



CONTEST DESCRIPTION
Cabinetmaking
SECONDARY

Table of Contents

1	THE SKILLS FOR SUCCESS FOR CAREERS IN THE SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY	2
2	CONTEST INTRODUCTION.....	2
3	CONTEST DESCRIPTION.....	3
4	EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING.....	3
5	HEALTH AND SAFETY	5
6	ASSESSMENT.....	5
7	CONTEST SPECIFIC RULES.....	6
8	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	6
9	NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS	7

1 THE SKILLS FOR SUCCESS FOR CAREERS IN THE SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY

The Government of Canada has updated the previous Essential Skills framework to the new Skills for Success model in response to the evolving labour market and changing skill requirements. This model outlines nine fundamental skills Canadians need to thrive in work, education, training, and daily life.

Skills/Compétences Canada aims to highlight the importance of these skills, vital for success in trade and technology careers. Competitors can see how Skills for Success are integrated into contest descriptions, projects, and project documents. Recognizing these skills during the competition helps competitors match tasks with specific skills necessary for success and understand how these skills apply within their trade or technology programs and future careers.

The nine key Skills for Success, validated for workplace success, are:

1. Numeracy
2. Communication
3. Collaboration
4. Adaptability
5. Reading
6. Writing
7. Problem Solving
8. Creativity and Innovation
9. Digital

These Skills for Success are detailed in sections 2.4 and/or 3.2 (to be completed by SCC) of your Contest Description and, if relevant, in your Project and supporting documents.

2 CONTEST INTRODUCTION

2.1 Description of the associated work role(s) or occupation(s)

https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/skill_area/cabinetmaking/

2.2 Purpose of the Challenge

To assess and promote the contestant's knowledge and skills in cabinetmaking by building a project from a drawing provided.

2.3 Duration of contest

12 hours

2.4 Skills and Knowledge to be tested.

- Working properties of wood and use of other materials such as veneer, fibreboard, particleboard, plywood, adhesives, abrasives, hardware, metal fastenings
- Construction of cabinetry product
- Compliance with safety regulations and use of safety equipment
- Technical drawings are metric

3 CONTEST DESCRIPTION

3.1 List of documents produced and timeline for when competitors have access to the documents on the Skills/Compétences Canada website

DOCUMENT	DATE OF DISTRIBUTION
Project (drawings)	December 2026

3.2 Tasks that may be performed during the contest

- Set-up and safe operation of woodworking machines, portable power tools and hand tools⁷
- From the drawing provided, demonstrate handwork, machining, sanding and assembly techniques in the building of a project to a professional standard^{1,5,7}
- During competition all material, equipment, plans and work must remain on site
- No wood putty may be used at any time during the competition
- Must read and interpret drawings and documentation provided⁵

Skills for Success - ¹Numeracy, ⁵Reading, ⁷Problem Solving

4 EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING

4.1 Equipment and material provided by Skills/Compétences Canada

- Table saws and tooling as required
- Mitre saws with stands
- Band saws and Band saw blades (size and pitch to be specified)
- Router/shaper tables
- Edge sander and required belts
- Drill Presses and tooling as required
- Mortising machines and related tooling (if required)
- Portable power tools
- Routers and related tooling as required
- Orbital Sander 5" with sandpaper
- Biscuit Joiner with appropriate biscuits
- Portable Drill
- Dust Collector
- Work benches with vises
- All project materials (wood, glue, dowels, hand sandpaper 100,120,150 etc.)

- Project specific jigs and/or templates (training will be given onsite if required)
- Bar clamps
- Wood glue (bottle)
- 6" glue roller and glue roller tray
- Toggle Clamps

COMPETITORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO USE THE MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY SCC. ALL OTHER MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE SKILL AREA.

4.2 Equipment and material provided by the competitor

- Assorted driver bits for #4, #6, #8 screws Philips & Robertson
- Tape measure (**with metric**)
- Combination square/try-square
- Hammer or wood mallet
- Block plane
- Smooth and/or Jack plane
- Sanding block
- Chisels (1/4", 1/2", 3/4", 1")
- Pencils and eraser, calculator (phones cannot be used)
- Drill bits (set of 1/16" to 1/2")
- 2 files (round and flat)
- Marking gauge
- Dovetail or back saw
- Screwdrivers (basic set)
- Dowel jig and Dowel centres
- Masking tape
- Utility knife
- Cabinet Scraper
- Miscellaneous clamps
- [Inspection light \(Headlamp\)](#)

4.2.1 Toolboxes Guidelines

One of the objectives of SCC is the sustainability of the Competition. As a result, the toolboxes brought by Competitors will be restricted to the following maximum specifications.

