



Steamfitter | Job Description

Summary: Steamfitters are craftsmen who assemble, install, and maintain pipes to carry water, steam, compressed air, gases and fluids needed for processing manufacturing, heating or cooling. The journeyman steamfitter must be able to adapt and repair pipe systems and install appliances, heating and refrigeration units and do all types of pipe welding. Steamfitters work with both high and low pressure pipes, mainly in industrial and commercial buildings. They also install and repair residential heating and cooling equipment. Certified welding is often required for a particular job and is part of the educational process. There are limited apprenticeships in Marine Pipefitting.

Apprentice Tasks:

- Install, test, repair and maintain high & low pressure steam piping
- Install, test, repair and maintain hot water, chilled water, and condenser water piping
- Install, test, repair and maintain industrial process piping, including high purity, natural gas and fuel pipelines
- Perform accurate welds for a variety of piping fabrication and installations
- Install, test, repair and maintain instrument and control piping
- Install and repair condensate drains
- Install boilers, pumps and chillers
- Install Heating, Venting and Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment
- Demolish piping
- Layout piping and associated materials for proper installation
- Complete routine construction tasks associated with steamfitting,
- Handle and organize materials
- Clean jobsites

Working Conditions: Steamfitters work both inside and out, depending on the job. In new construction, steamfitters move onto the job after the basic structure is erected. The work is active and can be strenuous. They do a great deal of walking, standing, climbing, lifting and working in cramped and high areas. They are subject to the hazards of working with and around high pressure gas, steam and chemical lines.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities of a Successful Steamfitter Apprentice:

- Apply algebraic and trigonometric mathematical equations to solve real-world problems, quickly and accurately
- Obtain and accurately use industry-specific welding credentials
- Communicate professionally and with courtesy
- Interpret blueprint drawings on paper and in computerized formats

- Comprehend abstract ideas and visualize completed projects
- Adapt to different environments or working conditions on a regular basis
- Stay updated on industry code and advancing technologies
- Safely use hand and power tools
- Lift, move or carry materials weighing at least 50 lbs. with proper ergonomics

Aptitude and Temperament of a Successful Steamfitter Apprentice:

- Arrive early and ready to work, every day
- Listen actively, and ask for assistance or clarification, when needed
- Respect peers, supervisors, and other crafts on a jobsite, in the classroom, and in the community
- Work on a team or individually, as the project requires
- Handle stressful situations that could be emergent in nature
- Show initiative: self-start projects, plan steps, and stay ahead of tasks
- Demonstrate a willingness to try tasks and take direction from others

Instruction Requirements:

- Abide by all policies outlined in the Apprenticeship Handbook, annual program orientation, and state program standards
- Respect instructors, coordinators, office staff and peers
- Communicate with coordinators, instructors and office staff to insure accurate, positive information regarding progress is always on hand
- Maintain a “B” or 3.0 grade point average in every class
- Complete and turn in monthly evaluations on time

Industry Requirements:

- Follow contractor policies and adhere to the procedures outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between United Association Local 32 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Western Washington
- Arrive early and ready to work; provide proper and advance notification to supervisor if sick
- Stay on task, follow directions, and ask for assistance when needed
- Maintain a respectful work environment with peers, journeymen, and supervisors