

RETA Ammonia Gas Refrigeration Mechanics Apprenticeship Program

RETA is managing a Refrigeration Mechanics Apprenticeship Program that meets USDOL Apprenticeship Standards as administrator for a consortium of six organizations that are program sponsors. RETA's partners in this refrigeration apprenticeship consortium are:

- Ammonia Refrigeration Foundation (ARF)
- FASTPORT, a DOL Industry Intermediary for Apprenticeship
- Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA)
- International Institute for Ammonia Refrigeration (IIAR)
- Lanier Technical College

Program Stages

The three-year program starts with training and on-the-job experience with an industrial refrigeration employer. Nine months of training and up to 1500 hours of on-the-job learning (OJL) define a probationary period for most apprentices, who must earn RETA's CARO credential to move to the next stage of apprenticeship. Applicants may request credit for prior experience and training when they apply.



After finishing the probationary period, apprentices move into a second stage of training and experience. After two years of refrigeration system experience, apprentices are eligible to earn RETA's Certified Industrial Refrigeration Operator (CIRO) credential. Employers document each apprentice's planned program of activities and training, which must meet USDOL Apprenticeship Standards. Employers also must provide a progressive wages as they increase their skills and competence on the job. Each apprentice must pass CIRO to move to the third stage of apprenticeship.



Stage three includes more advanced training and OJL experience. Apprentices must earn RETA's Service Technician (RST) credential to finish the program. Employers work with RETA to document each apprentice's progress throughout the program.



Entering the Program

Most apprenticeship opportunities start with an employer who registers as a RETA apprenticeship sponsor. Employers and apprenticeship candidates may begin by using the link at <https://www.nationalapprenticeship.org/>. FASTPORT will provide technical support to help employers through this process or to match individual applicants with sponsored apprenticeship opportunities.

Apprenticeship candidates may apply to RETA, FASTPORT or to an employer who has registered as a RETA apprenticeship sponsor.

GI Bill Benefits

Veterans with GI Bill eligibility may receive additional support from the Veteran's Administration (VA) during their time in RETA's apprenticeship program. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides a stipend that is the equivalent of the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) of an E-5 with dependents, which varies as progressive wage increases from the employer occur. Many Registered Apprenticeships also receive benefits for classroom training; apprentices also can receive benefits for books and supplies. Verify details and eligibility for GI Bill benefits with the VA at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

The following three links can provide veterans and employers with more information about apprenticeship opportunities that may be eligible for Post-911 GI Bill benefits.

- https://www.doleta.gov/oa/pdf/GI_Bill_FactSheet_Veterans.pdf
- <https://www.dol.gov/vets/hire/index.htm>
- <https://www.doleta.gov/oa/docs/BenefitsVeteransRegisteredApprenticeship.pdf>