

Validation of professional competence

The HVAC industry validation model is used to validate the professional competence of people who have experience and knowledge from work as an HVAC installer. The work may have been carried out either in another country or in a Swedish company that is not connected to the HVAC Technical installation agreement.

The purpose of the validation is to assess whether the applicant meets the industry's knowledge objectives corresponding to an industry certificate. The application for validation can be made by an individual, company or organisation. Where there are qualifications and certificates of previous experience, these must be translated into Swedish and attached to the application. The validation shall be carried out by a professional assessor approved by the HVAC Industry's Professions Board (VVS-Branschens Yrkesnämnd).

How validation works

Validation is divided into different steps.



Self-assessment

Self-assessment is a tool used to assess what experience the individual has and can serve as a basis for whether the application for validation should be made or whether there are other paths into the profession that should be taken. You can find a self-assessment form on our website.

Application

The application for validation is done by filling in and submitting the form available on our website. Any proof of qualifications and certificates must be attached to the application. The application states who/if there is a company/organisation that can verify previous experience and also shows who is responsible for the cost of carrying out the validation.

Step 1

Theoretical and oral tests carried out over one day and take 8 hours. Step 1 tests basic knowledge of, for example, system understanding and components. When step 1 is approved, the applicant proceeds to step 2. If step 1 is not approved, basic HVAC skills are lacking and the HVAC Industry's Professions Board recommends that the person undertakes a business apprenticeship or other approved adult education.

Step 2

Practical test carried out over four days. The test consists of the following parts:

- Theory test
- Welding test
- Installation

If the person passes step 2 and is approved in Swedish, Mathematics and English at the secondary education level or equivalent, the HVAC Industry's Professions Board issues a certificate that corresponds to the industry certificate. After 3 months of employment at an affiliated company, the certificate can be exchanged for an industry certificate. In event of failing Step 2, an assessment is made of the part(s) the person needs to know more about in order to obtain a certificate of approved validation.

Skills tested

Step 1

- Knowledge of appliances, components, pipes and fittings.
- Describe the function of appliances and components.
- Demonstrate knowledge of safety equipment.
- Demonstrate knowledge of how systems are structured and how they work.
- Describe appliances and components and account for the function in structured systems.
- Connect regulators, set the correct working pressure and light a gas weld.

Step 2

- Know the system structure of an HVAC installation in different types of facilities
- Take measurements, construct and assemble pipes and components in different types of facilities
- Knowledge of gas welding with forehand and backhand welding methods, as well as soldering and brazing
- Work according to applicable safety regulations with regard to health and the environment
- Be familiar with the cooling process and the function of the most common components
- Have basic knowledge of electricity
- Be familiar with simpler installation, operation, maintenance and servicing of energy technology equipment
- Perform HVAC work independently from drawings and descriptions
- Be able to document their work

Costs

- A processing fee of SEK 1500 is invoiced when the application is received
- For a Step 1 booking – theoretical and oral tests for a whole day – SEK 5000 is billed
- For a Step 2 booking – practical test over four days – SEK 15,000 is billed.
- The tests are invoiced even if the individual does not attend on the booked date or if cancellation is made later than 2 weeks before the booked date
- There may be additional costs for travel, per diem and lodgings
- If there is a need, the person being validated may obtain an authorised interpreter at their own expense.

About the HVAC Industry's Professions Board

The HVAC Industry's Professions board is a common organisation for installer and construction companies. The Professions Board cooperates with the partners in the area of vocational training within the HVAC industry for HVAC installers, Industrial pipework installers, HVAC insulation installers and sheet metal insulators.