

INDUSTRY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM GOLD SEAL CERTIFICATION



CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Building with Skill and Integrity Since 1862

SET A HIGHER STANDARD, BECOME GOLD SEAL CERTIFIED

Since 1991, the Gold Seal Certification program has been the industry's most trusted, valued and reliable certification for management of the construction industry. Today, more than 8,000 construction professionals have been recognized as Gold Seal Certified.

The Gold Seal Certification program is a nationally recognized certification for project managers, superintendents, estimators, construction safety coordinators and owner's project managers in the Canadian construction industry involved in:

- General contracting
- Electrical contracting
- Mechanical contracting
- Road building and heavy construction
- Specialty trades



CANADIAN CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE DE LA CONSTRUCTION



Gold
Seal
Intern
GSI



Gold
Seal
Certified
GSC



Professional
Gold
Seal
Certified
P.GSC

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF GOLD SEAL CERTIFICATION?

Whether you are a construction professional, a contractor, a project manager, or an owner of a construction project, Gold Seal Certification can help you set a higher standard—the gold standard—on any construction project.

FOR INDIVIDUALS: Gold Seal Certification offers individuals the opportunity to improve skills, advance careers, and provides recognition for years of experience and education.

FOR CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS: Gold Seal Certification signifies a commitment to excellence in the management of construction, shows that your organization values professionalism and ongoing education. As well, Gold Seal Certified employees provide a competitive advantage on tenders.

FOR OWNERS: Gold Seal Certification is an investment in quality, best practices, and ensures excellence in the management of construction projects.

THE ROLE OF CANS IN GOLD SEAL CERTIFICATION

CANS acts as an administrator of the Gold Seal Program, assisting member employees with obtaining their Gold Seal Certification, training plan development, submission of applications, and overseeing of exams. CANS believes your employees are your best asset and that investing in the certification of project managers, estimators, safety coordinators and superintendents is three times as important to economic growth as investment in physical capital.

For 2013-2014 CANS has added 34 Gold Seal accredited courses making all of the 61 courses offered for this upcoming training season Gold Seal accredited.

Learn more about Gold Seal at www.cans.ns.ca/education/gold-seal

PATHS TO CERTIFICATION

Gold Seal Certification is a reflection of education and experience in the construction industry. At the same time, Gold Seal Certification recognizes that not everyone in the construction industry has the same level of experience. Depending on your level of industry experience, education and training, and other related management skills, there is a Gold Seal Certification level for you.

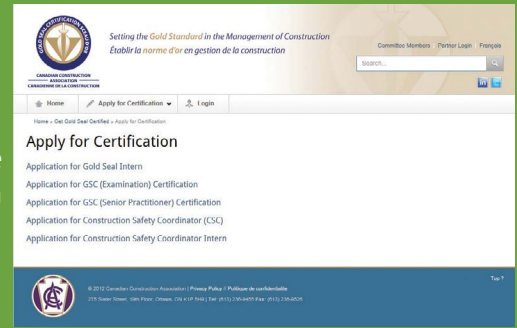
By beginning on a path to certification, construction professionals can work their way up to the Professional, Gold Seal Certified (P.GSC) level, which is the pinnacle of Gold Seal Certification and showcases many years of ongoing education and professional work experience in the Canadian construction industry. The chart below will help you quickly determine where you stand on the path to certification.

