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## **Mechanical Fitter**

### **What am I going to do in this occupation?**

Mechanical Fitters work according to engineering specifications and drawings to install and maintain mechanical equipment such as pumps and gearboxes. They will for example, take a gearbox or pump apart, inspect all the components for possible damage, repair or replace the damaged parts and then put everything together again to ensure the equipment will work as it is supposed to. Mechanical Fitters need to work very accurate as often they work with critical parts with very small fit tolerances.

### **What kind of skills do I need?**

The following skills and attributes may contribute to become a successful Mechanical Fitter;

- The aptitude to give full attention to instructions and commands.
- The ability to get along well with co-workers and management and the ability to work together with other employees as part of a group.
- The ingenuity to develop and implement solutions to work challenges.
- Physical ability to manually handle tools and equipment.
- An acumen to understand the working principles of mechanical equipment and the associated, maintenance, repair, installation and commissioning thereof.
- To be alert and attentive for possible hazards and to take necessary actions to prevent incidents and accidents.
- Be truthful, ethical, and last but certainly not least, hard-working

### **What training path can I follow to become a Mechanical Fitter?**

#### **Apprenticeship:**

The entry level requirement for this program is minimum grade 11 or a National Technical Certificate Level 2 (N2 Certificate) with the following subjects;

- Mathematics
- Physical Science
- Technical Drawings
- Mechanotechnology

The program entails a four year apprenticeship contract with an Employer which will include institutional training at an accredited Training Provider and practical workplace exposure training at the Employer's worksite. The program is concluded with the completion of a national Trade Test at an accredited institution where after the person achieves "Artisan Status". The FDT Training Centre is a national accredited Training Provider and Decentralized Trade Test Centre for the trade.

#### **Learnership:**

This program consists of three National Qualification Framework levels (NQF levels 2, 3 and 4) with duration of approximately one year per level. The training program includes institutional training at an accredited Training Provider and practical workplace exposure training at the Employer's worksite. The entry level requirement for an NQF Level 2 Learnership qualification is very much similar to that of an apprenticeship. Each NQF level is approached as an independent qualification and a Learner may exit the program after successfully completing the final assessment for that particular level and achieve a national qualification certificate as such. After completing the NQF Level 4 Learnership, a Learner still needs to successfully complete a national Trade Test at an accredited institution to achieve full "Artisan Status". The FDT Training Centre is a nationally accredited Training Provider and Assessment Center for Mechanical Fitting Learnerships NQF Levels 2, 3 and 4.

**Short skills programs:** The FDT Training Centre has formulated short skills programs in alignment with national training curriculums for the Mechanical Fitting trade. A Learner may complete each skills program separately or complete all the programs consecutively, from the most basic course for a person who has never worked before to the most advanced course. On the successful completion of these training programs, a Learner will be able to perform tasks as a Mechanical Fitter in industry. The duration of each skills program is in the region of 20 days each, depending on the actual course content and level of advancement. A major advantage of these skills programs is that after a relatively short period of time and after the successful completion of the courses, a Learner will possess adequate knowledge and skills to apply for employment as a Mechanical Fitter. The entry level requirement for these courses is a grade 9 academic qualification.

### **Where can I work?**

Mechanical Fitters are usually employed by industries such as power stations, refineries and factories.

### **Can I work for myself?**

It is possible for experienced Mechanical Fitters with the necessary financial acumen to start their own business.