

*Free Guide*

# CQIA: Certified Quality Improvement Associate (CQIA)



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for frontline workers

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# **What is a Certified Quality Improvement Associate (CQIA)**

A CQIA is a professional who holds a basic knowledge of quality tools and quality improvement projects. However, the certified individual may not come from a “traditional quality area.” The certification is issued by the American Society for Quality (ASQ).

CQIAs are able to understand and define the basics of quality, including:

- Terms, concepts, and principles, such as quality plans and quality systems
- Various types of quality teams, such as process teams and continuous improvement teams
- Concepts and teachings of quality thought leaders
- Roles and responsibilities of various quality team members
- Quality improvement tools and techniques

For the full list, read the CQIA Body of Knowledge, which is linked below.

## **Who needs a Certified Quality Improvement Associate certification?**

A CQIA certification is not mandatory, but is beneficial for employees who are new to quality-focused roles, as well as analyst, associate, or consultant roles on quality teams. Common industries for CQIA-certified individuals include:

- Energy
- Healthcare
- IT
- Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
- Transportation

## **How to become a Certified Quality Improvement Associate**

Candidates for CQIA certifications need two years of full-time, paid work experience. Alternatively, they must possess an associate degree or two years of equivalent higher education.

Should they possess the required experience, candidates can then apply and register with the ASQ for the CQIA exam. The exam costs USD \$422. Retakes cost \$222.

When taken digitally, the CQIA exam consists of 110 questions. Candidates are given three hours and 18 minutes to complete it. The pencil and paper version of the exam is a 100-question, three-hour exam.

## **Renewal requirements for CQIA certification**

The CQIA is a lifetime certification, meaning no renewal or recertification is required.

## The benefits of CQIA certification

CQIA-certified employees offers several benefits to organizations. Some key advantages include the following.



### Enhanced quality management

Employees with CQIA certifications are knowledgeable in quality improvement methodologies, and can help foster a culture of continuous improvement within their organizations, resulting in higher product and service quality.



### Cost reduction

By assisting in implementing efficient quality management practices, CQIA-certified employees can help streamline processes, reduce waste, and minimize errors, leading to cost savings.



## **Effective problem-solving**

CQIA-certified employees can identify root causes of quality issues and assist in implementing corrective and preventive actions. This can lead to fewer disruptions, faster resolution of problems, and increased operational efficiency.

## **Challenges in CQIA certification**

CQIA certifications may pose several challenges to individuals and organizations. They include the following.



### **Developing comprehensive understanding**

Mastering the diverse concepts and methodologies covered in the CQIA certification can be challenging, especially as most candidates are new to quality-focused roles.



## Applying theoretical knowledge

Applying theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios demands critical thinking and practical skills, presenting a challenge for certified candidates as they navigate complex quality improvement challenges.



## Time and resource commitment

Preparing for the CQIA certification exam can be a time-consuming and resource-intensive process. It often requires individuals to dedicate significant time to study and practice, attend training courses, and invest in study materials and resources. Balancing these commitments with work and other responsibilities can be a challenge.

# Tips and strategies for preparing for a CQIA certification

Here are a few tips for preparing for CQIA certification:

- Download and familiarize yourself with the [CQIA Body of Knowledge](#)
- Read the [CQIA Fact Sheet](#)
- Purchase and study the [CQIA Handbook](#)
- Take a [CQIA exam preparation course](#)

# Resources for Certified Quality Improvement Associate certification

For more information and guidance on CQIA certification, refer to the following sources.

**American Society for Quality.** The [ASQ is the official certification body for CQIA certification](#). Its website offers a wealth of resources, including exam information and preparation courses, the CQIA Body of Knowledge, and the CQIA Fact Sheet, all of which will be valuable for those seeking certification.

**Industry skills matrices.** AG5 offers [free, industry-specific skills matrices](#) dedicated to manufacturing, healthcare, engineering, and many other areas. You can use them to identify, track, and manage skills related to CQIA certifications in your organization.

## Skills management for Certified Quality Improvement Associates

AG5 stores all certifications in the cloud, providing all authorized personnel with access to the right version of approved certifications. This helps you easily keep track of all data and documentation related to CQIA certification across your organization.

Using AG5's skills management software, you can monitor the status of any type of certification that is relevant to your workforce, leveraging intuitive dashboards that provide you with a clear understanding of exactly what is needed to keep your employees skilled and safe.

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## **FAQs about CQIA certification**

### **What is the scope of a CQIA certification?**

A CQIA certification signifies basic knowledge of quality-related terms, principles, theories, and concepts.

### **Is CQIA certification mandatory?**

CQIA certification is not mandatory.

## **How long does it take to obtain CQIA certification?**

Preparation times will vary, depending on the candidate. However, all candidates are given three hours to complete the exam.

## **What are the cost considerations for CQIA certification?**

The cost considerations for CQIA certification include exam fees (USD \$422) study materials, training courses, and potential retake fees (USD \$222).

## **What is the validity period of CQIA certification?**

CQIA is a lifetime certification.

## **Can CQIA certifications be integrated with any management systems?**

Yes, CQIA principles and methodologies can be integrated with management systems such as [ISO 9001 \(Quality Management\)](#) or [ISO 14001 \(Environmental Management\)](#), to enhance overall organizational performance and efficiency.

## **How can you learn more about CQIA certification?**

Visit the [American Society of Quality's website](#).

## **Sources**

- [American Society for Quality](#)
- [CQIA Body of Knowledge](#)
- [CQIA Fact Sheet](#)

(Sources reviewed 1.3.2024)

## Author



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## Revisions

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