

Certification Requirements

Here are the requirements and exam specifics for a Quality Inspector.

Minimum Expectations of a Certified Quality Inspector

- Must know basic quality terms, definitions and concepts.
- Must know basic statistical terms and techniques, how to plot data and how to recognize out-of-control conditions.
- Must know the definition of PDCA and understand the team concept.
- Must understand types of measurement, measurement terminology and the different types of measurement scales.
- Must know the difference between accuracy and precision and be able to select the appropriate measuring tools and techniques.
- Must know how to measure using surface plate layouts.
- Must be able to identify/recognize inspection errors and initiate resolution.
- Must have basic calibration knowledge.
- Must be able to read and interpret blueprints and know definitions of critical, major and minor characteristics.
- Must have a general knowledge of ASME Y14.5M, working knowledge of GD&T, and must understand the x, y, z coordinate system.
- Must be able to use inspection planning tools and perform a product audit; determine sample size for lots; pull random samples.
- Must have knowledge of testing methods.
- Must be able to identify and report nonconforming material.
- Must understand traceability (product, material and calibration).
- Must have a strong knowledge of basic mathematical operations and perform measurement conversions; be able to solve for x; add and subtract degrees, minutes, and seconds.

Education and/or Experience

To apply for certification as a Quality Inspector, you must have:

- Two years of on-the-job experience in mechanical inspection or a related field.
- A high-school diploma or GED, or an additional three years of related on-the-job experience.

Degrees or 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 last administration of the current Quality Inspector Body of Knowledge will be March 2, 2012. The first administration of the new Quality Inspector Body of Knowledge will be with the March 3, 2012 administration. The Quality Inspector examination is a one-part, 100-question, four-hour exam and is offered in English.

Examinations are conducted twice a year, in March and October, 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.

Please Note: The Body of Knowledge for certification is constantly affected by new technologies, policies and the changing dynamics of manufacturing and service industries. Changed versions of the examination based on the current Body of Knowledge are used at each offering.