



Apprenticeship**USA**

**NEW**

**NATIONAL STANDARDS OF APPRENTICESHIP**

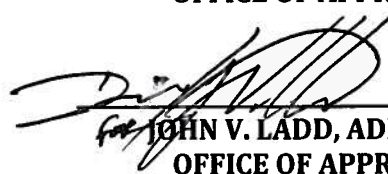
**DEVELOPED BY**



**WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
(WIA)**

**FOR ALL OCCUPATIONS  
IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX A**

**APPROVED BY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP**

  
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**JOHN V. LADD, ADMINISTRATOR  
OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP**

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**REGISTERED AS PART OF THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BASIC STANDARDS OF APPRENTICESHIP  
ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF LABOR**

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## FOREWORD

The mission of The Wireless Infrastructure Association, Inc. (WIA) is to partner with government and industry stakeholders to promote safety, enhance quality, and enable education and advancement opportunities in the telecommunications workforce.

These WIA National Apprenticeship Standards have as their objective, the training of Telecommunications Tower Technicians and other occupations skilled in all phases of the industry. WIA will act as the national Program Sponsor on behalf of participating employers. The Program Sponsor recognizes that in order to accomplish this, there must be well-developed on-the-job learning combined with related instruction.

This recognition has resulted in the development of these National Standards of Apprenticeship. They were developed in accordance with the basic standards recommended by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, as a basis from which the WIA can work to establish an apprenticeship training program that meets the particular needs of the industry.



## **SECTION I – PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

Program Sponsors are responsible for the administration of all aspects of a Registered Apprenticeship program. Sponsor means any person, association, committee, or organization operating an apprenticeship program and in whose name the program is (or is to be) registered or approved. Sponsors, at their discretion, may establish an Apprenticeship and Training Committee (ATC) to carry out the responsibilities and duties required of a Program Sponsor as described in these Standards of Apprenticeship. If an ATC is established by the Program Sponsor, a list of the membership and the areas of expertise they represent must be provided to the Registration Agency. While the Office of Apprenticeship recommends that Program Sponsors utilize the services of an ATC, a Sponsor may also elect to administer the program without the services of an ATC.

As National Program Sponsor, WIA chose not to form an Apprenticeship Training Committee but instead uses an advisory committee (TIRAP) of industry officials to make recommendations and provide key information to WIA. The TIRAP advisory committee has no role as program sponsor or any responsibility in the management or administration of these standards. (See Appendix E: TIRAP By-Laws).

### **Responsibilities of the Sponsor**

- A. Cooperate in the selection of apprentices as outlined in this program.
- B. Ensure that all apprentices are under written apprenticeship agreements.
- C. Review and recommend apprenticeship activities in accordance with this program.
- D. Establish the minimum standards of education and experience required of apprentices. Determine the physical fitness of qualified applicants to perform the work of the occupation that may require a medical examination prior to their employment as apprentices.
- E. Register the local apprenticeship standards with the Registration Agency.
- F. Hear and resolve all complaints of violations of apprenticeship agreements.
- G. Arrange evaluations of apprentices' progress in manipulative skills and technical knowledge. Advise apprentices on the need for accident prevention and provide instruction with respect to safety in the workplace.
- H. Maintain records of all apprentices, showing their education, experience, and progress in learning the occupation.
- I. Certify to the Registration Agency that apprentices have successfully completed their apprenticeship program.
- J. Notify, within 45 days, the Registration Agency of all new apprentices to be registered, credit granted, suspensions for any reason, reinstatements, extensions, completions and cancellations with explanation of causes.
- K. Supervise all the provisions of the local standards and be responsible, in general, for the successful operation of the standards by performing the duties here listed. Cooperate with public and private agencies, which can be of assistance in obtaining publicity to develop public support of apprenticeship. Keep in contact with all parties concerned, including apprentices, employers, and journeyworkers.



