

# NORTHEAST GAS ASSOCIATION PLASTIC PIPE JOINING QUALIFICATION PROGRAM

**Background:** Department of Transportation (DOT) regulation 192.285, requires pipeline operators to qualify company and contractor personnel involved in the joining of polyethylene (PE) pipe. Personnel must be qualified annually in handling, preparing, and joining PE pipe through mechanical, heat fusion and/or electrofusion processes.

**Qualification Program:** The Northeast Gas Association's (NGA) Qualification Program was developed through a joint effort of personnel from Local Distribution Companies (LDC's), contractors and manufacturers with input from State Pipeline Safety Officials. The Program establishes a regional approach for meeting the requirements of DOT's plastic pipe regulations. The Program was introduced to the industry in 1997 and gained national recognition for innovation and effectiveness. For additional information visit NGA's website ([www.northeastgas.org](http://www.northeastgas.org)).

## **Value**

As LDC's strive to reduce operating costs, NGA's Plastic Pipe Joining Program enables you to comply with regulatory requirements in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Savings are obtained from a reduction in staff time needed to qualify company and contractor personnel.

Qualifications are delivered via NGA's Business Partner ASTAR using experienced evaluators.

For contractors, qualify once and perform work for any utility that accepts NGA's pipe joining qualifications. In addition, qualifications are performed at your company location eliminating travel time and ultimately reducing cost.

## **Program Features**

The Plastic Pipe Joining Qualification Program includes the following features:

- Qualifications based on nationally accepted procedures.
- Students are qualified on plastic pipe joining mechanical and heat fusion methods.
- Student to evaluator ratio of 1:1 for hands on qualifications.
- Qualification records are available online immediately.



## **Evaluators**

On average, evaluators bring to this program over 25 years of field experience in the natural gas industry. They are qualified to instruct and evaluate all forms of plastic pipe joining. Evaluators are qualified on all joining procedures and are trained annually by manufacturers of plastic pipe joining equipment and mechanical fittings.

## **Materials, Equipment and Personnel**

It is the responsibility of the company requesting the qualification class to provide:

- Appropriate fusion equipment and tools in good working condition.
- 2-inch coiled pipe for manual butt fusions and 4-inch straight pipe for hydraulic butt fusions.
- Couplings, tees and mechanical fittings as needed.
- Band saw with wood blade capable of cutting 6" pipe.
- A company representative must always be available to operate the band saw and assist the NGA/ASTAR evaluator.

Not conforming with these requirements will result in the cancellation of the class and a fee for the full cost of the class.



## **Location**

Conducted at a utility or contractor's facility provided minimum standards are met:

- Comfortable work area.
- Room must allow evaluator a full view of the qualification stations.
- Please contact your evaluator for any special requirements.

## **Class Hours**

Classes are 8 hours per day which includes all paperwork, data entry, and destructive testing.

## **Extended Class Hours**

Class hours may be extended up to a maximum of 3 hours per day for an additional charge and is based upon Evaluator availability.

## **Cancellations**

Cancellations within 3 business days of the scheduled class will be charged full cost of the class.

## **PJ Qualification Per Day Fees**

- LDC Member: \$1,400 per class.
- Contractor Member: \$1,645 per class.
- Non-Member: \$3,290 per class.
- Extended sessions are charged at 50% of the standard per day class fee.

## **Weekend Evaluations**

- Additional \$159 per class.

## **Questions?**

Email your questions to:  
[oq@northeastgas.org](mailto:oq@northeastgas.org)

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