

## DESCRIPTION OF OCCUPATION

The Sheet Metal Industry is one of many construction trades. Along with craftsmen in the electrical, carpentry, and plumbing fields, Sheet Metal Workers build homes and large commercial structures. The Sheet Metal Industry is unique. It is the only trade that designs, manufactures and install its own products. Sheet Metal Shop Workers take ordinary pieces of flat metal and make them into specialized products like duct systems and solar panels. These products are usually specially designed for particular construction projects. Members of the trade are proud of its special distinction; it not only builds, it creates.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR TRAINING

### Personal Characteristics

If you have artistic talents, you will enjoy working with many products which are not only useful but which also have a pleasing appearance. If you like working with your hands, you will use hand tools, operate manufacturing equipment, install and maintain heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment, and install decorative siding and metal roofs. If you have ambitions to become a manager or a contractor, you will find a real challenge in the problems of design, material flow, cost control, and labor relations, merchandising and customer relations.

### Working Conditions and Physical Requirements

The Sheet Metal Business is tough, dirty, and sometimes dangerous. It requires strength, stamina, and the ability to think and act quickly. A good portion of the work occurs out-of-doors and away from the shop area. This calls for initiative and resourcefulness and stimulates the craftsman to do the first-rate job as he/she alone is responsible for the finished product. There are occasionally some unpleasant tasks to perform, but this is true in all occupations. An apprentice meets various situations, such as lifting, pulling, and climbing, all demanding good physical stamina.

## OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TRADE

The constant increase in new types of construction and the development of new materials has created the need for a higher degree of proficiency on the part of the craftsmen. Any ambitious person wanting to work with his/her hands should find a high interest factor in the Sheet Metal Industry since our craftsmen are continually designing, building, or installing products.

Since the Sheet Metal Industry involves so many different skills, there are a lot of job options within the trade. Another of the Industry's advantages is the opportunity to specialize. Over time Journeymen usually acquire preferences in different areas of the trade – while one person likes welding, balancing air

systems may be preferred by another. If working with tools doesn't continue to challenge you, perhaps a career as an estimator or a designer/draftsman would be more to your liking.

## PRE REQUISITES

### Pre-application Requirements

**Age:** Applicants must be at least 18 years of age at the time of application. There is no maximum age for making an application, however, you may be required to show proof of age at the time of hire.

**Education:** All Applicants must be high school graduates or provide proof of equivalent educational attainment such as an official General Education Development (GED) Tests Certificate, or High School Certificate of Proficiency.

**Driver License:** It is a requirement that all apprentices have in their possession a valid California driver's license. If there are restrictions on the license or your driving record makes you uninsurable, you may not be eligible for dispatch and therefore subject to termination of your Apprenticeship Agreement.

## PERIOD OF APPRENTICESHIP

Applicants are indentured and become full time apprentices throughout the year. New applicants are indentured only as jobs occur that cannot be filled by apprentices already in the program.

The period of apprenticeship in this program is five years. This five-year period consists of ten six-month periods. Apprentices receive a pay rate increase each six months providing they have qualified according to the rules and regulations of the J.A.C. The Apprenticeship program is a combination of on the job training and after hours classroom instruction.