- L. When notified that an apprentice's related instruction or on-the-job progress is found to be unsatisfactory, the sponsor will determine whether the apprentice should continue in a probationary status and may require the apprentice to repeat a process or series of processes before advancing to the next wage classification. Should it be found in the course of this determination that the apprentice does not have the ability or desire to continue the training to become a journeyworker, the sponsor will, after the apprentice has been given adequate assistance and opportunity for corrective action, terminate the apprenticeship agreement, as provided in 29 CFR § 29. 7(h)(1)(2)(i) and (ii).
- M. The sponsor will provide each registered apprentice with continuous employment sufficient to provide the opportunity for completion of his or her apprenticeship program. If the sponsor is unable to fulfill its training and/or employment obligation in conformance with these standards, the sponsor will, per Section XXI of these standards and with the apprentice's consent, make a good-faith effort to facilitate a transfer of the apprentice to another registered sponsor for completion of the apprenticeship.

If conditions of business make it necessary to temporarily suspend the period of apprenticeship. Apprentices suspended for this reason will be given the opportunity to resume their active apprenticeships before any additional apprentices are employed. The suspension and reinstatement of apprentices shall be done in relation to retention of the most advanced apprentice and in accordance with the company policy for breaks in seniority.

### **Suggested Structure of the Apprenticeship and Training Committee (ATC)-**

- A. Members of the ATC will be selected by the groups they represent.
- B. Membership will be composed of an equal number of representatives of the employer(s) and of the employees represented but does not have a bona fide collective bargaining agent(s).

### **Suggested Administrative Procedures**

- A. The ATC will elect a chairperson and a secretary and will determine the time and place of regular meetings. Meetings will be held as frequently as needed to effectively manage the program. Written minutes of the meetings will be kept.
- B. The chairperson and secretary will have the power to vote on all questions affecting apprenticeship.
- C. The offices of chairperson and secretary will rotate as needed among members of the ATC.

### **SECTION II - EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PLEDGE – 29 CFR §§ 29.5(b)(21) and 30.3(b)**

The Wireless Infrastructure Association, Inc. (WIA) will not discriminate against apprenticeship applicants or apprentices based race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, genetic information, or because they are an individual with a disability or a person 40 years old or older. The WIA will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship and will operate the apprenticeship program as required under Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations, § 30.





## **SECTION III - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN AND SELECTION PROCEDURES - 29 CFR §§ 29.5(b)(21), 30.4, and 30.5**

Within 2 years of program registration sponsors with 5 or more registered apprentices are required to adopt an affirmative action plan (Appendix C) and selection procedures (Appendix D), which will become part of these standards of apprenticeship. However, the Office of Apprenticeship encourages the development of these two plans for all programs regardless of apprentice numbers. For programs with fewer than 5 apprentices, these plans are not required, and the sponsor may continue to select apprentices in conformance with its current human resources and equal employment opportunity hiring policies.

## **SECTION IV - QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPRENTICESHIP - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(10)**

Applicants will meet the following minimum qualifications. These qualification standards, and the score required on any standard for admission to the applicant pool, must be directly related to job performance, as shown by a statistical relationship between the score required for admission to the pool and performance in the apprenticeship program:

### A. Age

Minimum qualifications required by the sponsor for persons entering the apprenticeship program, with an eligible starting age not less than 16 years. *(Applicant must provide evidence of minimum age respecting any applicable State Laws or regulations.)*

### B. Education

A high school diploma, General Educational Development (GED) equivalency or other high school equivalency credential is required. Applicant must provide an official transcript(s) for high school and any post-high school education. Applicant must submit the GED certificate or other high school equivalency credential if applicable.

Applicants must submit a DD-214 to verify military training and/or experience if they are a veteran and wish to receive consideration for such training/experience.

### C. Physical

Applicants will be physically capable of performing the essential functions of the apprenticeship program, with or without a reasonable accommodation, and without posing a direct threat to the health and safety of the individual or others.

Applicants will pass a physical agility test, fitness test, or screen for the current illegal use of drugs, as determined by the employer, on acceptance into the program and prior to being employed.

