



Issue Update

Changes to Employment Insurance and Apprenticeship Training

Human Resources Development Canada announced today the implementation of an Employment Insurance (EI) initiative announced in Budget 2001. The Employment Insurance Regulations will now allow apprentices in approved training programs who apply for EI benefits to be subject to only one waiting period. This amendment will apply to claims starting July 21, 2002 or later.

In recognition of the fact that an apprenticeship program is a single, continuous course of study stretching over numerous years, the modifications will allow apprentices to serve only one two-week waiting period within the same apprenticeship program.

According to the HRDC, any subsequent waiting periods will be waived if the claimant:

- * is attending a course required of an apprenticeship program and to which they are referred by the commission;
- * has stopped work to attend a course required of an apprenticeship program; and
- * after the coming into force of the regulations, the claimant has served a waiting period in respect of a course that is required of the same apprenticeship program.

HRDC points out that there will be no retroactivity for those currently enrolled in apprenticeship programs who have already served one or more two-week waiting periods and if an apprentice abandons one apprenticeship for another, a new waiting period would have to be served.

Further information about this amendment to the Employment Insurance Regulations with regard to Apprenticeship Training can be viewed at the HRDC website:

<http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/common/news/insur/020722.shtml>

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