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 85 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 sessions using GTI’s Natural Gas Field Skills Training Program curriculum.

Instructor-led Training Cost
NGA Members:
- Day 1 $325 Per Person
- Day 2+ $145 Per Person
Non-members:
- Day 1 $595 Per Person
- Day 2+ $250 Per Person

Class Size and Duration
Minimum class size is 10 students per day with a maximum of 15. Eight hours per day maximum.

Location
Conducted at a utility, contractor or other designated facility.

Online Training Courses
NGA offers online covered task training modules. The modules were developed to supplement the classroom and field training courses.

GTI Field Skills Training Program
All NGA OQ participants are included in a NGA 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:
- $15 Per Person (< 500 people)
- $12.50 PP (> 500 people)
- Company cap $12,500/year

Operator Qualification Knowledge and Skill Evaluations
NGA is transitioning to Prometric for administration of online testing in 2018. Pricing and logistics for testing via Prometric is detailed under separate cover.

Proctors and Evaluators
Two proctors are required for all NGA administered online tests. At least one proctor must be a NGA proctor. The utility may supply the second proctor. A NGA evaluator is required to evaluate contractors for all skill evaluations.

Class Size
- Knowledge Evaluations: 15 people per 2 proctors at any one time.
- Skill Evaluations: Performed 1 on 1 with no class 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 Cost

Skill Evaluations
- Members: $950 per class.
- Non-member: $1,500 per class.

Online Evaluations
- Member: $450 per proctor.
- Non-member: $650 per proctor.

Weekend Evaluations
- Additional $125 per class.

Annual Database Fee
Database fee includes unlimited online training courses and access to proctored evaluations.
- LDC:
  * $32 per person/year with greater than 1,000 OQ qualified employees.
  * $37 per person/year with 500 to 1,000 OQ qualified employees.
  * $43 per person/year with less than 500 OQ qualified employees.
- Contractor: $50 per person/year
- Non-member: $125 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

January 1, 2018