## **SECTION V - APPRENTICESHIP AGREEMENT - 29 CFR §§ 29.3(d), 29.3(e), and 29.5(b)(11)**

After an applicant for apprenticeship has been selected, but before employment as an apprentice or enrollment in related instruction, the apprentice will be covered by a written apprenticeship agreement (Appendix B) which can be submitted electronically through the Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Data System, using the Apprentice Electronic Registration



process by the sponsor and the apprentice and approved by and registered with the Registration Agency. Such agreement will contain a statement making the terms and conditions of these standards a part of the agreement as though expressly written therein. The sponsor shall provide a copy of the apprenticeship agreement to the apprentice, the Registration Agency, and the employer. An additional copy will be provided to the veteran's state approving agency for those veteran apprentices desiring access to any benefits to which they are entitled.

Prior to signing the apprenticeship agreement, each selected applicant will be given an opportunity to read and review these standards, the sponsor's written rules and policies, and the apprenticeship agreement. The Registration Agency will be advised within 45 days of the execution of each apprenticeship agreement and will be given all the information required for registering the apprentice.

## **SECTION VI - SUPERVISION OF APPRENTICES AND RATIOS - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(14) and 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(7)**

No apprentice shall work without proper or adequate supervision of the journeyworker.

For the purpose of these apprenticeship standards, adequate or proper supervision of the apprentice means the apprentice is under the supervision of a fully qualified journeyworker or supervisor at all times who is responsible for making work assignments, providing OJL, and ensuring safety at the worksite.

To adequately or properly supervise an apprentice does not mean the apprentice must be within eyesight or reach of the supervisor, but that the supervisor knows what the apprentice is working on; is readily available to the apprentice; and is making sure the apprentice has the necessary instruction and guidance to perform tasks safely, correctly, and efficiently.

The sponsor shall establish a numeric ratio of apprentices to fully proficient workers (journeyworkers) consistent with proper supervision, training, safety, and continuity of employment throughout the apprenticeship. The ratio language must be specific and clearly described as to its application to the jobsite, workforce, department, or plant. The ratio of apprentices to fully proficient workers (journeyworkers) will be as noted in the Appendix A for each occupation.

## **SECTION VII - TERM OF APPRENTICESHIP - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(2)**

The term of the occupation will be competency-based supplemented by the required hours of related instruction as stated on the Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline (Appendix A).

The sponsor may utilize a career lattice as a pathway for apprentices to move upward in the organization, which may or may not include interim credential leading to the Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship.





## **SECTION VIII - PROBATIONARY PERIOD - 29 CFR §§ 29.5(b)(8) and 29.5(b)(20)**

Every applicant selected for apprenticeship will serve a probationary period. The probationary period cannot exceed 25 percent of the length of the program or 1 year, whichever is shorter. The probationary period shall be 3 months of OJL hours.

During the probationary period, either the apprentice or the sponsor may terminate the apprenticeship agreement, without stated cause, by notifying the other party in writing. The records for each probationary apprentice will be reviewed prior to the end of the probationary period. Records may consist of periodic reports regarding progression made in both the OJL and related instruction, and any disciplinary action taken during the probationary period.

Any probationary apprentice evaluated as satisfactory after a review of the probationary period will be given full credit for the probationary period and continue in the program.

After the probationary period, the apprenticeship agreement may be cancelled at the request of the apprentice or may be suspended or cancelled by the sponsor for reasonable cause after documented due notice to the apprentice and a reasonable opportunity for corrective action. In such cases, the sponsor will provide written notice to the apprentice and to the Registration Agency of the final action taken.

## **SECTION IX - HOURS OF WORK**

Apprentices will generally work the same hours as fully proficient workers (journeyworkers), except that no apprentice will be allowed to work overtime if it interferes with attendance in related instruction classes. Apprentices who do not complete the required hours of OJL during a given segment will have the term of that segment extended until they have accrued the required number of hours of training.

