

Certified Supplier Quality Professional (CSQP)



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Certification from ASQ is considered a mark of quality excellence in many industries. It helps you advance your career and boosts your organization's bottom line through your mastery of quality skills. Becoming certified as a Supplier Quality Professional confirms your commitment to quality and the positive impact it will have on your organization.

For comprehensive exam information on the Supplier Quality Professional certification, visit [asq.org/cert](https://www.asq.org/cert).

Information

Certified Supplier Quality Professional

The Certified Supplier Quality Professional (CSQP) understands the principles of product and service quality evaluation and control. This body of knowledge and applied technologies include, but are not limited to, development and operation of quality control systems, application and analysis of testing and inspection procedures, the ability to use metrology and statistical methods to diagnose and correct improper quality control practices, an understanding of human factors and motivation, familiarity with quality cost concepts and techniques, and the knowledge and ability to develop and administer management information systems and to audit quality systems for deficiency identification and correction.

Examination

Each certification candidate is required to pass a written examination that consists of multiple-choice questions that measure comprehension of the Body of Knowledge. The Supplier Quality Professional examination is a one-part, 150-question, four-hour exam. It is offered in English.

Education and/or Experience

You must have eight years of on-the-job experience in one or more of the areas of the Certified Supplier Quality Professional Body of Knowledge.



A minimum of three years of this experience must be in a decision-making position. “Decision-making” is defined as the authority to define, execute, or control projects/processes and to be responsible for the outcome. This may or may not include management or supervisory positions.

Work experience must be in a full-time, paid role. Paid intern, co-op, or any other course work cannot be applied toward the work experience requirement.

If you were ever certified by ASQ as a Quality Auditor (COA), Reliability Engineer (CRE), Software Quality Engineer (CSQE), or Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence (CMQ/OE), experience used to qualify for certification in these fields applies to certification as a Supplier Quality Professional.

If you have completed a degree* from a college, university, or technical school with accreditation accepted by ASQ, part of the eight-year experience requirement will be waived as follows (only one of these waivers may be claimed):

- Diploma from a technical or trade school—one year will be waived.
- Associate’s degree—two years waived.
- Bachelor’s degree—four years waived.
- Master’s or doctorate—five years waived.

**Degrees/Diplomas from educational institutions outside the United States must be equivalent to degrees from U.S. educational institutions.*

Body of Knowledge

Certified Supplier Quality Professional

The topics in this body of knowledge (BoK) include subtext explanations and the cognitive level at which the questions will be written. This information will provide useful guidance for both the Exam Development Committee and the candidate preparing to take the exam. The subtext is not intended to limit the subject matter or be all-inclusive of that material that will be covered in the exam. It is meant to clarify the type of content that will be included on the exam. The descriptor in parentheses at the end of each entry refers to the maximum cognitive level at which the topic will be tested. A complete description of cognitive levels is provided at the end of this document.



1 Supplier Strategy (22 Questions)

A. Supply Chain Vision/Mission

Assist in the development and communication of the supply chain vision/mission statement. (Apply)

B. Supplier Lifecycle Management

1. Supplier selection

Develop the process for supplier selection and qualification, including the identification of sub-tier suppliers, using tools such as SIPOC and decision analysis. (Create)

2. Performance monitoring

Develop the supplier performance monitoring system, including expected levels of performance, process reviews, performance evaluations, improvement plans, and exit strategies. (Create)

3. Supplier classification system

Define a supplier classification system, e.g., non-approved, approved, preferred, certified, partnership, and disqualified. (Create)

4. Partnerships and alliances

Identify and analyze strategies for developing customer-supplier partnerships and alliances. (Analyze)

C. Supply Chain Cost Analysis

1. Cost reduction

Identify and apply relevant inputs to prioritize cost reduction opportunities. (Analyze)

2. Supply chain rationalization

Interpret and analyze the optimization of a supply base to improve spending and leverage investments into supplier quality or risk reduction. (Analyze)

3. Make/Buy decisions

Provide input on make/buy decisions by using internal and external capability analysis. Apply tools such as SWOT analysis and use historical performance to analyze requirements. (Analyze)

D. Supplier Agreements or Contracts
Review and provide input for developing terms and conditions that govern supplier relationships to ensure quality considerations are addressed. (Apply)

E. Deployment of Strategy and Expectations
Communicate strategy internally, and communicate expectations to suppliers externally. (Apply)

II. Risk Management (14 Questions)

A. Strategy

1. System

Develop a risk-based approach to manage the supply base, including business continuity and contingency planning. (Create)

2. Product/Service

Develop and implement a risk mitigation plan to minimize, monitor, and/or control risks. (Evaluate)

3. Prevention strategies

Identify and evaluate strategies and techniques such as supply chain mapping, avoidance, detection, and mitigation used to prevent the introduction of counterfeit parts materials and services. (Evaluate)

B. Analysis and Mitigation

1. Analysis

Identify, assess, and prioritize risks to supplier quality using tools such as decision analysis (DA), failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA), fault tree analysis (FTA), and process auditing. (Evaluate).

