Skills Compétences Canada











CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Workplace Safety

SECONDARY

SkillsCompétences Canada
Toronto2026

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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 participants 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/workplace-safety/

2.2 Purpose of the Challenge

To assess participants' understanding of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) principles and ability to perform Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)-related duties, including:

- Identifying hazards, recommending and identifying existing control measures
- Displaying an understanding of hazard control
- Effectively communicating Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) information

2.3 Duration of contest

- 11 hours

2.4 Skills and Knowledge to be tested.

- Knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) principles
- Ability to identify and assess workplace hazards and to recommend corrective action
- Ability to recognize and discuss hazard controls
- Ability to effectively communicate Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) information

Skills for Success – Communication, Problem Solving

3 CONTEST DESCRIPTION

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

DOCUMENT	DATE OF DISTRIBUTION
Test Project	December 2026
Competition Worksheets	Morning of Competition

3.2 Tasks that may be performed during the contest:

Hazard Identification:

A fundamental principle of Occupational Health and Safety is recognizing, assessing and controlling hazards in the workplace. The Hazard Identification activity requires the participant to demonstrate these skills by assessing and suggesting controls for hazards they identify in a simulated workplace. For this activity, the participants will be asked to:

a) Identify the hazards, and for each
b) Define the hazard type (physical, biological, chemical, ergonomic, safety, psychological)
c) Suggest the best type of control (elimination, substitution, engineering, administrative, PPE)
d) Identify controls already in use
e) Indicate the potential hazards the controls are meant to mitigate
f) Record all findings on the hazard identification answer sheet

A Test Project has been developed and contains additional preparation information for this activity.

Hazard Control:

Observing people at work and identifying hazards is one skill used by the Health and Safety professional to assist in reducing / eliminating injury / illness in the workplace. In this section of the competition, participants will be asked to observe a competition site.

In this section of the competition, participants will be asked to observe a competition site selected by the National Technical Committee (NTC) at the time of the competition. At the selected, participants will be assigned one control; elimination, substitution, engineering, administrative or PPE (chosen by the National Technical Committee (NTC)).

Based on the control assigned, they will be asked to identify four (4) potential hazards, explain controls implemented to address the hazards and complete a risk assessment.
Competitors will observe the competition and collect information which they will use to provide written answers to a series of questions found on the Hazard Control and Risk Assessment worksheet.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Proficiency Exam:

Each participant will complete an exam that will test their understanding of different components of hazard classifications and the hierarchy of controls.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Research/ Written Report/ Presentation:

For this activity, the participant will perform the role of an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) professional researching an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) issue at a fictional workplace, to develop safety recommendations to the employer.

The participant will be assigned an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) issue by the National Technical Committee (NTC), which they will research, and for which they will develop safety recommendations.

Once the safety recommendations have been developed, the participant will prepare an oral presentation to be delivered to the judges for evaluation.
In addition, a copy of the safety recommendations will be submitted to the judges at the time of the oral presentation.

- Competitors may choose to present their presentation in either English or French.
- Competitors wishing to present in French must notify the National Technical Committee (National Technical Committee (NTC) in advance.
- The Committee will arrange for interpretation services prior to Day 2 to support the presentation process.

For reference:
Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Professional – To contribute to the maintenance of a safe and healthy work environment by implementing and monitoring Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) systems and processes in their workplace. This includes managing Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) administrative processes, conducting training and effectively using a range of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) tools and processes to implement Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) programs and drive compliance.

To initiate, promote and implement site-level activities to improve Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).
1. To contribute to the implementation and monitoring of critical controls.

- Knowledge
- Analyze and evaluate information
- Problem solving

- Uses communication and engagement skills, including negotiation and conflict management skills, to initiate, promote and support change.
- Uses mentoring skills to develop Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) capability of site operational and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) personnel.

3. Please note: no presentation software will be used. Laptops/ Tablets will be used for research, preparation and safety recommendations.
4. Intent of this activity is to research the assigned scenario and develop safety recommendations to be discussed with the employer.
5. Electronic devices are required for this activity – participant's will use their own tablets / laptops to research and develop the safety recommendations.
7. Competitors will be judged on how well they organize and communicate the key points of their safety recommendations.
8. Cue cards are permitted to use for the presentation.

Skills for Success – Communication, Adaptability, Reading, Writing, Problem Solving, Digital

4 EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING

4.1 Equipment and material provided by Skills/Compétences Canada

- Copy of the Hazard Identification Answer booklet
- Copy for the Hazard Control Answer booklet

4.2 Equipment and material provided by the participant.

- Competitors are required to bring their own device and software to the competition. Each participant can choose their own device and software so their workflow and process are like what they are familiar with.

4.3 Required clothing provided by the participant.

- No competition specific clothing required

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.

- Safety vests for the Hazard Control Search activity

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

- Competitors do not need to bring any PPE

6 ASSESSMENT

6.1 Point breakdown

TASKS	/100
Hazard Identification	30
Hazard Control	30
OHS Proficiency Exam	10
OHS Research/ Written Report/ Presentation	30
Late Penalty	*(-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 participant orientation.

TOPIC/TASK	CONTEST SPECIFIC RULE
Late Penalty	Competitors must attend: • Competition Orientation • Each activity on time (Hazard Identification / Hazard Control Search / OHS Research & Presentation)
Use of technology - USB, memory sticks	• Competitors will be allowed the use of USB or other storage devices
Infrastructure -equipment	• The use of a template brought by the Competitor is prohibited.
Use of cell phones	• Competitors are not allowed to use their cell phones during the competition except if competitors wish to listen to music with headphones / ear buds during the OHS Research component of the OHS Research & Presentation activity.

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8.1 Interpreter

If a participant 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: Highest mark in Hazard Identification
- Tiebreaker #2: Highest mark in Hazard Control
- Tiebreaker #3: Highest mark in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Research / Presentation.

8.3 Competition rules

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

9 NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER ORGANIZATION	NAME
Newfoundland and Labrador	Lisa Kavanagh
Prince Edward Island	Erin Carver
New Brunswick	
Ontario	Marius Scoupi
Manitoba	Jayson Santos – Chair
Saskatchewan	Beth Antoshkiw – Co-Chair
Alberta	Craig Skelly
British Columbia	
Yukon	Chelsea LaRose
Northwest Territories	Sheena Jensen

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