## **SECTION X - APPRENTICE WAGE PROGRESSION - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(5)**

Apprentices will be paid a progressively increasing schedule of wages and fringe benefits during their apprenticeship based on the acquisition of increased skill and competence on the job and in related instruction. Before an apprentice is advanced to the next segment of training or to fully proficient or journeyworker status, the sponsor will evaluate all progress to determine whether advancement has been earned by satisfactory performance in OJL and in related instruction courses. In determining whether satisfactory progress has been made, the sponsor will be guided by the work experience and related instruction records and reports.

The progressive wage schedule and fringe benefits will be an increasing percentage of the fully proficient or journeyworker wage rate. The percentages that will be applied to the applicable fully proficient or journeyworker rate are shown on the attached Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline (Appendix A). In no case will the starting wages of apprentices be less than that required by any minimum wage law that may be applicable.



## **SECTION XI - CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE - 29 CFR §§ 29.5(b)(12) and 30.4(c)(8)**

The sponsor may grant credit toward the term of apprenticeship to new apprentices. Credit will be based on demonstration of previous skills or knowledge equivalent to those identified in these standards.

Apprentice applicants seeking credit for previous experience gained outside the supervision of the sponsor must submit the request at the time of application and furnish such records, affidavits, and other items consistent with the programs Related Technical Instruction and/or On-the-Job Learning requirements to substantiate the claim. An applicant who is a veteran and who wishes to receive consideration for military training and/or experience must submit a DD-214. Applicants requesting credit for previous experience who are selected into the apprenticeship program will start at the beginning wage rate. The request for credit will be evaluated and a determination made by the sponsor during the probationary period, when actual on-the-job and related instruction performance can be examined. Prior to completion of the probationary period, the amount of credit to be awarded will be determined after review of the apprentice's previous work and training/education record and evaluation of the apprentice's performance and demonstrated skill and knowledge during the probationary period.

An apprentice granted credit will be advanced to the wage rate designated for the period to which such credit accrues. The Registration Agency will be advised of any credit granted and the wage rate to which the apprentice is advanced. The granting of advanced standing will be uniformly applied to all apprentices.

## **SECTION XII - WORK EXPERIENCE - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(3)**

During the apprenticeship, the apprentice will receive OJL and related instruction in all phases of the occupation necessary to develop the skill and proficiency of a skilled journeyworker. The OJL will be under the direction and guidance of the apprentice's supervisor.

## **SECTION XIII - RELATED INSTRUCTION - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(4)**

Every apprentice is required to participate in coursework related to the job as outlined in Appendix A. A minimum of 144 hours of related instruction is recommended for each year of the apprenticeship. Apprentices agree to take such courses as the sponsor deems advisable. The sponsor will secure the instructional aids and equipment it deems necessary to provide quality instruction. In cities, towns, or areas having no vocational schools or other schools that can furnish related instruction, the sponsor may require apprentices to complete the related instruction requirement through electronic media or other instruction approved by the Registration Agency.

Apprentices will be paid for hours spent attending related instruction classes if hosted during regular working hours.

The sponsor will inform each apprentice of the availability of college credit (if applicable).



Any apprentice who is absent from related instruction will satisfactorily complete all coursework missed before being advanced to the next period of training. In cases of failure of an apprentice to fulfill the obligations regarding related instruction without due cause, the sponsor will take appropriate disciplinary action and may terminate the apprenticeship agreement after due notice to the apprentice and opportunity for corrective action.

To the extent possible, related instruction will be closely correlated with the practical experience and training received on the job. The sponsor will monitor and document the apprentice's progress in related instruction classes.

The sponsor will secure competent instructors whose knowledge, experience, and ability to teach will be carefully examined and monitored. The sponsor may require the instructors to attend instructor training to meet the requirements of 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(4)(i)(ii) or state regulations.

## **SECTION XIV - SAFETY AND HEALTH TRAINING - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(9)**

All apprentices will receive instruction in safe and healthful work practices both on the job and in related instruction that are in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards promulgated by the Secretary of Labor under 29 U.S.C. 651 et seq., as amended, or state standards that have been found to be at least as effective as the federal standards.