	REGISTERED INTERN	CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION (GSC)	CERTIFICATION SENIOR PRACTITIONER (GSC)*	PROFESSIONAL, GOLD SEAL CERTIFIED (P.GSC)
Industry Experience (Minimum Requirements)	0-5 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN DESIGNATION APPLIED FOR (10 credits/year) We will count at least 2 years in an assistant role (project coordinator, assistant super, jr. estimator)	5+ YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN DESIGNATION APPLIED FOR (10 credits/year, minimum 50 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 of the 5 years can be foreign 2 of the 5 can be in an assistant role (project coordinator, assistant super, jr. estimator) 	15+ YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN DESIGNATION APPLIED FOR (10 credits/year, minimum 150 credits) All 15 years must be Canadian experience.	MUST BE GOLD SEAL CERTIFIED Must have worked 600 hours in the designation certified.
Tradesperson Qualification	Not necessary but adds extra credit	Not necessary but adds extra credit	Not necessary but adds extra credit	Not necessary but adds extra credit
Related Management Skills	Not necessary but adds extra credit	Not necessary but adds extra credit	Not necessary but adds extra credit	Not necessary but adds extra credit
Education and Training	Technologist/technician diploma <u>or</u> Related university degree or Construction management education (courses, workshops/seminars)	(Minimum 25 credits) Technologist/technician diploma <u>or</u> Related university degree or Construction management education (courses, workshops/seminars)	(Minimum 25 credits) Technologist/technician diploma <u>or</u> Related university degree or Construction management education (courses, workshops/seminars)	Must gain a minimum of 20 credits in one or more of the 5 categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal education Informal education Community contribution teaching Building the construction industry
Minimum Requirements	1 year experience in the designation or 2 years in an assistant role.	5 years' experience with 25 education and training credits towards 100 credits total.	15 years' experience with 25 educational and training credits towards 200 credit total.	
Credits Required	10-99 credits: Working towards being eligible to challenge the exam (and in some cases Senior Practitioner certification).	100+ credits: Must challenge the examination, passing grade 75%.	200+ credits: Automatic certification. <i>* This application stream is available until Dec. 31, 2013.</i>	

To challenge the Gold Seal Certification exam, professionals are required to have a minimum of 5 years of relevant industry experience in the designation that they applied for. Senior practitioners with over 15 years of experience may choose to apply for certification GSC without taking the exam*. If you have less than 5 years of experience, you have the opportunity to register as a Gold Seal Intern.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Before you apply, take time to review which Gold Seal Certification program option (Gold Seal Intern, Gold Seal Certified, or Professional, Gold Seal Certified) is right for you given your experience and qualifications. Some other material that may be useful in defining the right fit includes application guidelines and exam specifications.



WHAT YOU NEED IN ORDER TO APPLY

- Information on present and past positions and employers as well as projects that you have worked on
- Proof of formal education and training (certificate of completion or records of attendance)
- Proof of previous Gold Seal Certification (if applicable)
- Proof of tradesperson qualification (if applicable)
- Letter of recommendation from employer
- PayPal account or a credit or debit card

ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL

Watch the Gold Seal Application Process video to learn more.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1THEScEOYM

Access the application portal: apply.goldsealcertification.com

You will receive the following notifications:

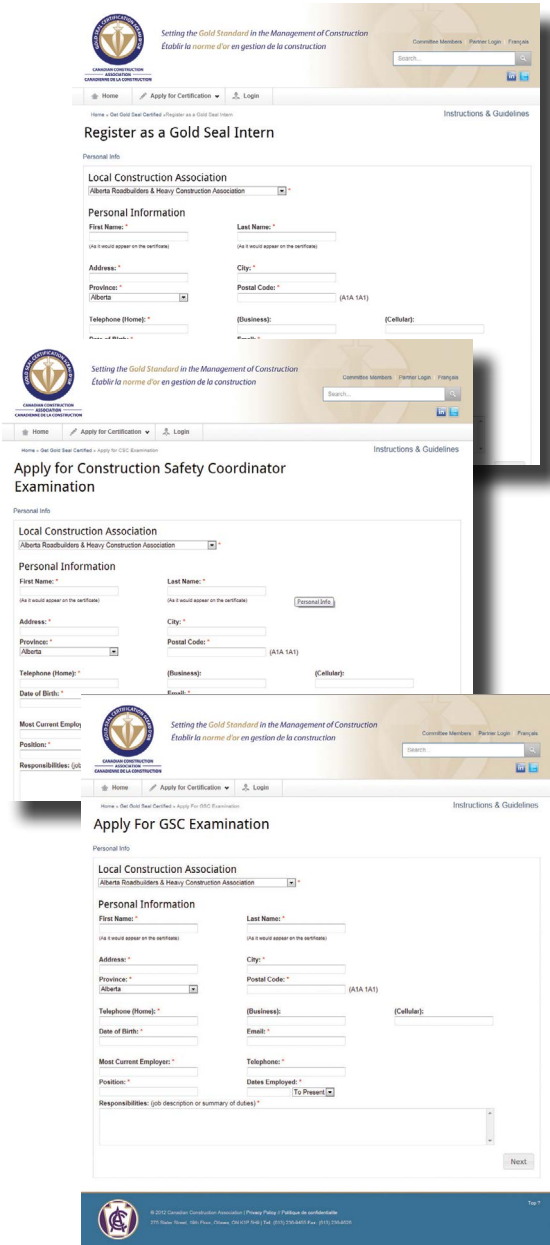
- Your application has been successfully submitted
- Your payment has successfully gone through on a secure payment portal

