facility Operator Parks Designation

- Parks Level 1
- Parks Level 2

Facility Operator Supervisor Designation

- Supervisors Skills
- Risk Management

Western Provincial Course Comparison

It has been determined that all core content pertaining to the western provinces/territories is similar enough in theory and hands on components to grant equivalency into Facility Operator Master Certificate program.

(See Appendix 2 for course content breakdowns)

BC Versus Alberta Regarding Arena Certification

All of Alberta's courses are transferable to BC with the exception of the RFP Arena Level 2. You can earn your Western Certification in Alberta without completing BC Power Engineering courses. But, if you choose to work in BC, know that the provincial government maintains tight controls over the qualifications of individuals working in the arena industry.

In BC, all arena operators must be in compliance with the BC Safety Standards Act as administered by the BC Safety Authority (BCSA). In brief, the Act requires the following:

1. That each arena operate with at least one Refrigeration Operator (RO, formerly 5th Class PE) for at least 7 hours in each 24 hour day;
2. All other arena staff with direct responsibility for the ice plant operation must have at minimum an Ice Facility Operator (IFO) for all other periods during the day and;

3. Those staff working in a facility but without responsibility for the ice plant, must have a Refrigeration Safety Awareness (RSA) ticket (e.g. custodial or other municipal department staff who perform routine maintenance in the arena).

Due to this provincial legislation, the RO and IFO courses are included in the BC version of the Western Certification. To qualify to write the BCSA provincial exam, you must first successfully complete a course that is recognized by the BCSA as well as “qualifying time” operating and maintaining a plant.

For other western provinces, it’s best to check with the association in each province that represents the operators in that province as each may have their own extra requirements.

Facility Operator Master Certificate Guidelines

Grandfathering

Grandfather clauses for individuals who already have completed the necessary courses will be allowed to start on their designations immediately. Grandfathering will only be granted to those certified as of the year 2002 and on. The reasoning for the selection of the year 2002 is based on the most updated, quality course core content provided by each western province and territory. Individuals, who have completed courses prior to 2002, will be required to write an equivalent exam for the courses they wish to be recognized for.

Provincial Government Criteria

Individuals will still have to meet all necessary provincially governed criteria from the province that they transfer to. Each provincial/territorial association will be responsible for the competency of each trained individual therefore, accepting the liability of the trained individual.

Facility Operator Master Certification Review

Any revised or newly proposed course materials that pertain to Facility Operator Master Certificate must first be reviewed and accepted by the committee members of the western division of the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council (CRFC). This will be done on an annual basis.

Western Province/Territory Certificate Administration

- Facility operators and professionals will apply to his or her applicable provincial/territorial association for consideration.
- A fee of \$50.00 for administration will be charged to each applicant to cover the printing of the certificates, mail out and designation completion stickers
- Each provincial/territorial association will be responsible for developing and maintaining a Facility Operator Master Certification database
- In the case of relocation, the participant will notify the association of the transfer and at that time the file would then be forwarded to the applicable province/territory.
- Each provincial/territorial association will be responsible for the competency of each trained individual therefore, accepting the liability of the trained individual by signing a letter of agreement.

Next Steps

1. Distribute the communiqué to the provincial/territory membership to use on websites, newsletters and other promotional material.
2. To implement the Facility Operator Master Certificate early in 2006 and make adjustments to the certification as needed.
3. To present the Facility Operator Master Certificate at a National level for consideration at the CRFC Annual forum in Quebec.

Summary

The Western Certificate is a very important step in the development of the Western provincial/territorial Associations. This will enhance the development and growth of the provincial/ territorial Associations for their memberships. It will strengthen the link between the Western provincial/territorial associations and it will show we are the true leaders in educational development for our respective associations.

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