Apprentices will be taught that accident prevention is very largely a matter of education, vigilance, and cooperation and that they should strive at all times to conduct themselves in their work to ensure their own safety and that of their fellow workers.

## **SECTION XV - MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS - 29 CFR §§ 29.5(b)(6), 29.5(b)(23), and 30.8**

Program sponsors are responsible for maintaining, at a minimum, the following records:

- summary of the qualifications of each applicant;
- basis for evaluation and for selection or rejection of each applicant;
- records pertaining to interview;
- the original application;
- records of each apprentice's OJL;
- related instruction reviews and evaluations;
- progress evaluations;
- record of job assignments, promotions, demotions, layoffs, or terminations, rates of pay; and
- any other actions pertaining to the apprenticeship

Program sponsors will also maintain all records relating to apprenticeship applications (whether selected or not), including, but not limited to, the sponsor's outreach, recruitment, interview, and selection process. Such records will clearly identify minority and female (minority and nonminority) applicants and must include, among other things, the basis for evaluation and for selection or rejection of each applicant. For a complete list of records that each sponsor is required to maintain under 29 CFR § 30, please refer to 29 CFR § 30.8.



All such records are the property of the sponsor and will be maintained for a period of 5 years from the date of last action. They will be made available to the Registration Agency upon request.

## **SECTION XVI - CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF APPRENTICESHIP - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(15), and Circular 2015-02**

Upon satisfactory completion of the requirements of the apprenticeship program as established in these Standards, the Sponsor will so certify to the Registration Agency and request the awarding of a Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship to the completing apprentice(s). Such requests may be completed electronically using the Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Data System (RAPIDS) or in writing using the supplied U. S. Department of Labor, ETA, Office of Apprenticeship, Application for Certification of Completion of Apprenticeship Form in (Appendix B), accompanied by the appropriate documentation for both on-the-job learning and the related instruction as may be required by the Registration Agency.

### **Certificate of Training**

A Certificate of Training may be requested from and issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship, Office of the Administrator (the Registration Agency), only for a registered apprentice who has been certified by the sponsor as having successfully met the requirements to receive an interim credential as identified in these standards. The Registration Agency may require that a record of completed OJL and related instruction for the apprentice accompany such requests.

## **SECTION XVII - NOTICE TO REGISTRATION AGENCY - 29 CFR §§ 29.3(d), 29.3(e), and 29.5(b)(19)**

The Registration Agency must be notified within 45 days of any apprentice action - e.g., registered, reinstated, extended, modified, granted credit, completed, transferred, suspended, canceled - and a statement of the reasons therefor.

## **SECTION XVIII - REGISTRATION, CANCELLATION, AND DEREGISTRATION - 29 CFR §§ 29.5(b)(18), 29.8(a)(2), and 29.8(b)(8)**

These standards will, upon adoption by the sponsor, be submitted to the Registration Agency for approval. Such approval will be acquired before implementation of the program.

The sponsor reserves the right to discontinue at any time the apprenticeship program set forth herein. The sponsor will notify the Registration Agency within 45 days in writing of any decision to cancel the program.

The Registration Agency may initiate deregistration of these standards for failure of the sponsor to abide by the provisions herein. Such deregistration will be in accordance with the Registration Agency's regulations and procedures.





The sponsor will notify each apprentice of the cancellation of the program and the effect of same. If the apprenticeship program is cancelled at the sponsor's request, the sponsor will notify the apprentice(s) within 15 days of the date of the Registration Agency's acknowledgment of the sponsor's request. If the Registration Agency orders the deregistration of the apprenticeship program, the sponsor will notify the apprentice(s) within 15 days of the effective date of the order. This notification will conform to the requirements of 29 CFR § 29.8.

## **SECTION XIX - AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(18)**

These standards may be amended or modified at any time by the sponsor provided that no amendment or modification adopted will alter any apprenticeship agreement in force at the time without the consent of all parties. Such amendment or modification will be submitted to the Registration Agency for approval and registration prior to being placed in effect. A copy of each amendment or modification adopted will be furnished to each apprentice to whom the amendment or modification applies.

