

SHEET METAL WORKER

Nature of the Work

The Sheet Metal Worker is a vital part of the construction team. These workers build products from flat sheets of metal and then install the finished product. The Sheet Metal Worker is responsible for the heating, air conditioning, ventilation and exhaust system ducts in a modern building. They are also responsible for the heating, air conditioning, electronic air cleaning and humidification duct work in new homes. This trade includes the application of all outside architectural sheet metal. Commercial and residential items such as facia, chimney flashing, valleys, gutters, downspouts and metal roofs are made from metal of various thicknesses depending on how it is to be used. Another category of sheet metal work is the making and installation of kitchen equipment, counters, hoods, tables, cabinets and related exhaust systems. Also, industrial work requiring sheet metal fabrication associated with dust collection, machine guarding, chutes and conveyors is performed by Sheet Metal Workers.

Working Conditions

The Sheet Metal Worker does a great deal of shop work compared to other construction tradespersons, by fabricating sheet metal in the shop. It is then delivered to the job for installation. On a new structure, a craftsperson works both inside and out at the construction site. Much of this work requires the ability to climb ladders and work from scaffolds. A Sheet Metal Worker must always be safety conscious because they can be cut by the tools they use or by the sharp edges of the metal with which they work.

Interest and Personal Qualities

Persons interested in becoming Sheet Metal Workers must have mechanical ability and the ability to follow instructions. The apprentice always works with a journeyman. A good working knowledge of math along with mechanical drawing is an asset. The understanding of blueprints and the ability to work in close tolerances are necessary. They must also enjoy working with their hands and have the desire to think for themselves without constant supervision.

General Qualifications

- Age 18 or older
- Minimum education - high school graduate or equivalent
- Good physical condition - must be able to perform the work of the trade
- Proof of citizenship

Admission Requirements of JATC

- Medical examination may be required
- Credit for Armed Service - subject to review by committee
- Personal interview
- Credit for experience
- Drug and alcohol test may be required

Terms of Training

- Length of apprenticeship - 4 years (all years require day classes).
- Minimum hours of related classroom instruction - 204 hours each year.
- Indentured to the Joint Apprenticeship Committee.
- Length of probationary period - 1,000 hours.

Recommended High School Courses

General Math, Geometry, Trigonometry, Mechanical Drawing, Physics, General Science.

Who to Contact / Available Applications

Grand Rapids/Muskegon

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7, Zone 2
Contact: Rodney Bulthouse
221 S. Quarterline Road
Muskegon, MI 49442
Telephone (231) 777-0252
Fax (231) 777-0549
Email: rbulthouse@yahoo.com
Web: www.smwlu7.org/

Lansing/Jackson/Battle Creek

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7, Zone 1
Contact: Dale Edwards
1612 Brooks Dr.
Marshall, MI 49068-9587
Telephone: (269) 781-7183
Fax: (269) 781-7197
Email: Sheetmetal7@smwlu7.org
Web: www.smwlu7.org/

All applicants are afforded equal opportunity without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age or disability.