

API Qualification of Ultrasonic Examiners Program

INTRODUCTION

The API Subcommittee on Inspection (SCI) has initiated a program covering the qualification of ultrasonic (UT) technicians conducting inspections. This action was dictated by the growing need for high quality and accurate UT shear wave data. The availability of high quality UT data is often the cornerstone for FFS and RBI decisions and it is becoming increasingly important for those applications. Therefore in the industry's best interest API has implemented a QUTE (Qualification of Ultrasonic Examiners) Certification program to assist in defining the minimum criteria for assessing the performance of UT technicians. The API vessel and piping inspection codes (510 and 570) have been modified to identify certain applications requiring the use of UT shear wave examiners that have passed a performance demonstration.

REQUIREMENTS IN API CODES

At the Fall 2000 API refining meeting, the Inspection Codes Task Group approved [ballots 510-03-00](#) and [570-03-00](#), respectively requiring the use of Industry Qualified UT shear wave examiners for certain applications. These requirements became mandatory 2 years after publication in the Codes.

PROGRAM SCOPE

The scope of the program focuses on the detection and characterization of defects associated with welds in carbon steel or low alloy materials. In particular, defect population may include porosity, lack of fusion, incomplete penetration, center line cracking, root cracks, side wall crack, toe crack, slag, or placebos.

TESTING

The testing of UT Examiners takes form of a performance demonstration. This manual UT flaw detection and characterization performance demonstration covers plate and pipe geometries in the 0.5 to 1-inch thickness range. For the plate geometry, both single and double Vee welds are included. On the 8 and 12 inch pipe geometry, only single Vee welds are included. Approximately 75 linear inches of weld are presented for inspection and documentation. The test is conducted over a 1 day, 8-hour period. The candidate will be expected to detect flaws, position them with respect to the weld, identify and sketch the flaw position within the weld. For the details on the test administration please see Candidate Orientation document.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The prerequisite for eligibility is current or previous certification to ASNT UT Level II/III or equivalent.

LENGTH OF CERTIFICATION TERM AND RECERTIFICATION

When API receives your completed application, confirms that all the requirements have been met and you passed the exam, you will be certified as an UT Examiner. The certification is for a three year period. After the three-year certification period, an examiner is eligible for recertification. Recertification will require a complete retesting every six years (every other recertification). API will make every effort to notify you of your upcoming expiration date so your certification continues without interruption. However, it is ultimately an Examiners' responsibility to apply for recertification. To ensure that your certification renews without interruption, please contact our office 4 months prior to your expiration date and request an application package if you need one.

CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When will I know how I did on the exam?

Approximately four weeks after taking the examination you will receive an official Exam Score Report. If you have submitted a complete application and the appropriate certification fee and passed the exam, you will receive a wallet card and a certificate from API approximately four weeks **after** receipt of your score report.

What happens if I fail to show up for the exam?

API will not refund your money. Due to the nature of this practical demonstration test, we have a very limited number of seats in each exam administration. Once a seat has been assigned to you, we do count on your showing up and actually taking the test.

How do I apply for recertification?

To ensure the continuity of your certification, you **MUST** submit your recertification application to API by the expiration date on your wallet card and certificate. The application form can be downloaded from our website, www.api.org/icp. Complete testing is required every other time you recertify (or, in other words, every six years after the first time you test).