

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ENGINEER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME)?

An AME:

- maintains, repairs, overhauls, modifies and tests aircraft structural, mechanical and hydraulic systems
- inspects aircraft and aircraft systems following manufacture, modification, maintenance, repair or overhaul
- installs, adjusts, repairs and overhauls aircraft instrument, electrical or avionics systems on aircraft

Where can I train to be an AME apprentice?

The Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division (ATCD) recognizes two programs at College of the North Atlantic as Pre-employment Apprenticeship Programs:

- Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Technician – two-year program for Maintenance or Avionics careers
- Aircraft Structural Repair Technician – one-year program for Structures careers

I am performing AME work duties but I have never completed training, what can I do?

If you are working under the supervision of a licensed AME who is a journeyman (or is willing to become a journeyman) you can apply to become an apprentice AME. Once you are an apprentice, you can begin to complete the apprenticeship training program for the trade.

What is a certified journeyman?

Certified journeymen are recognized tradespersons whose combined work experience and in-school training (if applicable) have allowed them to master all of the required skills as set by industry. A journeyman's certification must be verified by ATCD before they are allowed to mentor an apprentice and sign off on skills acquired on the job.

How do I become a journeyman AME?

There are several ways that you can become a journeyman AME:

- If you are a licensed AME in either Maintenance, Avionics or Structures, you can apply to be recognized as an AME journeyman. The application and satisfactory proof of valid Transport Canada licensing will meet the requirement to receive journeyman status.
- If you are a graduate of one of the recognized CNA training programs working towards your AME license in either Maintenance, Avionics or Structures, you can apply to become an apprentice. You will receive hour and theory credit as designated for your program. Further technical training will not be required.

- If you have not completed formal AME training, but are working under the supervision of a licensed AME who is a journeyperson (or is willing to become a journeyperson) you can apply to become an apprentice AME. Once you are an apprentice, you can begin to complete the apprenticeship program for the trade, which includes technical training periods.

For those considering an apprenticeship there are requirements for:

- Approved training – If not completed prior to registration, apprentices must complete a Transport Canada approved basic training program. Apprentices receive time credit for this training during their apprenticeship.
- Work experience – apprentices will require 7,200 apprenticeship hours, made up of training and on the job hours.
- Workplace skills – Transport Canada has specified a range of skills necessary for licensing. This is also a requirement for journeyperson certification.
- Regulatory exams – Transport Canada requires that all AMEs complete a Canadian Aviation Regulations exam delivered by Transport Canada. This is also a requirement for journeyperson certification.

Is journeyperson certification required in Newfoundland and Labrador?

No, an AME is not required to become a journeyperson in the trade. The compulsory licensing in the trade is issued by Transport Canada.

Where can I find information about Transport Canada requirements for AME?

Information about license types and obtaining an AME license can be found on the Government of Canada website by [clicking here](#).

Why should I become an apprentice AME?

You can earn while you learn. Apprentices earn a salary from the employers who hire them. The salary is equitable within the industry and in accordance with the provincial wage guidelines for each apprenticeship level they complete.

Your salary may increase each year based on work progress and the block/level training required to advance to the next level. Increases may reach the salary rates of a certified journeyperson as they get closer towards certification.

Another benefit of apprenticeship training is reduced student debt, since an apprentice continues to earn an income while they learn on the job. If eligible, apprentices may also receive Employment Insurance during in-school training.

What are the benefits of Apprenticeship to an employer?

The apprenticeship program is open to any employer who hires an apprentice to work in a designated trade under the supervision of a certified journeyperson in the same trade.

Increased competitiveness: By joining an apprenticeship program, employers get workers with on-the job and in-school training, laying the foundation and improving the company's competitiveness.

Improved quality service/productivity: The completion of an apprenticeship program results in highly trained skilled workers and ensures a higher level of quality, service and production.

Improved the skills of the workforce: Participating in an apprenticeship program ensures that not only are employees trained to industry standards, but they also understand the unique values of their place of employment.

Reduced turnover and increased employee loyalty: Investment in employees encourages investment in the company by employees. Helping to train apprentices creates skilled and experienced employees, many of whom will stay for the long term.

Planning for the future: Implementing an apprenticeship program will assist in planning and meeting future workforce needs.