(Revised) 2026-2028 Fee Consultation: What We Heard

Revision – Oct 21, 2025

The prior version of the "What We Heard" report included a typo in the third row underneath **Summary of Responses**. The feedback was miscategorized as "**New Fee for Licensing and Certification Services,"** however, this row only includes client feedback received for licensing services. We apologize for this error and hope it did not cause any confusion.

Introduction

From June 4 – July 4, 2025, Technical Safety BC engaged with our clients and industry partners on proposed fee changes for 2026-2028. The proposed changes included:

- A general fee increase of 4% in 2026, 5% in 2027, and 6% in 2028;
- Licensing and Certification fees:
    - A 10% fee increase for new and renewed licences in 2026, followed by a 5% and 6% increase;
    - A new late fee for licence or certification renewal after expiry;
    - New physical printing fees for paper communications and wallet cards for licence and certification;
    - A new fee for Quality Control Program for Class B and REF contractor licences in Boilers, Pressure Vessels and Refrigeration
- Structural changes to fee tiers within BPVR:
    - Fee tier simplifications for Boiler and Pressure Vessel operating permits, and Boiler Plant Registration;
    - A new Refrigeration operating permit for systems over 5kW;
- A new pre-certification support fee for Rail;
- A new pre-application support fee for Alternative Safety Approaches; and
- An updated professional service rate for Compliance and Enforcement work.

Outreach and Participation

Before the public consultation, we met with five industry partners to gather early feedback about their industry's financial outlook, the impact of US trade policies and tariffs on the construction industry, and sentiment around fees.

We notified over 60,000 clients and 44 industry associations across all technologies by email, and the consultation notice was also promoted through safety partner association networks. In total, 570 clients and industry partners submitted survey responses. This represents a 130% increase in participation over the approximately 248 responses we received in our last fee consultation for the 2024-2025 fee cycle.

Method	Participants
Survey	570
Email	9
Phone calls	1
Letters	2

Most survey respondents worked with the electrical (55%), boiler, pressure vessel & refrigeration (36%), and gas (30%) industries, in a contractor (37%) and certified individual (20%) role.

Technology	Participants
Electrical	55%
Boilers, Pressure Vessels & Refrigeration	36%
Gas	30%
Elevating Devices	16%
Passenger Ropeways	1%
Amusement Devices	1%
Railways	1%
Alternative Safety Approach (ASA)	1%
Other	3%

*Note: Participants may work with more than one technology

Participant Type	Participants
Contractor	37%
Certificate Holder	20%
Facilities Operator	10%
Licensee/Licence Holder	9%
Facility Owner	8%
Facility Administrator	3%
Homeowner	3%
Student or Apprentice	2%
Industry Association	1%
Training Provider	1%
Government/Regulatory Authority	1%
Other	3%

Summary of Responses

Survey participants rated the impact each proposed fee change would have on their business, from minimal to severe. The comments below summarize the feedback received through the survey, emails, and pre-consultation meetings.

To view all fee proposals, **please visit the Engage page**.

Proposed Fee	Level of Impact	Summary of Comments
General Fee Increase	9% minimal 25% low 45% moderate 15% severe 6% don't know	• Fees are increasing at a higher pace than inflation; wages are not increasing. • Fee increases target businesses who are complying. • High fees discourage consumers from wanting to get permits and hire licensed contractors; invite black market work. • Fee increases bring the value of fees into question, especially with declining inspections.
In comparison, we received **36%** moderate and **17%** severe in 2024-2025; **43%** neutral and **55%** negative in 2021-2023; **33%** somewhat/reasonable and **51%** somewhat/unreasonable in 2018-2020.		
New Fee for Licensing Services	2% minimal 12% low 29% moderate 52% severe 5% don't know	• Continually increasing fees will promote more regulated work being conducted without appropriate licensing. • Inequity of increasing fees for licensing, especially for new ticket holders trying to break into the industry.
New Fee for Paper Communication and Wallet Cards	19% minimal 24% low 31% moderate 18% severe 9% don't know	• Some expressed: Feelings of inequity for marginalized members who need paper and aren't electronic. • One client suggested: Eliminate wallet cards altogether and replace them with an "auto generated proof of certification" to reduce additional fees.
Compliance and Enforcement Fees	15% minimal 21% low 32% moderate 21% severe 11% don't know	Few specific comments received.
BPVR Boilers Operating Permit Fee (high	11% minimal 20% low 34% moderate 26% severe	• New permit requirements add undue burden on more affected clients, including school districts, non-profit societies, and small businesses.

