

# **My Career in Refrigeration & Air Conditioning**



With a *Certificate in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning*, graduates may have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Air-Conditioning Installer
- Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineer
- Refrigeration Mechanic
- Air-Conditioning Repairer
- Heating and Cooling Mechanic

NB: Although the job titles may vary, some of the tasks executed are very similar from one title to another and hence combined

### **Careers in Refrigeration and Air- Conditioning**

The job descriptions and job specifications for these careers are as follows:

#### **Career Overview**

Your roles are to install, repair and maintain refrigeration systems in buildings such as hospitals, supermarkets, offices, schools, residential homes and food processing plants.

#### **Typical Duties:**

- Advise clients on different refrigeration/air-conditioning systems.
- Survey buildings where cooling systems are to be fitted.
- Discuss requirements with customers.
- produce quotes for work
- design and install systems
- Run quality checks to make sure systems are working properly and safely.
- Diagnose and fix faults.
- Carry out planned maintenance.

## **Work Environment**

From your central job location you will be dispatched and assigned to different locations. You will have to work in several types of buildings such as hospitals, shopping centres or supermarkets. Depending on the area you specialize in, you may also work on construction sites which are often noisy, dusty, dirty, hot or cold. At times, in order to access air-conditioning and refrigeration units you may have to work in some cramped and uncomfortable conditions and sometimes on ladders and scaffolding.

Your working hours will normally be 37 to 40 hours a week but in order to get jobs done you may have to work longer hours, evenings and weekends. You may also be on call for emergencies.

## **Qualifications and Licenses**

You will be required to have a good standard of education. Basic knowledge in Maths, Sciences, IT and English will be a great asset. You should also complete a related qualification such as a Certificate in Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, or certification through City and Guilds.

## **Essential Qualities and Skills**

- ❖ Awareness of health and safety
- ❖ Communication skills and the ability to follow instructions
- ❖ Good practical skills
- ❖ Ability to follow technical drawings, building plans and other instructions
- ❖ Careful and methodical approach to work
- ❖ Ability to make accurate measurements
- ❖ Head for heights and be prepared to work in all sorts of weather
- ❖ Willingness to work in confined spaces
- ❖ Presentable and pleasant manner
- ❖ Good written and verbal communication skills
- ❖ Good team working skills and the ability to work on your own initiative
- ❖ Willingness to adapt to change

- ❖ Good problem-solving skills.

### **References**

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/refrigerationandairconditioningengineer.aspx> Retrieved March 2016

<http://www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/engineering/maintenance-repair/refrigerationair-conditioning-technician/> Retrieved March 2016