

NORTHEAST GAS ASSOCIATION OPERATOR QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Background: The Department of Transportation's Operator Qualifications (OQ) regulation 49 CFR 192 subpart N, requires operators to develop and maintain a qualification program for individuals performing covered tasks. The intent of the OQ rule is to minimize human error by establishing a verifiable and qualified workforce.

Covered Task: Northeast Gas Association's (NGA) OQ Written Plan includes 226 cover tasks. Each covered task requires a knowledge and/or skill evaluation. For a complete list of tasks and an evaluation method visit NGA's website (www.northeastgas.org).

Classroom and Field Training

NGA conducts classroom and hands-on training via our business partner ASTAR at a member site or ASTAR training center using GTI's Natural Gas Field Skills Training Program curriculum.

Instructor-led Training Fees

NGA Members:

- Member site per day Instructor Fee \$2,176. GTI student training modules provided by member.
- ASTAR Training Center per day Instructor Fee \$1,850 plus per student fees for consumables. GTI student training modules provided by ASTAR.

Non-Members:

- Onsite per day Instructor Fee \$3,449.
- GTI student training modules are custom quoted.

Class Size and Duration

Maximum class size is 15 students per day. Class time per day is a maximum of eight hours.

GTI Field Skills Training Program

All NGA OQ Participants are included in NGA's license for the GTI Field Skills Training Program. This instructor-led training program covers the fundamental knowledge and core skills for all distribution tasks. OQ participants are accessed an annual license fee plus a 15% program admin fee:

- \$15 Per Person (< 500 people).
- \$12.50 PP (> 500 people).
- Company cap \$12,500/year.

Online (Refresher) Training

NGA offers "refresher training" via online training modules through our business partner ITS. The modules were developed to supplement the classroom and field training courses and are designed for experienced personnel in need of refresher training prior to requalifying.

Operator Qualification Knowledge Testing and Skills Evaluation

Knowledge Testing

Scheduling, pricing, logistics and all other required information for online knowledge testing via our business partner Prometric is detailed under separate cover.

Please contact NGA at the email address in the lower righthand corner of this document with all questions regarding knowledge testing via Prometric.

Skills Evaluations

An NGA authorized evaluator via our business partner ASTAR, is required to evaluate contractors for all skill evaluations.

Class Size

Skills evaluations are performed 1 on 1 with no class size limit.

Location

Conducted at a utility, contractor, or other designated facility.
- Please contact your evaluator for any special requirements.

Class Hours

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

Cancellations

Cancellations made within 3 business days of the scheduled session will be charged the minimum class fee.

Scheduling

Contact NGA at:
oq@northeastgas.org

Operator Qualification Knowledge and Skill Evaluation Fees

Skill Evaluations Per Day Fees

- Member: \$1,400 per class.
- Assoc. Member \$1,645 per class.
- Non-Member \$3,290 per class.

Weekend Evaluations

- Additional \$159 per class.

Annual Database Fee

Database fee includes unlimited online training courses and access to proctored evaluations. LDC:

- * \$35 per person/year with greater than 1,000 OQ qualified employees.
- * \$40 per person/year with 500 to 1,000 OQ qualified employees.
- * \$46 per person/year with less than 500 OQ qualified employees.
- Contractor: \$53 per person/year
- Non-Member: \$134 per person /year.

Which Covered Tasks Do I Need?

NGA's utility members have identified the minimum covered tasks needed by job type. The required covered tasks are determined by your utility company.

Questions ?

Email your questions to:
oq@northeastgas.org

