

## **FACTS AND FIGURES OF ASQ CERTIFICATION**

ASQ certification is a formal recognition by peers and it demonstrates that the certified individual has the knowledge to ensure quality of products and services. Many companies have formally recognised ASQ certification as a mark of excellence and a means of verification of an individual's possession of knowledge in Quality and Quality Assurance topics.

The following would give a quick overview of different certification categories, what each category means.

To get more details, please use the body of knowledge booklets or visit ASQ Milwaukee Web sites.

### ***Quality Engineer certification:***

Designed for those who understand the principles of product and service quality evaluation and control. Demonstrates ability to develop Quality Control Systems, apply statistical methods to diagnose and correct improper quality control practices.

### ***Quality Technician Certification:***

Designed for those who can analyse quality problems, prepare inspection plans and instruction, select sampling plan applications, and apply fundamental statistical methods for process control. Certified Quality Technician is a para-professional who, in support of and under the direction of quality engineers, or supervisors, uses, in a responsible manner, proven techniques that make up the body of knowledge recognised by those who are experts in quality technology.

### ***Mechanical Inspector Certification:***

Designed for those, who under professional direction (of quality engineers, supervisors, or technicians), can inspect products, perform laboratory procedures, can evaluate hardware documentation, measure process performance, record data and prepare formal reports.

### ***Reliability Engineer Certification:***

Designed for those who understand the principles of performance evaluation and prediction to improve product/systems safety, reliability and maintainability. Demonstrates ability to do failure mode effects and criticality analysis, reliability testing and modelling, and reliability program management over the product life cycle.

### ***Quality Auditor Certification:***

Designed for those who understand the standards and principles of auditing and auditing techniques of examining, questioning, evaluating, and reporting to determine quality systems adequacy. The Certified Quality Auditor analyses all elements of a quality system and judges its degree of adherence to the criteria of industrial management and quality evaluation and control systems.

Two additional Auditor Certifications after CQA are:

#### ***Quality Auditor – HACCP Certification***

Designed for individuals who are CQAs and work with Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Standards. A certification of interest to many in Food and Drug Industry, NASA etc

#### ***Quality Auditor – Biomedical Certification***

Designed for those qualified auditors (CQAs) who are in the business of auditing to meet the requirements of biomedical industry standards.

### ***Quality Manager Certification***

Designed for those who understand quality standards and concepts, can implement organisational assessments, and maintain customer satisfaction and focus. A certified Quality manager should be able to manage projects, supporting strategic objectives and motivate human resources in the support of organisational goals to achieve quality excellence.

### ***Software Quality Engineer certification***

Designed for those professionals who have a comprehensive understanding of software development and implementation; have a thorough understanding of software inspection, testing, verification and validation; and can implement software development and maintenance process and methods.

### ***Six Sigma Black Belt Certification***

Designed for those who are involved high leverage improvements in organizations reducing variations beyond levels not attainable by other means. Requires a comprehensive understanding of Six Sigma and its methodologies.

### ***CQIA Certification***

Designed for individuals who are involved in Quality improvement projects. This certification program is in response to rapid spread of Quality principles, and their application throughout organizations.

### ***CCT Certification***

Designed for those who test, calibrate, and repair electrical, mechanical, and electronic measuring, recording, and indicating instruments and equipment for conforming to established standards

### **Certification requirements:**

To get certified in any of the above five categories, following requirements have to be met.

- (a) education
- (b) experience in the specified field.
- (c) Successful completion of examination by ASQ

Details of each of these requirements for a particular category of certification and the body of knowledge required for certifying examinations are given the respective information booklet. (Call toll free number of ASQ 1-800-248-1946 for a free copy of the Body of Knowledge Booklet)

### **The Certification Process:**

Application:

The certification is initiated by an application for the applicable category of certification depending on the interest and background of the individual. Application is to be made in prescribed application forms. Application forms with booklets can be obtained from ASQ P.O. BOX 30055, Milwaukee, WI 53201 (Toll free number to call 1-800-248-1946).

### ***Member/Non-member:***

Any quality professional irrespective of whether the person is a member of ASQ can apply for the certification desired. A member gets the additional advantage of being able to participate in the different programs, seminars and workshops arranged by the ASQ sections and thus get familiarized with the developments in the field of quality.

It is better to become an ASQ member before registering for the certification examination. ***The registration for a non-member is more than the total of membership fee and registration fee for a member.***

***Examination Certification examinations are held twice a year for each category of certification:***

**CQE, CQA, CSQE, SSBB, and CQIA:** June and December

**CRE, CQT, CMI, CQM, CQA-HACCP, CQA-Biomed:** March and October

The exact date is mentioned in the application form. Details like venue and time will be informed to each candidate in advance by ASQ Milwaukee.

**Preparation** for the examination depends on the knowledge and experience of each candidate. The best approach recommended for preparation is as follows:

(a) review the body of knowledge required for the certification as given in the booklet for the specific certification.

(b) review ones own strength and weakness in the topics

(c) look at the different courses offered by different colleges and institutes nearby. (To mention a few; Centennial college, Humber college, Durham college, Ryerson Polytechnical University, Seneca College, Sheridan college etc. Contact your education chair for more details.)

(d) Once you feel you are ready to write the exam it would be good idea to attend any of the refresher courses offered by quality professionals of your section on each category of certification.

***Proof of Certification:***

In 6-8 weeks from the date of examination, the successful candidates receive a letter and the certificate from ASQ Milwaukee.

**CERTIFICATION STATISTICS:** (As of June 2003, from Milwaukee).

Category	Year Started	Active # of certifications as of now.		
		Global total	Canada	Toronto
CQE	1968	25,673	747	341
CQT	1970	19,096	535	155
CMI	1984	11,285	71	20
CRE	1985	2,890	58	15
CQA	1996	22,361	505	151
CQA-Bio-Med	2002	78	0	0
CQA- HACCP	2001	174	12	1
CQM	1995	7,762	261	69
CSQE	1996	2,454	67	12
SSBB	2001	1,232	42	12
CQIA	2001	2,081	59	13
CCT	2003	Just started in June 2003		

**BENCHMARKING WITH OTHER SECTIONS OF GOOD STANDING** (Figures are approximate)

<b>Section</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>% Certified (Active now)</b>	<b>Multiple certifications</b>
Milwaukee	1850	33%	180 (9% of membership)
Detroit	2797	37%	388 (14% “ “)
Toronto	2168	<b>28%</b>	138 (7% “ “)
Chicago	2323	27%	230 (10% “ “)
Santa Clara Valley	1680	24%	135 (8% “ “)

**Note:** The enhanced effect of multiple certifications of the same individual is much higher than many individuals with individual single certifications of different categories. It is like one and one is not 2 but 11.

***"ASQ TORONTO SECTION - QUALITY PROFESSIONALS OF CERTIFIED CLASS"***