



Advanced Education
Apprenticeship and Industry Training
19th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 – 105 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L5
Canada
Tradesecrets.alberta.ca

July 10, 2026

Re: Authorization #10 – Class Authorization for ABSA Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate

From April 2006 to and including June 1, 2025, a class authorization was issued under the Welder designated trade authorizing individuals who hold a valid Alberta Boilers Safety Association (“**ABSA**”) Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate issued prior to April 1, 1985 to perform pressure welding as defined by, and in accordance with, the *Pressure Welders Regulation*, A.R. 169/2002 under the *Safety Codes Act* (“**Pressure B Welding Class Authorization**”). The Pressure B Welding Class Authorization was last re-issued in 2020 for a duration of five years under section 23 of the repealed *Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act* (now section 13 of the *Designated Trades and Restricted Activities Regulation* (DTRAR)). The Pressure B Welding Class Authorization relates to restricted activities set out in Schedule 2, Section 131(2)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the DTRAR.

I have reviewed reports from Apprenticeship and Industry Training (“**AIT**”) field staff and managers. Based on these reports, there are no industry or regulatory concerns if the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization is not re-issued because neither AIT nor ABSA have been able to identify any individual working under the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization since 2020.

Therefore, I conclude that the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization is no longer necessary and will not be re-issued. My decision is informed by a consideration of several factors outlined within Section 13(6) of the DTRAR.

1. Section 13(6) (a) *the degree of risk resulting from the restricted activity to the public, the individual or group of individuals and the coworkers of the individual or group of individuals:*
 - There is little to no risk as the individuals originally permitted to perform restricted activities under this authorization had been working successfully under this authorization for 40 years. However, given that there are no known persons working under this authorization today, the degree of risk resulting from performing restricted activities under the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization is not material to my decision. In addition, a decision not to re-issue the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization means that the restricted activities will be performed by certified individuals in compliance with the *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act* (STAEA)

2. Section 13(6) (b) *whether, at the time that the individual or group of individuals are to perform the restricted activity, the individual or group of individuals will have sufficient training (i) to ensure proper and safe handling or application of any dangerous substances, (ii) to maintain a standard of quality and skill satisfactory to the Administrator in the performance of the restricted activity;*
 - The individuals originally permitted to perform restricted activities under this authorization received an ABSA administered Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate that met the *Pressure Welders Regulation*, A.R. 169/2002 under the *Safety Codes Act*. The training and certificate met the standard of quality and skill required to perform the restricted activities under authorization and required re-testing every 2-3 years while working under ABSA. Nevertheless, as far as I know, no new individuals have had the training required to meet the safety and standard of quality and skills requirement as the Machine Welding Operator training has not been offered since 1985 and there is no evidence that anyone is currently working under the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization.
3. Section 13(6) (c) *the potential benefit to the individual or group of individuals resulting from the authorization;*
 - The individuals under this authorization have held the Machine Welding Operator Certificate since pre-1986 and have been performing the task for many years. Denying them an opportunity to continue performing the tasks would have had an effect on their livelihood when the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization was originally issued. However, research from 2020 to 2025 indicate that neither AIT nor ABSA have been able to identify any individual performing restricted activities under this authorization. AIT encountered only 3 such individuals between 2012 and 2015. As a result, I do not think renewing or re-issuing this authorization provides any benefit to any individual or group of individuals.
4. Section 13(6) (e) *the rationale for having the individual or group of individuals, instead of an apprentice or individual who holds a trade certificate or, if applicable, an endorsement in the designated trade or branch of the designated trade, perform the restricted activity;*
 - Historically, the authorization was approved as the Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate met the standard of quality and skill necessary to do the work and allowed over 400 individuals with the certificate to create a livelihood. The training was done over 40 years ago with the original authorization being issued over 30 years ago. Again, the result of a research carried out by AIT field officers leads to the conclusion that, due to the timeline involved, all or almost all these individuals would be retired. Those who are not, may have moved onto other work outside of what is classified under the authorization. This is evidenced by the fact that AIT and ABSA have been unable to identify anyone working under the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization. Therefore, I am not aware of any rationale for having individuals or group of individuals who are not certified under the STAEA continue to perform restricted activities by renewing or re-issuing the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization.

