

GAS SPECIAL PURPOSE CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

This directive is being issued by a provincial safety manager pursuant to section 30 of the Safety Standards Act (British Columbia).

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Scope

This directive details the requirements for a Special Purpose Gas Certificate of Qualification (**SPCQ**) in accordance with the Gas Safety Regulation (B.C. Reg. 103/2004) (**GSR**).

Definitions

In this directive:

Record of Training (ROT) means an official document or wallet card issued by a training provider confirming that the applicant successfully completed a training program that has been recognized by a provincial safety manager for the scope of regulated work authorized under the SPCQ.

Record of Refresher Training (RORT) means an official document or wallet card issued by a training provider confirming that the applicant successfully completed a refresher or upgrade training program that has been recognized by a provincial safety manager for the purpose of renewing a SPCQ.

Each ROT and RORT must include the following information:

- **trainee name** – the name of the SPCQ applicant;
- **training provider** – the name of the training provider or organization that delivered the training;
- **course name** – including the SPCQ certification class;
- **recognition number** – the number issued by Technical Safety BC confirming provincial safety manager recognition of the training program; and
- **date of issue and expiry** – the date the training was completed and when the training requires renewal (up to a maximum of three years).

Details

[Section 19 of the GSR](#) establishes the framework for SPCQs. A SPCQ authorizes the holder to perform certain regulated gas work only within the terms and conditions specified on such certificate.

A SPCQ holder must be employed by a licensed gas contractor, hold a gas contractor licence, or be authorized to perform the regulated work under an applicable operating permit.

Although SPCQ classes were formerly issued under the GSR, Technical Safety BC no longer issues new SPCQ classes following the coming in force of SkilledTradesBC's certification program for compulsory gasfitter trades on December 1, 2023.

Pre-existing, recognized SPCQ programs remain valid. Individuals may apply for issuance of a SPCQ if they meet the training and practical competency requirements of the recognized program. As of the date of this directive, the following SPCQ programs remain active and recognized:

- Special Effects Technician;
- Inspection, Maintenance and Requalification of Portable Gas Fired Heaters;
- Landfill Gas Technician; and
- Natural Gas Compressor Service Technician.

Appendix A sets out the application requirements and applicable terms and conditions in respect of the programs noted above.

Special Purpose Gas Certificate of Qualification Expiry and Renewal

Technical Safety BC gas certificates, including SPCQs, are typically issued on three (3) year renewal cycles, expiring on the date shown on a given certificate, per section 2.3(1)(a) of the Safety Standards General Regulation (B.C. Reg. 105/2004) (**SSGR**). Once a SPCQ has expired, it is no longer valid, and the holder must not perform regulated gas work until such certificate is renewed or re-issued.

A SPCQ may be renewed within three (3) years of expiry. After that period, a SPCQ is permanently closed and may no longer be renewed. A closed certificate is subject to the re-issuance requirements set out in this directive.

Special Purpose Gas Certificate of Qualification Closure and Re-issuance

Once a SPCQ is closed, such certification is not eligible to be renewed, and the holder must apply for re-issuance. A re-issuance application must include a current ROT, as outlined in Appendix A.

Re-issuances of SPCQs by Technical Safety BC are limited to the four active SPCQ classes identified in this directive. All other SPCQ classes that have reached “closed” status will be not eligible for re-issuance and will remain permanently closed.

Provincial Safety Manager, Gas

References:

Safety Standards Act
Safety Standards General Regulation
Gas Safety Regulation

Appendix A

Recognized Program	Application and Renewal Requirements	Training and Experience Requirements	Terms and Conditions
Special Effects Technician	Required documents: <u>All applications</u>: International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) letter confirming that the applicant is a member in good standing and has experience as a special effects technician. <u>New applications and re-issuances</u>: current ROT confirming completion of a recognized special effects technician training program. <u>Renewals</u>: current ROT or RORT confirming completion of a recognized special effects technician training program.	Successfully complete a Special Effects Technician training program recognized by the provincial safety manager, and have: - Minimum four (4) years (7200 hours) acceptable, related training and/or gas work experience; and - work experience in the entertainment industry directly related to the activities for which this certificate is intended.	The holder of this SPCQ may perform the temporary installation, operation and testing of regulated propane equipment used in the production of special effects (SPFX). This certification allows for the monitored use of propane equipment by the SPCQ holder while working under a Technical Safety BC-issued operating permit and is limited to manually ignited atmospheric burners/flame tools for the purpose of a flame effect, performed in association with a design-registered small or medium SPFX package connected to a propane cylinder. Authorized work includes: - temporary installation and operation of regulated propane equipment; - operation of registered propane-powered vessels for flame effects; and - temporary installation of air supply and venting required for the flame effect. Not authorized: - flame effects outside a design-registered small or medium SPFX package; - permanent installation of a regulated product or gas appliance; and - modification of a permanently installed gas appliance.
Inspection, Maintenance and	Required documents:	Successfully complete a portable gas-fired heater training program recognized by	The holder of this SPCQ may perform the testing and maintenance required for the

