

Apprenticeship & Training Department Article – January 2006 by; Mike White

NEW POST-TENSION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR IRONWORKERS

The continued expansion of the reinforcing portion of our trade means that there will be a continued and growing need for Ironworkers skilled in the installation of reinforcing and post-tensioning systems. The Apprenticeship and Training Department is answering this demand in several ways. Updated training packages are being developed for both reinforcing and post-tensioning. These packages will include new student manuals and instructors' guides, as well as updated visual presentation materials and blueprint books. In addition to updating the existing training packages, a new package is being produced for the installation of bonded post-tensioning systems, including multistrand and bar systems used in both bridges and buildings.

To help Local apprenticeship and training programs meet the growing demand for post-tensioning installers to be certified, the National Fund has contracted with Evaluation and Certification Services, LLC to provide a comprehensive program of certification for Ironworkers installing both unbonded (monostrand) and bonded (multistrand and bar) post-tensioning. Titled *Post Tensioning Ironworker Certification*, this program is now available at no charge to Ironworker Local Union JAC's and TIC's. The program is being run by Jim Rogers, who taught the post-tensioning train-the-trainer course in San Diego at last year's National Fund's Annual Ironworker Instructors Training Program.

This new certification program is designed to raise the bar for post-tension certification by recognizing the extensive training being provided to union Ironworkers in reinforcing and post-tensioning. Ironworkers certified under this program will be recognized as having completed one of the most extensive training programs for post-tensioning in the industry. This new Post Tensioning Ironworker Certification™ is the only post-tension certification program in North America that has been submitted to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for accreditation under ISO 17024, which is a worldwide standard for personnel certification programs. When this accreditation process is completed, the Union Ironworker will have access to the most highly accredited post-tensioning certification program in North America.

The certification program was developed by ECS and is overseen by a committee representing labor, management, and industry. Current members of this committee include; General Secretary Michael Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of Apprenticeship and Training Michael White, Al Bass Apprenticeship Coordinator from Ironworkers Local 1, Bill Livingston, President of Quality Re-Steel, George Weiland III, President of Gateway Erectors, Fred Coddling, Executive Director of the National Association of Reinforcing Steel Contractors, and Jim Rogers with ECS. A separate committee has been established to review

the test questions. This committee currently includes Al Bass, Apprenticeship Coordinator from Ironworkers Local 1, Ed Penna, Apprenticeship Coordinator from Ironworkers Local 405, and Rick Sullivan from IMPACT.

A copy of the new certification program manual was recently sent to all Local apprenticeship programs and certification under this new program is available now for unbonded (monostrand) post-tensioning. Several local apprenticeship programs have already taken advantage of this by scheduling certification exams for their apprentices. Coordinators can contact Jim Rogers at ECS, (703) 842-9474, for the paperwork necessary to initiate the certification process. This process requires the apprentice coordinator to submit a request for certification examination. This request must include the name of the post-tensioning instructor teaching the training course, and this instructor must have completed one of the National Fund's post-tensioning instructor training programs. To follow guidelines established by ANSI, the exam must be administered by someone other than the course instructor. This may be the Apprentice Coordinator or a member of the apprenticeship program's testing board. The program manual explaining all of the rules and procedures, and all of the forms needed, will be available to download from the Internet at www.ironworkercertification.com. Post-tensioning training should be conducted using the existing Post-Tensioning for Ironworkers manual, available from the National Fund, until the new training packages are available in the spring of 2006.

Also by spring of 2006, the new training package for bonded (multistrand and bar) post-tensioning will be available. This new program includes installation of multistrand and bar post-tensioning systems in bridges, buildings, and other structures such as tanks and containment structures. Certification is beginning to be a mandatory requirement for installers of bonded post-tensioning in bridges around the United States, and for buildings constructed in Canada. This new program will be designed to meet these requirements and Jim Rogers is working with many of the State Departments of Transportation and various agencies in Canada to ensure acceptability.

The Apprenticeship and Training Department and the National Fund are working diligently to provide local ironworker apprenticeship programs with updated training packages and to meet the latest certification requirements. Information will be sent out as the new materials and programs become available. Apprenticeship coordinators are also encouraged to use the new e-mail list serve to ask questions and generate feedback on the new programs.

Apprenticeship and Training Department and National Fund Mission Statement

The mission of the Ironworkers Apprenticeship and Training Department is to ensure that our contractors and employers have union Ironworkers with the skills,

knowledge, and training necessary to be safe on the job site, competitive in the workplace, and satisfied in their careers.

We accomplish this mission by providing training and training materials, leadership, accreditation, and certification in order to uphold union values and the principles of service and professionalism.

We stand for:

- Unionism
- Safety
- Leadership
- Service
- Integrity
- Professionalism