## **SECTION XX - ADJUSTING DIFFERENCES; COMPLAINT PROCEDURE - 29 CFR §§ 29.5(b)(22), 29.7(k), and 30.11**

The sponsor will have full authority to enforce these standards. Its decision will be final and binding on the employer, the sponsor, and the apprentice, unless otherwise noted below.

If an applicant or an apprentice believes an issue exists that adversely affects his/her participation in the apprenticeship program or violates the provisions of the apprenticeship agreement or standards, the applicant or apprentice may seek relief through one or more of the following avenues, based on the nature of the issue:

### **29 CFR § 29.7(k)**

The sponsor will hear and resolve all complaints of violations concerning the apprenticeship agreement and the registered apprenticeship standards for which written notification is received within 15 days of the alleged violations. The sponsor will make such rulings as it deems necessary in each individual case within 30 days of receiving the written notification. Either party to the apprenticeship agreement may consult with the Registration Agency for an interpretation of any provision of these standards over which differences occur. The name and address of the appropriate authority to receive, process, and dispose of complaints is:

Ms. Debra Bennett  
Apprenticeship Director  
WIA - The Wireless Infrastructure Association  
500 Montgomery Street, Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Main Number: (703) 739-0300  
Toll Free: (800) 759-0300  
Fax: (703) 836-1608



## **29 CFR § 30.11**

Any apprentice or applicant for apprenticeship who believes that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex with regard to apprenticeship or that the equal opportunity standards with respect to his/her selection have not been followed in the operation of an apprenticeship program may, personally or through an authorized representative, file a complaint with the Registration Agency or, at the apprentice or applicant's election, with the private review body established by the program sponsor (if applicable).

The complaint shall be in writing and shall be signed by the complainant. It must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person allegedly discriminated against, the program sponsor involved, and a brief description of the circumstances of the failure to apply the equal opportunity standards provided in 29 CFR § 30.

The complaint must be filed not later than 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination or specified failure to follow the equal opportunity standards, and in the case of complaints filed directly with the review body designated by the program sponsor to review such complaints, any referral of such complaint by the complainant to the Registration Agency must occur within the time limitation stated above or 30 days from the final decision of such review body, whichever is later. The time may be extended by the Registration Agency for good cause shown.

Complaints of discrimination and failure to follow equal opportunity standards in the apprenticeship program may be filed and processed under 29 CFR § 30 and the procedures set forth above. The sponsor shall provide written notice of its complaint procedure to all applicants for apprenticeship and all apprentices.

## **SECTION XXI - TRANSFER OF AN APPRENTICE AND TRAINING OBLIGATION - 29 CFR § 29.5(b)(13)**

The transfer of an apprentice between apprenticeship programs and within an apprenticeship program must be based on agreement between the apprentice and the affected apprenticeship committees or program sponsors and must comply with the following requirements:

- i. The transferring apprentice must be provided a transcript of related instruction and OJL by the committee or program sponsor;
- ii. Transfer must be to the same occupation; and
- iii. A new apprenticeship agreement must be executed when the transfer occurs between the program sponsors.

The apprentice must receive credit from the new sponsor for the training already satisfactorily completed.

If the Program Sponsor is unable to fulfill his/her training obligation due to lack of work or failure to conform to these standards the sponsor will make every effort to refer the apprentice with his/her consent to another employer, Registration Agency or other entity for placement into another registered apprenticeship program.





## **SECTION XXII - RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE APPRENTICE**

Apprentices, having read these standards formulated by the sponsor, agree to all the terms and conditions contained herein and agree to abide by the sponsor's rules and policies, including any amendments, and to serve such time, perform such manual training, and study such subjects as the sponsor may deem necessary to become a skilled journeyworker.