The Competitor toolbox must not exceed 1 meters³ in volume. It can be multiple toolboxes, but the total of all toolboxes must not exceed the maximum volume indicated. There is no exception to this rule. If the Competitor toolbox is larger than what is indicated, the Competitor with the guidance of the NTC, will need to remove items from the toolbox and those items will not be used during the competition. All tools must fit inside one or more toolboxes. Tools outside of a toolbox will not be permitted.

4.3 Required clothing provided by the competitor

- Contestants must wear appropriate clothing (no muscle shirts, shorts etc.)

5 HEALTH AND SAFETY

5.1 Safety program

SCC has implemented a comprehensive safety program as health and safety is an integral part of our competitions. Our safety program includes guidelines and procedures to make the work environment in each skill area safer.

5.1.1 Safety manual

As part of our program a safety manual has been created to monitor and document health and safety within each skill area. It includes a definite plan of action designed to prevent accidents. The safety manual will be provided for every skill and these instructions must be followed and respected by all participants and officials at the SCNC.

5.1.2 Safety workshop

During orientation, Competitors will participate in a Safety workshop and they will be expected to work and maintain a safe working area during the competition. Any Competitor breaking any health, safety, and environmental rules, may be required to undertake a second safety workshop, this will not affect the Competitor's competition time.

5.2 List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by Skills/Compétences Canada

- None

5.3 List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the competitor

- Hearing protection
- CSA approved Safety shoes (green triangle)
- Safety Glasses

Note: Competitors who do not have the required protective equipment will not be allowed to participate in the competition.

6 ASSESSMENT

6.1 Point breakdown

Note: This list is subject to change.

TASKS	/100
Dimensions and conformity	15
Joints before gluing	20
Joints after gluing	20

Quality of surface preparation (sanding etc.)	10
Squareness	5
Details fitting and operation	20
Safety and work habits	5
Material usage and sustainability	5

7 CONTEST SPECIFIC RULES

Contest specific rules cannot contradict or take priority over the Competition Rules. They do provide specific details and clarity in areas that may vary from contest to contest. Any additional contest rules will be reviewed during the competitor orientation.

TOPIC/TASK	CONTEST SPECIFIC RULE
Use of technology - personal laptops, tablets and mobile phones)	1 Electronics will not be allowed in competition area.
	2 Calculators will be allowed.
Tool / Infrastructure	3 Competitors may bring any other hand tools use on a regular basis but must have them approved by the National Technical Committee at the competitor's orientation.
	4 Competitors are not allowed to bring or use portable power tools.
	5 Competitors are not allowed to bring or use pre-made project-specific jigs or tooling.

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8.1 Interpreter

If a competitor requires the help of an interpreter once onsite during the competition, the Skills/Compétences Canada Provincial/Territorial offices must advise Skills/Compétences Canada National Secretariat a minimum of 1 month prior to the competition or this service may not be guaranteed.

8.2 Ties

- Tiebreaker #1: In the event of a tie, the competitor with the highest score in conformance with specifications & accuracy of measurements criteria will be declared the winner.
- Tiebreaker #2: If a second tie occurs, the competitors with the highest score in the safety criteria will be declared the winner.
- Tiebreaker #3: If a third tie occurs, the competitor with the highest score in the quality of sanding criteria will be declared the winner.

8.3 Test Project change at the Competition

Where the Test Project has been circulated to Competitors in advance, NTC may change a maximum of 30% of the work content. Please refer to the Competition Rules.

8.4 Competition rules

Refer to the competition rules of the Skills Canada National Competition which can be found on our website.

9 NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER ORGANIZATION	NAME
New Brunswick	Hardy Cameron
Quebec	Ludovic Robert
Ontario	Douglas Colman –Co Chair
Manitoba	Todd Birtwhistle
Alberta	Mick McGowan
British Columbia	Bill Nash
Yukon	Gerry Quarton
Northwest Territory	Roger Nendsa – Chair

Contact the Skills/Compétences Canada national secretariat for any questions or concerns: Olga Malvine Rwemera (olgamr@skillscanada.com).