

TRADE UNION'S NAME

INTRODUCTION

The Board's policy is to use only the trade union's legal name and local number (when applicable) on certificates. See: [[Investigations and Reports, Chapter 21\(d\)](#)]. While trade unions may use various acronyms or abbreviations in their name (e.g., CUPE, IBEW, AUPE), each trade union has only one true legal name.

This policy explains how the Board determines the legal name of a trade union. It sets out what documents the Board looks to when making these determinations.

For information on the definition of a trade union, union structure, obtaining or losing trade union status, bargaining agent status and when trade union status is important, see: [[Trade Union Status, Chapter 33\(a\)](#)].

Before accepting an application, the Board officer checks the database to be sure that the union has applied using its correct legal name. This is done when the union's representative is still present so the union representative can change and correct any minor style or typographical errors. See: [[Receiving the Application, Chapter 21\(b\)](#)]. The Board officer need not make any determinations regarding the union's name in the report unless there is clearly a change in the trade union's name from that on the Board's database. See: [[Investigations and Reports, Chapter 21\(d\)](#)].

As part of the Board's ongoing review of current bargaining relationships, a Board staff member contacts certain trade unions each month. In conjunction with this correspondence, trade unions are advised of their legal name according to the Board's records. The trade unions are advised that the Board will continue to use this name until notified of any changes. See: [[Trade Union Filing Requirements, Chapter 33\(b\)](#)].

For administrative purposes, the Board classifies trade unions as:

- local unions;
- parent unions; and
- unions without locals.

LOCAL UNIONS

Local unions file a copy of their charter and other documents with the Board. This is a requirement under Section 24 of the Code if they wish to become certified. See: [[Trade Union Filing Requirements, Chapter 33\(b\)](#)]. The charter is a legal document. It contains the legal name and local number of the trade union. All Board documents should reflect exactly what is on this charter (e.g., Local, Local #, Local No., Local Number).

Board staff file charters received by the Board in the orange CL files. Information provided by trade unions is entered into the Board's database. For example, the "United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada, Local Union No. 488" is the legal name of a local union commonly referred to as UA 488.

PARENT UNIONS

Although there is no requirement under the Code to do so, the Board asks parent unions to file copies of their constitution and bylaws with the Board. This is important because a local's constitution normally depends upon the parent union's constitution. The Board takes the legal name of the parent trade union from its constitution.

Board staff file the constitutions and bylaws of the parent organization in the yellow CT files. For example, the "United Food & Commercial Workers International Union, CLC & AFL-CIO" is the legal name of a parent union.

UNIONS WITHOUT LOCALS

Often a group of employees join together to bargain collectively with their employer. This group may be as small as two employees or as large as thousands of employees. For example, the "Amalgamated Beverages Employees Association" is the legal name of a union without locals.

If the group wishes to be recognized as a trade union, it must prepare a constitution and bylaws. These documents, and a list of officers, must be filed with the Board if they wish to become certified. The Board then recognizes these groups in the same way as local unions. The Board considers the group's name on the constitution and bylaws to be the legal name of the organization. All Board documents reflect exactly what is on these documents.

Board staff file these documents in the orange CL files. The Board's database requires that all CL-numbers be linked to a CT number. The Board creates a CT number for these organizations. The yellow CT file is prepared, but there are no documents filed on it.