

Overview

Promotion of Vocational Ability Evaluation System

Name of system	National trade skill testing system	In-house trade skill test
outline	The central government tests workers' s skills based on standards and officially certifies them.	The Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare gives authorization to in-house trade skill tests which are regarded necessary to promote skill development
Skills and Trades covered	Common trade skills widely used in companies across the country, and trade in which many workers are engaged Currently, skill tests are conducted for 136 trades including machine work and construction Carpenter by grade, namely, Special grade, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade and 3rd grade (for some skills, there is single grade).	Particular trade skills used in-house As of July 30, 2010, 143 trades (41 employers, etc.) including food processing and sales, automobile parts management, etc. are authorized.
Type of certification	A person who passed the test is given a certificate either in the name of the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (for special grade, 1st grade and single grade) or the prefectural governor the head of designated test organization (for 2nd grade and 3rd grade), and is given a title "Certified Skilled Worker."	Authorized in-house trade skill tests are indicated as "authorized by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare."
Eligible applicants	In principle, persons who have some practical experience	Workers who are employed by companies conducting in-house trade skill tests

Grade	Outline of skill test
Special Grade	The level of skills that manager or supervisor of each tested trade must have, and the level of knowledge related to the skills
1st Grade	The level of skills that advanced skilled worker of each tested trade must have, and the level of knowledge related to the skills
2nd Grade	The level of skills that intermediate-level skilled worker of each tested trade must have, and the level of knowledge related to the skills
3rd Grade	The level of skills that elementary-level skilled worker of each tested trade must have, and the level of knowledge related to the skills
Basic 1st Grade	The skills required to carry out basic works of the tested trade, and the knowledge related to the skills
Basic 2nd Grade	The essential skills required to carry out basic works of the tested trade, and the knowledge related to the skills
Single Grade	The level of skills that advanced skilled worker of each tested trade must have, and the level of knowledge related to the skills

Detailed Data

Results of National Trade Skill Test

	Special Grade	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	Basic 1st Grade	Basic 2nd Grade	Single Grade	Total
No. of applicants (persons)	3,892	88,547	333,926	270,914	361	41,193	7,220	746,053
	64,755	2,780,411	5,511,090	1,130,264	2,654	348,515	266,378	10,104,067
No. of persons passed (persons)	1,240	34,890	90,589	121,325	333	38,845	4,274	291,496
	19,018	1,196,505	2,078,309	518,745	2,452	330,572	150,587	4,296,188
Percentage of people passed the tests (%)	31.9	39.4	27.1	44.8	92.2	94.3	59.2	39.1
	29.4	43.0	37.7	45.9	92.4	94.9	56.5	42.5

Source: Human Resources Development Bureau, MHLW

Figures in the upper row: FY 2009, Figures in the lower row: Total (from FY 1959 to FY 2009)