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| OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP  BULLETIN | **NO.**  2024-44 |
| **DATE**  February 9, 2024 |

**TO:** NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS

OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP STAFF

STATE APPRENTICESHIP AGENCIES

**FROM:** JOHN V. LADD /s/

Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship

**SUBJECT:** New NOF Apprenticeable Occupation: Software Quality Assurance Tester

1. **Purpose.** To inform the staff of OA, State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA), Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors, and other Registered Apprenticeship partners of the following new National Occupational Framework (NOF) to an apprenticeable occupation: Software Quality Assurance Tester
2. **Action Requested.** OA staff should familiarize themselves with this bulletin and the attached Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline, as a source for developing apprenticeship standards and/or providing technical assistance.

Software Quality Assurance Tester will be added to the List of Occupations Recognized as Apprenticeable by OA located on www.apprenticeship.gov. A suggested Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline are attached.

1. **Summary and Background.**
   1. Summary – The occupation Software Quality Assurance Tester was submitted by Mr. Zachary Boren, Senior Policy Program Manager on behalf of Urban Institute, was processed by Joseph Jenkins and approved by the OA Administrator on January 23, 2024.

The National Office has approved a new National Occupational Framework (NOF), developed in partnership with the Urban Institute. This NOF has met industry standards and approval; it covers job titles and occupational pathways, related functions and performance criteria, as well as academic, workplace and personal competencies for job success. While use of NOFs in developing standards utilizing the competency-based training approach is voluntary, no additional vetting of a Work Process Schedule (WPS) utilizing the NOF should be required where a program aligns to the occupational framework described in a NOF, beyond the basic requirements set forth in 29 CFR Part 29. While on-the-job learning (OJL) is ordinarily outlined in the WPS, sponsors who utilize a NOF must develop the Related Instruction Outline, which should be included in the standards. Within certain limits, the sponsors of NOF apprenticeship programs are permitted to customize the job functions or competencies contained in a NOF for Software Quality Assurance Tester occupation.

However, OA encourages the use of all core competencies to be included in the approved WPS.

* 1. Background –

***New/Revised Occupation Background -*** Under 29 CFR section 29.4, an occupation for a RAP must meet the following criteria to be determined apprenticeable:

1. Involve skills that are customarily learned in a practical way through a structured, systematic program of on-the job supervised learning:
2. Be clearly identified and commonly recognized throughout an industry;
3. Involve the progressive attainment of manual, mechanical, or technical skills and knowledge which, in accordance with the industry standard for the occupation, would require the completion of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job learning to attain; and
4. Require related instruction to supplement the on-the job learning.
5. **New NOF Apprenticeable Occupation.** The occupation Software Quality Assurance Tester was submitted for an apprenticeability determination.

Software Quality Assurance Tester  
O\*NET-SOC CODE: 15-1253.00

RAPIDS Code: 3070CB

Type of Training: Competency-based (2 Years)

Software Quality Assurance Testers perform the following duties:

* Identify, analyze, and document problems with program function, output, online screen, or content.
* Document software defects, using a bug tracking system, and report defects to software developers.
* Develop testing programs that address areas such as database impacts, software scenarios, regression testing, negative testing, error or bug retests, or usability.
* Design test plans, scenarios, scripts, or procedures.
* Document test procedures to ensure replicability and compliance with standards.

Software Quality Assurance Tester opportunities usually require a four-year bachelor's degree, but some do not. A considerable amount of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. Employees in these occupations usually need several years of work-related experience, on-the-job training, and/or vocational training.

1. **Inquiries.** If you have any questions please contact Doug McPherson, Supervisory Apprenticeship and Training Representative, at (202) 693-3783 or mcpherson.douglass@dol.gov.
2. **Attachments.**