5. Section 13(6) (g) *any efforts to encourage the individual or group of individuals to meet the standards and requirements for issuance of a trade certificate or, if applicable, an endorsement in the designated trade or branch of the designated trade within a specified period of time;*

- No efforts were made to encourage individuals to meet the standards and requirements for issuance of a trade certificate as it was not feasible to have these individuals do their training after approximately 40 years of working under the authorization. Nevertheless, no new individuals would fall under the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization as the Machine Welding Operator training has not been offered since 1985 and there is no evidence that anyone is currently working under the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization.

6. Section 13(6) (h) *any consultation between employee or employer groups affected by the authorization;*

- There was no consultation between employee or employer groups. However, the Administrator, through AIT, consulted with ABSA who supports the decision not to re-issue the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization. AIT also conducted research in the field to try to find individuals with the Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate. They were unable to identify any individuals.

7. Section 13(6) (i) *the potential effect of the authorization, or a refusal to issue the authorization, on the following:*

(i) the designated trade or branch of the designated trade;

(ii) the operation, productivity and economic competitiveness and prosperity of a plant or business operation;

(iii) the economic competitiveness and prosperity of

(A) the Province of Alberta, and

(B) competitors in the industry in which the restricted activity is to be performed;

- There is no evidence that the issuance of or refusal to issue the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization will have a negative effect on the items identified in Section 13(6)(i) above. No individuals holding the Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate have been identified from 2020 to 2025 by ABSA or by AIT as performing the work under this Pressure B Welding Class Authorization. No new individuals would fall under the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization as the Machine Welding Operator training has not been offered since 1985. There is no evidence that Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate holders still work in the industry.

8. The following sections were not applicable in the review of this authorization:

- 13(6) (d) whether the restricted activity relates to the carrying out of warranty work;
- 13(6) (f) the period of time during which the authorization is to be in effect; and
- 13(6) (j) any other factors that, in the opinion of the Administrator, are relevant

If you know of an individual or organization performing the restricted activities outlined within the Pressure B Welding Class Authorization without meeting the standards of certification under the *STAEA*, please direct them to the closest AIT Office to determine their next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Hammond". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jackie Hammond
Deputy Administrator for Designated Trades

Designated Trades and Restricted Activities Regulation, Alta Reg 161/2022

Reconsideration process

15(1) A request for reconsideration under [section 20](#) of the [Act](#) must be made by application.

(2) An application for the Registrar to reconsider a decision must

- (a) be in writing,
- (b) be served on the Administrator within 30 days of the date the person is served with the written decision, and
- (c) include the following:
 - (i) the name and mailing address of the person;
 - (ii) the phone number or email address of the person;
 - (iii) the decision to be reconsidered;
 - (iv) the reason for requesting the reconsideration;
 - (v) if applicable, any other information
 - (A) requested by the Administrator, or
 - (B) that the person wishes the Administrator to take into account in the reconsideration.

(3) Repealed AR 121/2023 s9.

(4) On being served an application that complies with subsection (3), the Administrator

- (a) may decide to confirm, reverse or vary the decision that is the subject of the reconsideration, and
- (b) within 60 days of being served the application, shall serve on the person the decision of the Administrator to confirm, reverse or vary the decision that is the subject of the reconsideration.

(5) A decision of the Administrator under subsection (4) must be in writing and include

- (a) reasons for confirming, reversing or varying the decision that is the subject of the reconsideration, and
- (b) a statement of the right of the person to request a review by the Minister under section 16 of the decision of the Administrator to confirm, reverse or vary the decision that is the subject of the reconsideration.

(6) A deputy Administrator does not have authority to exercise any of the powers of the Administrator in this section, and the Administrator shall not delegate any of the powers or functions of the Administrator under this section to any person.