In signing the apprenticeship agreement, apprentices assume the following responsibilities and obligations under the apprenticeship program:

- A. Maintain and make available such records of work experience and training received on the job and in related instruction as may be required by the sponsor.
- B. Develop and practice safe working habits and work in such a manner as to assure his/her personal safety and that of fellow workers.
- C. Work for the employer to whom the apprentice is assigned for the duration of the apprenticeship, unless the apprentice is reassigned to another employer or the apprenticeship agreement is terminated by the sponsor.
- D. Perform diligently and faithfully the work of the occupation and other pertinent duties assigned by the Program Sponsor and the employer in accordance with the provisions of these Standards.
- E. Respect the property of the sponsor and abide by the working rules and regulations of the sponsor.
- F. Attend and satisfactorily complete the required hours in the OJL and in related instruction in subjects related to the occupation as provided under these Standards.

## **SECTION XXIII - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Technical assistance, such as that from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship, recognized state apprenticeship agencies, and vocational schools, may be requested to advise the sponsor.

The sponsor is encouraged to invite representatives from industry, education, business, private organizations, and public agencies to provide consultation and advice for the successful operation of its training program.

## **SECTION XXIV - CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

No Section of these Standards of Apprenticeship shall be construed as permitting violation of any Federal Law or Regulation.



## **SECTION XXV - DEFINITIONS**

*Some of these definitions may not apply to all registered apprenticeship programs – employers may add or delete definitions depending on their needs.*

**APPRENTICE:** Any individual employed by the employer meeting the qualifications described in the standards of apprenticeship who has signed an apprenticeship agreement with the local sponsor providing for training and related instruction under these standards and who registers with the Registration Agency.

**APPRENTICE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION (AER):** An electronic tool that allows for instantaneous transmission of apprentice data for more efficient registration of apprentices and provides program sponsors with a faster turnaround on their submissions and access to their apprenticeship program data.

**APPRENTICESHIP AGREEMENT:** The written agreement between the apprentice and the sponsor setting forth the responsibilities and obligations of all parties to the apprenticeship agreement with respect to the apprentice's employment and training under these standards. Each apprenticeship agreement must be registered with the Registration Agency.

**APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE):** Those persons designated by the sponsor to act as agents for the sponsor in the administration of the program. A non-joint committee, which may also be known as a unilateral committee or (if it includes workers' representatives) a group non-joint committee, has employer representatives but does not have a bona fide collective bargaining agent as a participant.

**CAREER LATTICE:** Career lattice apprenticeship programs include occupational pathways that move an apprentice laterally or upward within an industry. These programs may or may not include an interim credential leading to the Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship credential.

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF APPRENTICESHIP:** The credential issued by the Registration Agency to those registered apprentices certified and documented as having successfully completed the apprentice training requirements outlined in these standards of apprenticeship.

**CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING:** A credential that may be issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship administrator to those registered apprentices whom the sponsor has certified in writing to the Registration Agency as having successfully met the requirements to receive an interim credential.

**COMPETENCY-BASED OCCUPATION:** An occupation using an apprenticeship approach that requires the attainment of manual, mechanical, or technical skills and knowledge, as specified by an occupation standard and demonstrated by an appropriate written and hands-on proficiency measurement.

**ELECTRONIC MEDIA:** Media that utilize electronics or electromechanical energy for the end user (audience) to access the content. Includes, but is not limited to, electronic storage media, transmission media, the Internet, extranets, lease lines, dial-up lines, private networks, and the physical movement of removable/transportable electronic media and/or interactive distance learning.



**EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The supervisory committee of the Program Sponsor that directs the development and approval of TIRAP training programs as outlined in Appendix E.

**EMPLOYER:** Any person or organization employing an apprentice, whether or not such person or organization is a party to an apprenticeship agreement with the apprentice. A person, business, or company signatory to this sponsor's standards that is responsible for providing hours of work, supervision, wages, and/or benefits to apprentices in its employ as registered under these standards.

**INTERIM CREDENTIAL:** A credential issued by the Registration Agency, upon request of the appropriate sponsor, as certification of competency attainment by an apprentice.

