Quality Program for Suppliers: General Industry

A Guide to Building a Culture of Quality

ASME
SETTING THE STANDARD

ASME Certification Mark

A Commitment to Public Safety and Quality

ASME's Conformity Assessment (CA) program is the leading, universally recognized, independent Quality Assurance (QA) program for products, parts, and processes that conform to the rigorous requirements of ASME Codes and Standards. Businesses and regulators around the world rely on the ASME CA Certification Mark (The Mark). It is the clearest way to tell customers, supply chain, industry, and regulators that your company is committed to public safety and quality.

- Discover new market opportunities
- Gain global trust and recognition
- Drive operational efficiencies
- Level the playing field

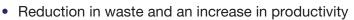## ASME Quality Program for Suppliers (QPS)

The QPS standard and certification process establishes the essential requirements of a quality program for manufacturing products used within the general commercial and industrial sectors. Types of products can include a service or physical item and range from raw materials to a finished product that reaches the end-user.

To achieve QPS Certification, organizations undergo a two-stage audit process to determine if they meet and demonstrate compliance with the program's 17 essential requirements. Stage I helps prepare companies for a more in-depth Stage II audit.

Certification can help companies reduce costs, increase efficiencies, and demonstrate the quality and reliability of their manufacturing process. The program helps companies achieve a:

- Competitive advantage over non-certified companies
- Way to gain entry into new global markets
- Reduction in waste and an increase in productivity
- Culture with a greater focus on quality

1 Preparation

Proper Stage I preparation will assist you across the certification process. The information gathered helps ASME better understand your requested scope of work. To begin preparing:

- Invest in a copy of the QPS standard, which will guide you across the program
- Determine which manufacturing process you'd like to have certified
- Setup a CA Connect Account, if you're new to ASME, or login to your existing account
- Download the QPS application to see what you'll need to prepare
- Work with your team to complete and submit your application

ASME
SETTING THE STANDARD

2 Online Review Session

Attend ASME's mandatory online review session, a helpful educational tool that will help you to better understand our QPS program. The online review session:

- Needs to be completed within two weeks of submitting your application
- Must be completed by a certified individual who is working on your QPS program

Once you've attended the program and passed its test, send in payment and upload your Quality Program Manual along with any additional information into CA Connect.

3 Stage I: Document Review

A Stage I Document Review is typically conducted virtually via video conferencing. These activities help companies prepare for and streamline the ASME certification process. During Stage I, the reviewer goes through all the documentation to ensure that the company has:

- Secured management commitment
- Developed an educational system for training all key personnel
- Prepared a quality system that meets all 17 requirements
- Established processes and clear descriptions for each area
- Implemented the system prior to audit
- Conducted an internal audit of the system

Once completed, ASME utilizes the information obtained from the Stage I Document Review to plan and execute Stage II.

4 Stage II: Implementation Review

The Stage II Implementation Review is used to determine the degree of compliance with the QPS standard's requirements. Any elements of a company's quality program that do not conform with QPS's requirements will need to be documented and will require corrective action. This corrective action must be completed before a certificate can be issued.

At the conclusion of the review, ASME will go over the reviewer's report along with any additional documentation. ASME will then determine if the company's program conforms with all 17 requirements and can receive a Certificate of Authorization for the QPS Program.

Maintaining Quality

Certification is not just about meeting a requirement—it's about transforming the quality of your products and mentality of your organization. Following the completion of your certification, an annual audit is conducted, which helps your company maintain quality by providing an opportunity to revisit your existing process and figure out ways to enhance it. Invest in QPS and empower your organization to build a culture of quality.

ASME
SETTING THE STANDARD

ASME
SETTING THE STANDARD