higher education & training
Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Nkangala TVET COLLEGE

Nkangala TVET COLLEGE T/as TOP OF THE WORLD TRAINING CENTRE

ARPL stands for Artisan Recognition to Prior Learning. In Layman's terms: it is an assessment designed to test your understanding of the trade as well as how ready you are for the trade test. It considers all your experience over the course of your career both formal and informal. This means that even if – for example – you worked for a small informal workshop, your experience will be considered.

Candidates looking to pursue trade tests in the following trades have to do this assessment as per government regulation that is QCTO (Quality Council for Trade Occupation) and NAMB (National Artisan Moderation Board):

- Boiler
- Mechanical Fitter
- Welding
- Electrical

The aim of the assessment (Toolkit) is to:

- Give everyone an equal opportunity to enter a process that leads to a trade test- because of the injustices of the past, many people were not able to complete their tertiary education but have worked for years. This assessment recognizes and acknowledges this experience.
- Recognise all formal and informal learning. Informal learning refers to training or work experience obtained from an unregistered organization such as someone who may be operating remotely or someone who may be self-employed.
- Test your readiness for a trade test- how ready are you for a trade test? Remember that sometimes in a working environment you may not be exposed to every task that is required in the trade test. This will result in you needing additional training (Gap Training). The gap training is conducted in either the workplace or an accredited SDP such as ours where these 'gaps' can be filled through additional training.
- Provide you with insight into how many weeks of gap closure training or trade test preparation you will need. This refers back to the above-mentioned point – workplaces do not always allow all-encompassing learning and as a result you may be recommended for "gap closure training".

The ARPL assessment has many pros and one of these is that you will not need to guess at the number of weeks of training you will need, nor will you spend less time and be unprepared. This assessment will ensure sufficient training ensuring you are well prepared. Top of the World Training Centre has done so many tests and with experiences from the employer who needs their people to be trained without affecting their production. The toolkit, gap training, preparation, and trade test are compressed into 12 weeks.

Here is the route to the trade test certificate:

- Step 1: Application, requiring the following:
  - Application form.
  - Service letter (Minimum 3 years' relevant work experience, letter head, all trade duties, stamp, signature of manager/supervisor/HR manager, contact details of a company and email).
  - CV.
  - ID with qualifications all certified from SAPS.
- Step 2: Toolkit (2 days)
- Step 3: Serial Number
- Step 4: Gap training (4 weeks)
- Step 5: Trade Test Preparations (8 weeks)
- Step 6: Trade Test (2 days)
- Step 7: Trade Test Report (NAMB)
- Step 8: QCTO certificate

Candidates wishing to apply for Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning must meet the following minimum entry requirements:

- Have a minimum of three (3) years' relevant work experience within South Africa.
- Have grade 9 or above and be able to read and write.
- Be 19 years of age or older.
- Be a resident of Nkangala District.
- Be able to travel to Witbank, Top of the World Training Centre at own cost.