**JOB CORPS CENTER:** Any of the federally funded Job Corps centers throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Job Corps serves youths and young adults 16-24 years of age. Sponsors that wish to hire Job Corps graduates who are trained in any occupation covered under these standards and who meet the minimum qualifications for apprenticeship may do so via the direct entry provision described in Appendix D: Qualifications and Selection Procedures.

**JOURNEYWORKER:** A worker who has attained a level of skills, abilities, and competencies recognized within an industry as mastery of the skills and competencies required for the occupation. The term may also refer to a mentor, technician, specialist, or other skilled worker who has documented sufficient skills and knowledge of an occupation, either through formal apprenticeship or through practical on-the-job experience and formal training.

**O\*NET-SOC CODE:** The Occupational Information Network (O\*NET) codes and titles are based on the new Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system mandated by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use in collecting statistical information on occupations. The O\*NET classification uses an 8-digit O\*NET-SOC code. Use of the SOC classification as a basis for the O\*NET codes ensures that O\*NET information can be readily linked to labor market information such as occupational employment and wage data at the national, state, and local levels.

**ON-THE-JOB LEARNING (OIL):** Tasks learned on-the-job in which the apprentice must become proficient before a completion certificate is awarded. The learning must be through structured, supervised work experience.

**PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER:** Any employer who has agreed to and signed the Employer Acceptance Agreement with the sponsor (see Appendix F).

**PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION:** The 1-year initial provisional approval of newly registered programs that meet the required standards for program registration, after which program approval may be made permanent, continued as provisional, or rescinded following a review by the Registration Agency, as provided for in 29 CFR §§ 29.3(g) and (h).

**REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PARTNERS INFORMATION DATA SYSTEM (RAPIDS):** A federal system that provides for the automated collection, retention, updating, retrieval, and summarization of information related to apprentices and apprenticeship programs.

**REGISTRATION AGENCY:** The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship or a recognized State Apprenticeship Agency that has responsibility for registering apprenticeship programs and apprentices, providing technical assistance, conducting reviews for compliance with 29 CFR §§ 29 and 30, and conducting quality assurance assessments.



The Registration Agency identified is the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, National Office, Mr. Kirk Jefferson, Apprenticeship and Training Representative, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20210. [jefferson.kirk@dol.gov](mailto:jefferson.kirk@dol.gov), 202-693-3399

**RELATED INSTRUCTION:** An organized and systematic form of instruction designed to provide the apprentice with knowledge of the theoretical and technical subjects related to the apprentice's occupation. Such instruction may be given in a classroom, through occupational or industrial courses, or by correspondence courses of equivalent value, electronic media, or other forms of self-study approved by the Registration Agency.

**SPONSOR:** Any person, association, committee, or organization that operates an apprenticeship program and in whose name the program is registered. The sponsor in whose name the standards of apprenticeship will be registered, and which will have the full responsibility for administration and operation of the apprenticeship program. The sponsor means the Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) organization, and may delegate those responsibilities to any participating employer signing an Employer Acceptance Agreement (see Appendix F).

**STANDARDS OF APPRENTICESHIP:** This entire document, including all appendices and attachments hereto, and any future modifications and additions approved by the Registration Agency.

**SUPERVISOR OF APPRENTICE(S):** An individual designated by the program sponsor to supervise or have charge and direction of an apprentice.

**TRANSFER:** A shift of apprenticeship registration from one program to another or from one employer within a program to another employer within that same program, where there is agreement between the apprentice and the affected apprenticeship committees or program sponsors.



**SECTION XXVI - OFFICIAL ADOPTION OF APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS**

**WIA - The Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) hereby adopts these Standards of Apprenticeship on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.**

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Jonathan Adelstein  
President/CEO  
WIA-The Wireless Infrastructure Association  
Program Sponsor

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Debra K. Bennett  
Apprenticeship Director  
WIA-The Wireless Infrastructure Association  
Program Sponsor