pressure/low pressure boilers, thermal fluid boilers, hot water boilers)	10% don't know	• Fee increase is justified with increased regulation and services; there is an understanding that limitations on budgets and resources encourage more proactive regulatory system for boilers and heat pumps as they are a growing issue in multi-family developments.
Pressure Vessel Operating Permit Fee	12% minimal 17% low 35% moderate 23% severe 13% don't know	Few specific comments received.
Plant Registration Fee	13% minimal 15% low 29% moderate 21% severe 22% don't know	Few specific comments received.
BPVR Class B and Refrigeration: Quality Control Program	7% minimal 12% low 30% moderate 22% severe 28% don't know	Few specific comments received.
BPVR Refrigeration OP for 5kW or greater	9% minimal 10% low 28% moderate 25% severe 27% don't know	• Some expressed: Uncertainty around how requiring an OP for an approved...5kW rooftop refrigeration system will improve safety. • CFIB members expressed: Concern around redundant cost with no added safety oversight.
ASA Pre-application Fee (n=5)	20% minimal 40% low 20% moderate 20% severe	Few specific comments received.
Rail Pre-certification Fee (n=5)	60% low 20% severe 20% don't know	Few specific comments received.

Survey participants rated the impact of economic uncertainties such as tariffs, in relation to their sentiment about the proposed fee changes, and their preferences for certainty.

Sentiment	Level of Impact & Sentiment	Summary of Comments
New tariffs and current market	11% minimal 14% low 43% moderate	• Mixed sentiment regarding tariffs: One side is frustrated when already trying to keep costs down due to tariffs; the other

uncertainty impacts	26% severe 5% don't know	side does not see how US tariffs impact BC. "It's hard enough to pay payroll with the massive loss in revenue due to the economic uncertainty of tariff wars and the decline in new construction." "How do the tariffs affect TSBC operations?"
Fairness to pay higher fees for more certainty	60% unfair 20% fair	• Wide-spread sentiment from industry partners that certainty is priority during unpredictable times. "I'd rather just a flat increase 5% yearly vs random 5% this year 6 next 7 maybe after"

Survey participants were asked to share their opinions on licensing service fees and rank the most valuable improvements for licence holders.

Licensing Questions	Licensing Service Fees Sentiment	Summary of Comments
Late Renewal Fee to Encourage Timely Renewals	• 22% yes, I think this would be effective in encouraging timely renewals • 15% yes, but I think this amount is too punitive • 3% no, I think this is not strong enough (you should charge more than 5% of renewal fee) • 26% no, I think late fees are not an effective way to encourage timely renewals • 21% no, I think this would discourage people from renewing at all • 9% don't know • 5% other	Small workers [sic] struggle to make ends meet and think that there should be grace time on late fees.
Most Valuable Improvements for Licence Holders (Ranked) (n=38)	1. Improve licensee onboarding education 2. Ability to automatically renew my licence 3. Display non-compliance information on Find a Licensed Contractor 4. Identify and display information on unlicensed contractors 5. More timely & relevant notifications to remind me of obligations related to my licence(s)	

Survey participants rated the impact of proposed Compliance and Enforcement fees from minimal to severe.

Compliance and Enforcement Questions	C&E Fees Awareness and Support	Summary of Comments
Awareness of additional fees associated with licence being audited (n=42)	74% no 12% yes	Few specific comments received.
Support for building a base cost of audit fees into annual licensing fee (n=42)	74% no 10% yes	Few specific comments received.

Next Steps

In our final recommendation to our Board of Directors on the proposed fees for 2026-2028, we will consider all feedback that was received through this consultation and the pre-consultation with our key safety partners.

If the Board of Directors approves, the new fees for 2026-2028 will be announced by early October 2025 and most fees will go into effect January 1, 2026.