APPLICATION REVIEW

Your application will be reviewed first by the local construction association, then by a national reviewer, an industry practitioner. You will receive notifications when your application moves from one stage to another.

LOOKING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GOLD SEAL?

We invite you to attend a free CANS Gold Seal Lunch & Learn Session or to meet with CANS' Gold Seal Administrator to develop a career plan.



APPROVED APPLICATION

Gold Seal is in the process of moving to an online study portal. All Gold Seal Certification candidates will be able to select their exam date (three per year), review material and take practice exams online. Using the study portal will be mandatory and candidates will be required to sign off on all material prior to taking their certification exam. Until 2014, some candidates may receive an approval letter, exam dates and a study guide in the mail.

Declined Application

You will receive an email detailing why your application was declined. If you have over three years of experience, you can be granted a Gold Seal Intern (GSI) status, giving you five years to meet the criteria for GSC and pass the certification exam.

All issues or inquiries will be reviewed and responded to by the national Gold Seal Committee. There is a 90-day appeal process for those taking issue with declined applications.

WRITING THE EXAM

Gold Seal Certification exams are written at your local construction association on the day that you selected. The study material (whether mailed to you or available in the Gold Seal study portal) includes test exams for you to familiarize yourself with. There is a fee for missed exams.

EXAM REVIEW

Gold Seal Certification exams are reviewed by national reviewers who themselves are industry practitioners.

If you pass, you are sent a letter with your exam score breakdown. Your certificate is sent to the local construction association who will present it to you (sometimes in conjunction with another function).

If you fail, you will receive a letter with your exam score breakdown and rewrite dates. You can rewrite the exam three times (please note that rewrite fees apply). If your third rewrite fails, you can apply again (new application fee applies).

THE PATH FORWARD



**Professional
Gold Seal
Certified**
P.GSC

In today's job market, it is increasingly important to upgrade your credentials, stay relevant and continue developing your skills. Once

you have your Gold Seal Certified status, consider becoming a Professional, Gold Seal Certified (P.GSC). The P.GSC designation is valid for two years with biennial renewal based on hours of employment and professional development (five categories).

GOLD SEAL CHAMPION



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The Gold Seal Champion sponsorship program gives you the tools to promote Gold Seal Certification by representing Gold Seal at the local level in partnership with local partner associations, e.g. by speaking at local events or by conducting youth mentorship and industry awareness seminars. Becoming a Gold Seal Champion counts toward Professional, Gold Seal Certified (P.GSC) credits. Gold Seal Champions receive a welcome package and are invited to an online orientation workshop. They are profiled on Gold Seal's website and can participate in the development and review of Gold Seal Certification exams.

For more information on Gold Seal Certification, please visit
www.cans.ns.ca/education/gold-seal

or contact:

Juanita MacDonald,
Manager, Industry Development and Human Resources
jmacdonald@cans.ns.ca
(902) 468.2267 x. 707