



**POWER ENGINEERING CONSULTATION**  
**Foreign Qualifications, Certificate of Qualification Renewal**  
**and Plant Registration**

**Consultation Feedback Summary Report**

**Report date:** August 2016



## POWER ENGINEERING CONSULTATION

### Foreign Qualifications, Certificate of Qualification Renewal and Plant Registration Consultation Feedback Summary Report

From June 29-August 13, 2016, BC Safety Authority held a public consultation on three issues within power engineering:

1. Foreign qualification recognition;
2. Renewal of certificate of qualification; and
3. Plant registration.

## PARTICIPATION

### Consultation

<b>Number of online town hall meetings</b>	2
<b>Meeting attendees</b>	5
<b>Number of consultation email invites sent</b>	10,476
<b>Written responses received</b>	302
<b>Response rate</b>	3%

### Respondent Demographics

The following tables provide a breakdown of participants in the consultation:

Written Feedback Participants	Percentage	Count
Power engineer	84.1%	254
Power/operator of a plant that employs power engineers	2.3%	7
Instructor who teaches power engineering courses	1.3%	4
Representative of an organization/association that represents power engineers	0.3%	1
Representative of an organization/association that represents companies which employ power engineers	2.0%	6
Other	9.9%	30
<b>Total Responses</b>		<b>302</b>

Online Town Hall Participants	Percentage	Count
Owner/operator of a plant that employs power engineers	60%	3
Other (facility manager, consultant)	40%	2
<b>Total Responses</b>		<b>5</b>

## RESPONSES

### Proposal 1: Foreign Qualification Recognition

Respondents were asked to review and provide feedback on a proposed foreign qualification recognition model. Under the existing regulation, applicants with foreign work experience or training must write all power engineering exams at the fourth class level and above, despite the class of certificate they hold. Under the proposed model, applicants with foreign work experience or training may be eligible to write an examination that is equivalent to their certificate or experience. This change would directly impact employers and applicants with foreign qualifications.

### Consultation Observations and Findings

The split between those opposed and those in favour of the proposed modes was narrow. In the written comments many who were opposed stated that they would be in favour if there was assurance that language evaluation and exam requirements would be part of the process.

*“In your opinion, is the proposed model for recognizing foreign qualifications for power engineering reasonable?”*

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		43.7%	128
No		56.3%	165
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>293</b>

## Proposal 2: Certificate of Qualification Renewal

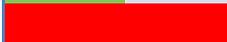
Respondents were asked for their feedback on the length of the renewal term for power engineering certificates of qualification and what types of value-added services could be included in their renewal process (e.g., durable wallet cards, online registries). The consultation did not ask respondents whether or not to have a renewal process. The previous consultation, held earlier this year, indicated support for general renewal processes.

This change would directly impact the 25,531 power engineers currently certified in BC. BCSA believes the actual number of working power engineers is smaller than this 25,531 number. A current lack of renewal processes has made it impossible to determine the number of power engineers currently practicing.

### Consultation Observations and Findings

The majority of respondents were opposed to the proposed three-year certificate of qualification renewal time period, but in favour of a five-year renewal period.

*Is the proposed 3 year term for power engineers to renew their certificate of qualification with BC Safety Authority reasonable?*

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		34.1%	101
No		65.9%	195
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>296</b>

*If you responded "No" to the questions above, in your opinion what would be a more reasonable term?*

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Every year		3.1%	5
Every two years		4.4%	7
Every four years		1.9%	3
Every five years		90.6%	144
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>159</b>

*Please choose from the list below all additional services that would be of value as part of certificate renewal:*

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
An enhanced and durable wallet card that identifies my status as a power engineer		58.8%	154
Access to courses or educational materials (both online and/or in-person)		60.7%	159
My name placed on an opt-in online registry of currently certified power engineers that can be searched by employers/clients		71.4%	187
My name placed on an opt-in online registry that would allow people to see my safety record		33.2%	87
Other		13.4%	35
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>262</b>

### Proposal 3: Plant Registration

Currently, boilers and pressure vessels are registered and managed as individual units by BCSA, despite the fact that a plant may be comprised of multiple boilers and pressure vessels. Plant registration would address this issue by linking individual boiler and pressure vessel units to their overarching configuration as a plant. The plant registration system would be an addition to current requirements for individual units. Plant registration would allow for more accurate data, identification of employment trends, efficiency in the verification of qualifying time, and clarity for owners and power engineers with respect to plant classification and corresponding staffing requirements. This change would affect 2,920 plant owners.

### Consultation Observations and Findings

Respondents were significantly in favour of having a plant registration process in place. Many of the respondents already complete this work, therefore, there will be little change in their work flow.

Do you agree with the proposal that requires plant owners to register their configuration with BC Safety Authority?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		87.6%	254
No		12.4%	36
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>290</b>

How long did it initially take to compile this information?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Less than a month		29.0%	47
More than a month, but less than 6 months		22.8%	37
6-12 months		17.9%	29
More than 12 months		30.2%	49
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>162</b>

How long do you estimate it would take your organization to gather or compile this information?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Less than a month		36.0%	9
More than one month, but less than 6 months		24.0%	6
6-12 months		28.0%	7
More than 12 months		12.0%	3
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>25</b>