2. Mitigation control

Develop and deploy controls such as inspection or test plan. Prioritize mitigation activities and sustain a risk mitigation plan appropriate to the risk of the product/service. (Create)

3. Mitigation effectiveness

Verify the effectiveness of the control plan and improve, if necessary, using continuous improvement methods such as plan-do-check-act (PDCA), lean, and product auditing tools. (Create)



III Supplier Selection and Part Qualification (30 Questions)

A. Product/Service Requirements Definition

1. Internal design reviews

Identify and apply common elements of the design review process, including roles and responsibilities of the participants. (Apply)

2. Identifying requirements

Identify and apply internal requirements (e.g., interrelated functional business units) for product or service in collaboration with stakeholders, including the requirements for supply chain and sub-tier suppliers. (Evaluate)

B. Supplier Selection Planning

1. Supplier comparison

Evaluate existing supplier's capabilities, capacities, past quality, delivery, price, lead times, and responsiveness against identified requirements. (Evaluate)

2. Potential suppliers evaluation

Assess potential new suppliers against identified requirements using tools such as self-assessments, audits, and financial analysis. Verify third-party certification status and regulatory compliance, and analyze and report on results of assessments to support the supplier selection process. (Evaluate)

3. Supplier selection

Evaluate and select supplier based on analysis of assessment reports and existing supplier evaluations using decision analysis tools and selection matrices. (Evaluate)

C. Part, Process, and Service Qualification

1. Technical review

Interpret and evaluate technical specification requirements and characteristics such as views, title blocks, dimensioning and tolerancing, and GD&T symbols as they relate to product and process. (Evaluate)



2. Supplier relations

Collaborate with suppliers to define, interpret, and classify quality characteristics for the part/process/service. (Evaluate)

3. Process and service qualification planning

Develop a part/process/service qualification plan with supplier and internal team that includes calibration requirements, sample size, first article inspection, measurement system analysis (MSA), process flow diagram (PFD), failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA), control plans, critical to quality (CTQ), inspection planning, capability studies, material and performance testing, appearance approval, and internal process validation. (Analyze)

4. Part approval

Understand the production part approval process (PPAP) requirements and ensure suppliers understand the processes required to produce parts with consistent quality during an actual production run at production rates. (Understand)

5. Validate requirements

Collaborate with internal team to interpret the results of the executed qualification plan for the part/process/service. (Evaluate)

IV Supplier Performance Monitoring and Improvement (30 Questions)

A. Supplier Performance Monitoring

1. Supplier metrics

Define, implement, and monitor supplier performance metrics such as quality, delivery, cost, and responsiveness. (Evaluate)

2. Supplier performance

Analyze supplier performance data (e.g., warranty analysis/field returns, defect rates) and develop periodic reports (e.g., scorecard, dashboards). (Analyze)



3. Supplier process performance

Apply lean principles and applications such as 5S, kaizen, value stream mapping, single minute exchange of dies (SMED), kanban, muda, standardized work, takt time, and error proofing to reduce waste and increase performance. (Evaluate)

B. Assess Nonconforming Product/ Process/Service

Assess and evaluate nonconforming materials to determine whether a material review board (MRB) requires disposition. Conduct risk assessments to prevent future discrepancies. (Evaluate)

C. Supplier Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA)

1. Root cause analysis tools and methods

Evaluate the root cause analysis of a problem using tools such as cause and effect (CE) diagrams, Pareto analysis, 5 Whys, fault tree analysis, design of experiments (DOE), brainstorming, check sheets, measurement system analysis (MSA), production records, and review of process flow. (Evaluate)

2. Collaboration with supplier

Evaluate and implement corrective/preventive action, and review its effectiveness and robustness with supplier. Understand the process of updating failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA) and process control plan, understand statistical process control (SPC), and understand product and process design change. (Evaluate)

V Supplier Quality Management (30 Questions)

A. Supplier Quality Monitoring

1. Supplier audit

Describe and distinguish between the stages of a quality audit, from audit planning through conducting the audit. Understand and apply the various types of quality audits such as product, process, and management system. (Apply)

