

2010 Plastic Pipe Joining Qualification Program



MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

It is the responsibility of the company being qualified to provide the following.

(Special requests or arrangements must be made and confirmed prior to class):

- Appropriate fusion equipment in good working order
- Adequate sections of 2 inch PE pipe 8" and 20" long (coiled pipe, if qualifying on coiled pipe butt fusion)
- Appropriate style and quality of tees, couplings and other fittings
- Classroom style seating with tables and chairs for instructor and participants
- Hands-on qualification space
- **Instructors' assistant**
- Band Saw *(additional charge will be added if not available)*

Not conforming with these requirements will result in the cancellation of the class and a charge equal to the minimum class fee.

FACULTY

Each instructor brings to this program over twenty-five years of field experience in the natural gas utility industry. They are qualified to instruct and evaluate all forms of plastic pipe joining. Instructors are trained and qualified annually by manufacturers of plastic pipe, plastic pipe joining equipment, and mechanical fittings.



NGA Contact:

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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.

The NGA Pipe Joining Qualification Program was developed through a joint effort of personnel from Local Distribution Companies (LDCs), contractors, manufacturers and input from State Pipeline Safety officials. The Program establishes a regional approach for meeting the requirements of DOT's plastic pipe regulations. It was introduced to the industry in the winter of 1997 and gained national recognition for innovation and effectiveness.

VALUE

As LDC's strive to reduce operating costs, this Program enables them to satisfy regulatory requirements in a more efficient and cost effective manner. Savings are obtained from a reduction in staff time required to qualify company and contractor personnel. Administration costs and elimination of multiple contractor qualifications add to these savings.

Qualification through the NGA Program reduces a company's liability in the event of an accident resulting from a plastic pipe joint. Qualifications are performed by a third party reducing the possibility of any bias.

For contractors, there is no longer a need to qualify multiple times. A contractor qualified through this Program can perform work at any LDC that accepts NGA pipe joining qualifications. In addition, qualifications are performed at company sites eliminating travel time, and ultimately reducing cost.

PROGRAM FEATURES

The Plastic Pipe Joining Qualification Program includes the following features:

- Qualification based on nationally accepted procedures
- A classroom environment designed to encourage dialogue and interaction between students and the instructor
- Students are qualified on all methods of pipe joining including mechanical and heat fusion
- A written test is administered covering knowledge of plastic pipe joining procedures
- Student to instructor ratio of 1:1 for hands-on component
- A qualification card is issued to each participant
- NGA enters record of all qualified personnel into "Qualifier" database
- Access to qualifications online (database users only)
- Qualification sessions are completed within a 6-hour period

Classes are limited to 15 students

Individuals planning to butt fuse on coiled pipe must qualify on coiled pipe. Qualifying on coiled pipe will allow you to fuse on both coiled and straight pipe.

DATES & SCHEDULING

The qualification period normally falls between the months of December and April of each year. In order to satisfy the region's needs in this limited time period, multiple sessions of 15 participants are conducted simultaneously. To schedule a class, contact Cutina Wright at NGA; Telephone: 781-455-6800 x118 or email cwright@northeastgas.org.

LOCATION

Qualification classes are held at your company's facilities provided that they meet the following minimum requirements.

- Comfortable classroom and work area
- Room must allow instructor to have a full view of the qualification station
- VCR or DVD Player
- Band Saw (if not available, an additional charge will be applied)

Alternative arrangements can be made if facilities are not available or qualifying personnel is less than 10.

COST

Cost is based on a minimum of 10 students per class. Classes with less than 10 students due to no shows or late cancellations will be charged a 10 student base fee.

LDC Personnel	\$110.00
Contractor Personnel	\$160.00
Non-NGA Members	\$295.00

Checks are payable to:

Northeast Gas Association