

Certification Requirements

Minimum Expectations of a Quality Engineer

- Will have a fundamental understanding of quality philosophies, principles, systems, methods, tools, standards, organizational and team dynamics, customer expectations and satisfaction, supplier relations and performance, leadership, training, interpersonal relationships, improvement systems and professional ethics.
- Will have a fundamental understanding of a quality system and its development, documentation and implementation to domestic and international standards or requirements.
- Will have a basic understanding of the audit process including types of audits, planning, preparation, execution, reporting results and follow-up.
- Will be able to develop and implement quality programs, including tracking, analyzing, reporting and problem solving.
- Will be able to plan, control and assure product and process quality in accordance with quality principles, which include planning processes, material control, acceptance sampling and measurement systems.
- Will have basic knowledge of reliability, maintainability, and risk management, including key terms and definitions, modeling, systems design, assessment tools and reporting.
- Will have a thorough understanding of problem-solving and quality improvement tools and techniques. This includes knowledge of management and planning tools, quality tools, preventive and corrective actions, and how to overcome barriers to quality improvements.
- Will be able to acquire and analyze data using appropriate standard quantitative methods across a spectrum of business environments to facilitate process analysis and improvements.

Education and/or Experience

You must have eight years of on-the-job experience in one or more of the areas of the Certified Quality Engineer Body of Knowledge.

A minimum of three years of this experience must be in a decision-making position. “Decision-making” is defined as the authority to define, execute, or control projects/processes and to be responsible for the outcome. This may or may not include management or supervisory positions.

If you were ever certified by ASQ as a Quality Auditor, Reliability Engineer, Software Quality Engineer or Quality Manager, experience used to qualify for certification in these fields applies to certification as a Quality Engineer.

If you have completed a degree* from a college, university or technical school with accreditation accepted by ASQ, part of the eight-year experience requirement will be waived, as follows (only one of these waivers may be claimed):

- Diploma from a technical or trade school—one year will be waived.
- Associate degree—two years waived.
- Bachelor’s degree—four years waived.
- Master’s or doctorate—five years waived.

**Degrees/diplomas from educational institutions outside the United States must be equivalent to degrees from U.S. educational institutions.*

Examination

Each certification candidate is required to pass a written examination that consists of multiple-choice questions that measure comprehension of the Body of Knowledge. The Quality Engineer examination is a one-part, 160-question, five-hour exam. It is offered in English.

Examinations are conducted twice a year, in June and December, by local ASQ sections and international organizations. All examinations are open-book. Each participant must bring his or her own reference materials. Use of reference materials and calculators is explained in the seating letter provided to applicants.