

## For Boilermakers, Riggers, and Other Skilled Trades

### DISCLAIMER:

This guide provides general career information for skilled trades in South Africa. It does not constitute professional advice. Candidates should verify training requirements, certifications, and employment conditions with accredited institutions and employers. Bilnor Staffing Solutions is not liable for outcomes based on this guide.

Skilled trades are the backbone of South Africa's industrial, mining, and construction sectors. Careers such as **boilermaker, rigger, electrician, welder, and fitter** offer stability, high demand, and opportunities for advancement.

This guide helps staffing candidates understand:

- Different trade options
- Training and certification requirements
- Career growth opportunities
- Safety and workplace expectations

## 1. Why Consider a Skilled Trade Career?

### A. High Demand

- Trades are consistently needed in **mining, construction, manufacturing, and energy sectors**.
- Skilled workers often face lower unemployment risk than unskilled labour.

### B. Good Earnings Potential

- Entry-level wages are competitive.
- Pay increases with experience, specialization, and certifications.
- Overtime and shift allowances can significantly boost income.

### C. Career Advancement

- Trades offer opportunities to become supervisors, site managers, or technical specialists.
- Apprenticeship programs often include structured pathways to higher qualifications.

### D. Job Satisfaction

- Hands-on work with visible results
- Problem-solving and skill mastery
- Opportunities to work across diverse industries and locations

## 2. Common Trades in Demand

Trade	Typical Duties	Requirements / Training
<b>Boilermaker</b>	Fabricate, assemble, and repair metal structures and pressure vessels	NQF Level 4 qualification, trade test, welding skills
<b>Rigger</b>	Assemble and dismantle scaffolding, rigging equipment for lifts	Rigger 1, 2, or 3 certification; safety training; physical fitness
<b>Welder</b>	Join metals using MIG, TIG, or arc welding	Welding course (SAQA accredited), trade test
<b>Electrician / Artisan</b>	Install, maintain, and repair electrical systems	NQF Level 4, electrician license, safety courses
<b>Fitter / Turner</b>	Assemble machinery and maintain mechanical systems	Fitting course, trade test, technical skills
<b>Plumber / Pipefitter</b>	Install and maintain piping systems	NQF Level 4 trade certificate, apprenticeship
<b>Millwright / Mechanical Technician</b>	Install, maintain, and repair industrial machinery	Millwright course, trade test, mechanical knowledge

**Note: Requirements may vary by employer or province. Always check with your training provider.**

## 4. Training & Certification

### A. Apprenticeships

- On-the-job training combined with classroom learning
- Typically 3–4 years depending on trade
- Includes mentorship from experienced artisans

### B. Technical Colleges & TVET Colleges

- Offers NQF Level 2–4 programs
- Provides foundation and theory knowledge for trades

### C. Industry Certifications

- Mandatory for safety and regulatory compliance in certain sectors
- Examples:
  - **Rigger 1–3** (high-risk lifting and scaffolding)

- **Boilermaker Trade Test**
- **Welding Certificates** (MIG, TIG, SMAW)
- **Mine Safety Certificates** (induction, SHE rep, Working at Heights)

#### D. Continuous Professional Development

- Short courses for advanced machinery, safety updates, or supervisory roles
- Keeps skills current and opens doors for promotion

### 5. Career Pathways & Advancement

1. **Entry-Level / Learner**
  - Apprenticeship or trainee role
  - Hands-on training under supervision
2. **Certified Artisan / Trade Qualified**
  - Competent to work independently
  - Eligible for full-time contracts
3. **Specialist / Senior Artisan**
  - Advanced skills in specialized areas (pressure vessels, rigging towers)
  - Mentor junior staff
4. **Supervisor / Foreman**
  - Manage teams, oversee safety and project completion
  - Requires leadership and administrative skills
5. **Site Manager / Technical Specialist**
  - Lead projects, plan schedules, coordinate multiple trades
  - May require further technical or management training

### 6. Workplace Safety & Compliance

*Safety is a critical part of any trade career in South Africa:*

- Complete **all mandatory safety inductions** (e.g., SHE Rep, First Aid, Fire Safety)
- Wear PPE: helmets, gloves, boots, eye and ear protection
- Follow machinery and lifting procedures
- Report hazards and near-misses immediately
- Maintain certifications and refresher training

Note: Non-compliance can result in injury, termination, or legal liability.

### 7. Job Readiness Tips

- *Keep CVs and trade certificates updated*
- *Maintain a **skills log**: machinery operated, projects completed, training attended*
- *Be punctual, reliable, and professional on-site*
- *Dress appropriately and maintain personal hygiene*
- *Be proactive about learning new technologies and techniques*

## 8. Resources for South African Trade Candidates

- **Department of Higher Education & Training:** TVET colleges & apprenticeship programs
- [SAQA \(South African Qualifications Authority\)](#): Trade qualifications and recognition
- **Mining Industry Skills Development:** Safety & industry certifications
- [Bilnor Staffing Solutions](#): Job placement & career guidance.

*A career in trades offers **security, growth, and personal achievement**. By combining formal training, certification, and practical experience, candidates can build long-term careers in high-demand sectors like mining, construction, and manufacturing. Bilnor Staffing Solutions supports candidates in finding suitable trade roles, ensuring compliance with training requirements, and preparing for a safe and successful career.*