

# 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 87 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](http://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 Fees

NGA Members:

- Per Day Instructor Fee \$2,050.
- GTI student training modules provided by Members.

Non-Members:

- Per Day Instructor Fee \$3,250.
- 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.

### Location

Conducted at a utility, contractor or other designated facility.

### 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 assessed 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. 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 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 evaluator 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](mailto:oq@northeastgas.org)

## Operator Qualification Knowledge and Skill Evaluation Fees

### Skill Evaluations Per Day Fees

- Member: \$1,320 per class.
- Assoc. Member \$1,550 per class.
- Non-Member \$3,100 per class.

### Weekend Evaluations

- Additional \$150 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](mailto:oq@northeastgas.org)