2. Audit reporting and follow-up

Apply process audit reporting and follow-up, including verification of the effectiveness of corrective action. (Apply)



3. Supplier communication

Evaluate various communication techniques such as periodic reviews, metric and performance indices, change management, notifications, recalls, change requests, and business updates. Maintain active communication with suppliers to assess risk and take appropriate action. (Evaluate)

4. Supplier development and remediation

Identify and analyze present and future training needs and gaps using quality methods and tools such as kaizen and benchmarking. Use process improvement tools such as design, measure, analyze, improve, control (DMAIC), cycle time reduction, defect rate, and cost reduction. Evaluate supplier remediation to develop and manage improvement plans. (Evaluate)

5. Project management basics

Understand and apply various types of project reviews such as phase-end, management, and retrospectives or post-project reviews to assess project performance and status, to review issues and risks, and discover and capture lessons learned from the project. Apply forecasts, resources, schedules, tasks, and cost estimates to develop and monitor project plans. (Apply)

B. Teams and Team Processes

1. Team development

Identify and describe the various types of teams and the classic stages of team development: forming, storming, norming, performing, and adjourning. (Apply)

2. Team roles

Define and describe various team roles and responsibilities for leader, facilitator, coach, and individual member. (Understand)



3. Performance and evaluation

Describe various techniques to evaluate training, including evaluation planning, feedback surveys, and pre-training and post-training testing. (Understand)

C. Compliance With Requirement and Supplier Categorization

Understand and evaluate compliance with regulations (e.g., RoHS, governmental regulatory authorities), specifications, contracts, agreements, and certification authority. Evaluate and categorize suppliers based on risk and performance. (Evaluate)

VI Relationship Management (14 Questions)

A. Supplier Onboarding

Understand and apply processes for orientation of suppliers such as providing overview of company, vision, mission, guiding principles, overall requirements, expectations, and criticality of product, service, and delivery requirements. (Apply)

B. Communication

1. Techniques and mediation

Identify and apply communication techniques (oral, written, and presentation) specifically for internal stakeholders and suppliers to resolve issues. Apply different techniques when working in multicultural environments, and identify and describe the impact that culture and communications can have on quality. (Evaluate)

2. Reporting using quality tools

Use appropriate technical and managerial reporting techniques, including the seven classic quality tools (Pareto charts, cause and effect diagrams, flowcharts, control charts, check sheets, scatter diagrams, and histograms) for effective presentation and reporting. (Analyze)

C. Leadership and Collaboration

Understand and apply techniques for coaching suppliers through regular communications, influencing without authority, negotiation techniques, and establish clear roles and responsibilities of internal stakeholders and suppliers. (Evaluate)

VII Business Governance, Ethics, and Compliance (10 Questions)

A. ASQ Code of Ethics

Determine appropriate behavior in situations requiring ethical decisions, including identifying conflicts of interest, and recognizing and resolving ethical issues. (Apply)

B. Compliance

Understand issues of compliance and their applicable policies, laws, and regulations (e.g., conflict of interest, confidentiality, bribery). (Apply)

C. Confidentiality

1. Organizational policies

Apply organizational policies for executing appropriate agreements such as nondisclosure, quality, and change notification agreements. (Apply)

2. Intellectual property

Apply procedures for protecting the intellectual property of an organization and its suppliers. (Apply)

3. Illegal activity

Understand and interpret policies for reporting observations and deviations that could be perceived as illegal activity. (Apply)

Levels of Cognition

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy—Revised (2001)

In addition to **content** specifics, the subtext for each topic in this BoK also indicates the intended **complexity level** of the test questions for that topic. These levels are based on "Levels of Cognition" (from Bloom's Taxonomy—Revised, 2001) and are presented below in rank order, from least complex to most complex.

Remember

Recall or recognize terms, definitions, facts, ideas, materials, patterns, sequences, methods, principles, etc.

Understand

Read and understand descriptions, communications, reports, tables, diagrams, directions, regulations, etc.

Apply

Know when and how to use ideas, procedures, methods, formulas, principles, theories, etc.

Analyze

Break down information into its constituent parts and recognize their relationship to one another and how they are organized; identify sublevel factors or salient data from a complex scenario.

Evaluate

Make judgments about the value of proposed ideas, solutions, etc., by comparing the proposal to specific criteria or standards.

Create

Put parts or elements together in such a way as to reveal a pattern or structure not clearly there before; identify which data or information from a complex set is appropriate to examine further or from which supported conclusions can be drawn.



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