Offshore Technical Skills Record (OTSR) Holders
Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic
How to obtain a full qualification

Once you have an OTSR, you can apply for a Trainee Licence with the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC).

Once in Australia, OTSR holders with a Trainee Licence are required to undertake Australian minimum context gap training and to work under the supervision of a fully licenced Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic for a period of up to 12 months in Australia. On successful completion, you will be eligible to apply for your Australian qualification – typically a Certificate III in the relevant Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic trade.

What is the Process?

Step 1. Apply for a Trainee Licence and relevant electrical licence
Contact the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) for the Trainee Licence and electrical regulator in the state or territory in which you are planning to work, as each state and territory has different requirements in relation to Australian context gap training and electrical authorisation for the licenced occupation of Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic. The full list is available from the Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic Licensing page on the Trades Recognition Australia website.

Step 2. Apply for work in Australia
Look up relevant jobs online (www.jobsearch.gov.au) or contact Australian employer associations and unions.

Step 3. Obtain further experience and complete Australian minimum context gap training
  i. Undertake gap training: Australian minimum context gap training is designed to address specific knowledge and skills you need to work in the airconditioning and refrigeration industry in Australia. The ARC and the electrical regulator in the state or territory where you are planning to reside, will outline the necessary training required to obtain your qualification. The ARC and the electrical regulator will also advise you of Australian RTOs that can deliver Australian minimum context gap training.
  ii. Record a period (up to 12 months) of supervised employment experience in Australia: The ARC and the electrical regulator in the state or territory where you are planning to reside, will also outline how to record evidence of your 12 months’ employment under supervision.

Step 4. Apply for full qualification
The Australian RTO that delivered the gap training can award you a Certificate III in your Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic trade once you have completed gap training and supervised employment experience.

Further Information
Please contact Trades Recognition Australia at TRAOutsourcedPrograms@education.gov.au