Requalification of Portable Gas Fired Heaters	• <u>All applications</u>: letter of employment confirming the applicant's role includes the scope of work permitted under the SPCQ • <u>New applications and re-issuances</u>: current ROT confirming completion of a recognized portable gas-fired heater training program • <u>Renewals</u>: current ROT or RORT confirming completion of a recognized portable gas-fired heater training program	the provincial safety manager, and: • have at least one (1) year of service maintenance experience, or a recognized piping, electrical, or mechanical trade qualification; and • be employed by a portable gas-fired heater rental company.	application of a portable temporary heater decal certifying as to the safety and operation of the heater to the manufacturer's specifications. This SPCQ is limited to portable temporary heaters with a maximum input of 120 kW (409 MBH). Authorized work includes: • replacement of interchangeable components such as limit switches, circuit boards, electrical cords, on/off switches, fans, and similar items. Not authorized: • service or repair of gas control components, except the hose and regulator directly supplying the unit.
Landfill Gas Technician	Required documents: • <u>All applications</u>: letter of employment confirming the applicant's role includes the scope of work permitted by the SPCQ. • <u>New applications and re-issuances</u>: current ROT confirming completion of a recognized landfill gas technician training program. • <u>Renewals</u>: current ROT or RORT confirming completion of a recognized landfill gas technician training program.	Successfully complete a 48-hour (40 hours theory, 8 hours practical) Landfill Gas Technician training program recognized by the provincial safety manager and have: • at least 200 hours of onsite landfill gas system field experience under direct supervision of a Class A or B gas fitter, or equivalent; • an environmental/science degree or diploma, or a trade credential as a plumber, steamfitter/pipefitter, sprinklerfitter, or refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic; • completed H₂S training; and • completed basic electricity, arc flash, bonding, and grounding training.	The holder of this SPCQ may perform the service, maintenance, and repair of regulated landfill gas piping and equipment used in the collection and distribution of landfill gas. This certification allows for the monitored use of regulated landfill gas equipment by the SPCQ holder while working under a Technical Safety BC-issued operating permit and is limited to service, maintenance, repair, and testing of the equipment. Authorized work includes: • minor repairs to gas collection piping, valves, sediment/moisture traps, and filters/strainers constructed of PVC, HDPE, or stainless steel, including disassembly/reassembly of mechanical joints and like-

			for-like replacement of fittings and valves; • adjustment of landfill gas extraction well valves • starting and operating landfill gas flare systems (enclosed and/or unenclosed flares (open candlestick)) • minor maintenance to flare system (e.g. clean flame arrestor; clean flame sensor) and replacing like for like components • changing propane tanks for pilots; and • replacement of plug-in electrical devices operating at 24 volts or less, including fuses, relays, damper motors, and flame sensors. Not authorized: • activities beyond those listed above.
Natural Gas Compressor Service Technician	Required documents: • <u>All applications</u>: employer letter confirming the applicant's role includes the scope of work permitted by the SPCQ. • <u>New applications and re-issuances</u>: current ROT confirming completion of a recognized natural gas compressor service technician training program. • <u>Renewals</u>: current ROT or RORT confirming completion of a recognized natural gas compressor service technician training program.	Successfully complete a 529 hour (167 hours of theory instruction and 362 hours of lab/shop instruction) Natural Gas Compressor Service Technician training program recognized by the provincial safety manager.	The holder of this SPCQ may perform the service, maintenance, and repair of regulated natural gas compressors and dispensers by the SPCQ holder while working under a Technical Safety BC issued operating permit or gas contractor licence. Authorized work includes: • service and maintenance of dryers and filters supplying the compressor; and • service and maintenance of all components downstream of the inlet control valve, up to and including the dispenser nozzle or time-fill post. Not authorized: • installation, testing, or initial activation of new compressors, dispensers, or piping systems;

			• service, maintenance, or repair of makes or models of natural gas compressors or dispensers not included in the training program; • service, maintenance, or repair of piping, equipment, or components upstream of the compressor inlet control valve, other than dryers and filters; and • service, maintenance, or repair of electrical circuits associated with compressors or dispensers.
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