

Free Guide

CQT: Certified Quality Technician



Skills management software
for frontline workers

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What is a Certified Quality Technician?

A CQT supports or works under [Certified Quality Engineers](#). The certification is issued by the American Society for Quality (ASQ). Those who take on the role will often focus on the following jobs and activities, as outlined by the ASQ:

- Analyzing and solving quality problems
- Preparing inspection plans and instructions
- Selecting sampling plan applications
- Preparing procedures
- Training inspectors
- Performing audits
- Analyzing quality costs and other quality data
- Applying fundamental statistical methods for process control

Who needs a CQT certification?

CQT certifications are beneficial for organizations in industries such as manufacturing, fabricated metal production, electrical, and automotive, as well as those involved with medical services, transportation, and industrial machinery.

The certification is not typically mandatory by law or regulation for most professions or industries. However, some employers may require or prefer employees to hold CQT certifications, and employees will often find the certification beneficial when job-seeking.

How to become a Certified Quality Technician

Candidates for CQT certification will need four years of higher education or work experience (college, an associate's degree, or technical school), or direct work experience in an area of [the CQT's "Body of Knowledge"](#), which include quality concepts, inspection and testing, and risk management.

Should they possess the required experience, candidates can then apply and register with the ASQ for the CQT exam. The CQT exam consists of 110 multiple choice questions (100 questions for the pen and paper exam). Candidates have up to four hours and 18 minutes to complete the exam (four hours for the pen and paper exam). Exam costs are USD \$447. Retakes cost USD \$247.

Renewal requirements for Certified Quality Technicians

A CQT is a lifetime certification, meaning no renewal or recertification is required.

The benefits of CQT certification

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



Enhanced process efficiency

CQT-certified employees possess advanced skills in quality control, which enable them to better identify inefficiencies and implement process improvements. In turn, this can minimize waste, reduce production costs, and improve overall operational efficiency in industrial settings.



Improved regulatory compliance

With in-depth knowledge of industry standards and regulations, CQT-certified professionals help their organizations adhere to regulatory compliance requirements. This reduces the risk of non-conformance issues, costly penalties, and potential legal problems.



Optimized product quality

CQT-certified employees have the expertise to conduct rigorous quality inspections and root cause analyses. This leads to consistent production of high-quality products, minimizing defects and rework, and boosting customer satisfaction and organizational reputation.

Challenges in CQT certification

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



Comprehensive knowledge requirements

Earning a CQT certification requires a deep understanding of quality control principles, tools, and techniques. Candidates must master complex statistical methods, process control systems, and industry standards.



Time and resource commitment

Preparing for the CQT exam requires significant time and effort, often requiring candidates to balance study sessions with full-time job responsibilities. Additionally, the cost of study materials, training courses, and exam fees can be high.



Rigorous exam process

The CQT certification exam is challenging, with a high level of technical detail and practical problem-solving required. Candidates must prove expertise in broad range of topics, including real-world application scenarios.

Tips and strategies for preparing for a CQT certification

Here are a few tips for preparing for CQT certification:

- Familiarize yourself with the [Certified Quality Technician Fact Sheet](#)
- Understand the [Certified Quality Technician Body of Knowledge](#)
- Prepare for the exam with the [CQT Question Bank](#)

Resources for CQT certification

For more information and guidance on CQT certification, refer to the following source.

American Society for Quality. The [ASQ is the official certification body for CQT certification](#). Its website offers a wealth of resources, including exam information, the [CQT Body of Knowledge](#) and the [CQT Fact Sheet](#).

Certified Quality Engineer certification guide. AG5's guide for [Certified Quality Engineer certification](#) may also prove a valuable resource, as they often work closely with Certified Quality Technicians in their roles.

Engineering skills matrices. AG5 offers several [free skills matrices](#) dedicated to the engineering. You can use it to identify, track, and manage skills related to CQT certifications in your organization.

Skills management for Certified Quality Technicians

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 CQT certifications 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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Frequently asked questions about CQT certification

What is the scope of a CQT certification?

A CQT certification focuses on analyzing and solving quality problems in an industrial setting.

Is a CQT certification mandatory?

CQT certification is not mandatory, but may be required by certain organizations or for certain roles.

How long does it take to obtain CQT certification?

Preparation times will vary, depending on the candidate. However, all candidates are given four hours and 18 minutes to complete the exam (four hours for the pen and paper exam).

What are the cost considerations for CQT certification?

The cost considerations for Certified Quality Technician certification include exam fees (USD \$447) study materials, training courses, potential retake fees (USD \$247), and expenses related to maintaining certification through recertification requirements.

What is the validity period of a CQT certification?

CQT certifications are lifetime certifications.

Can CQT certifications be integrated with other management systems?

Yes, CQT principles and methodologies can be integrated with management systems such as [ISO 9001 \(Quality Management\)](#) or [ISO 14001 \(Environmental Management\)](#).

How can you learn more about CQT certification?

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

Sources

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

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