



MEA LEARNING EMPOWERS™

MEA Overview & ASME B31Q Elements



Founded in 1905

Midwest Gas Association

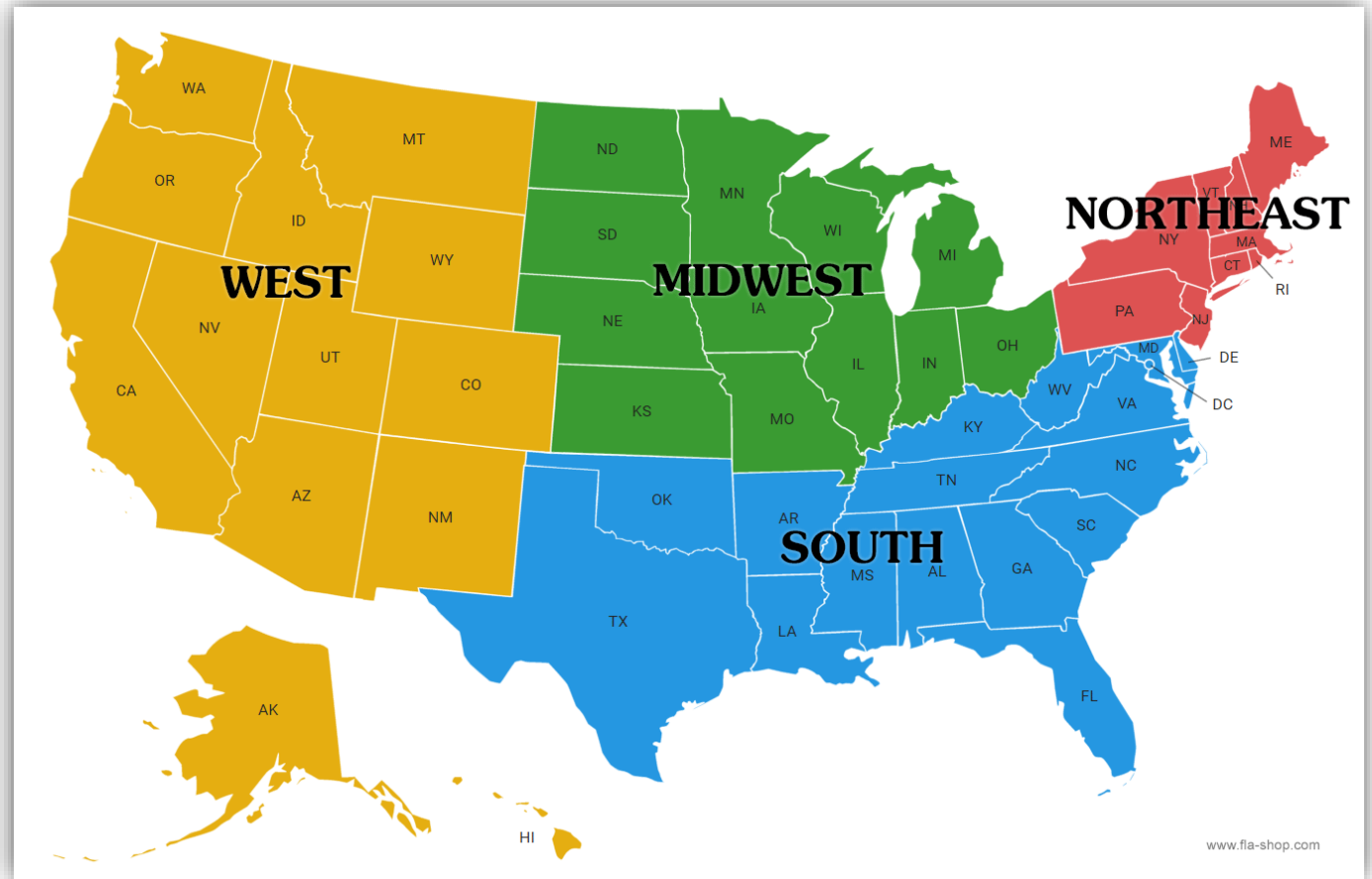
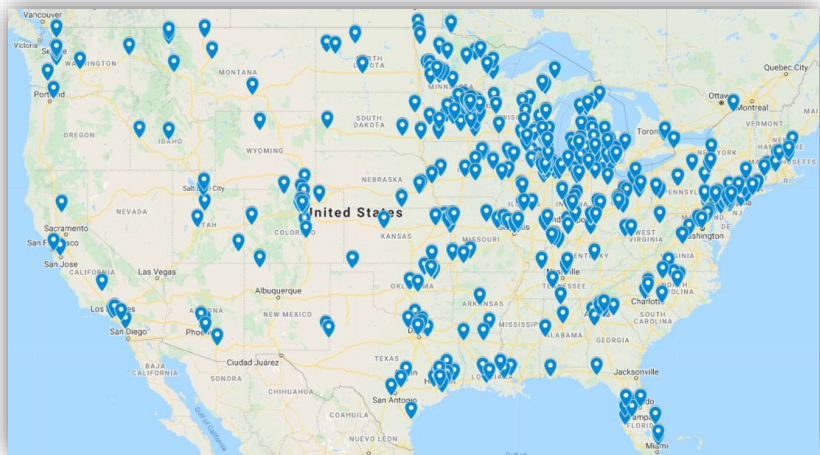




450+ Members

“Super Regional Association”

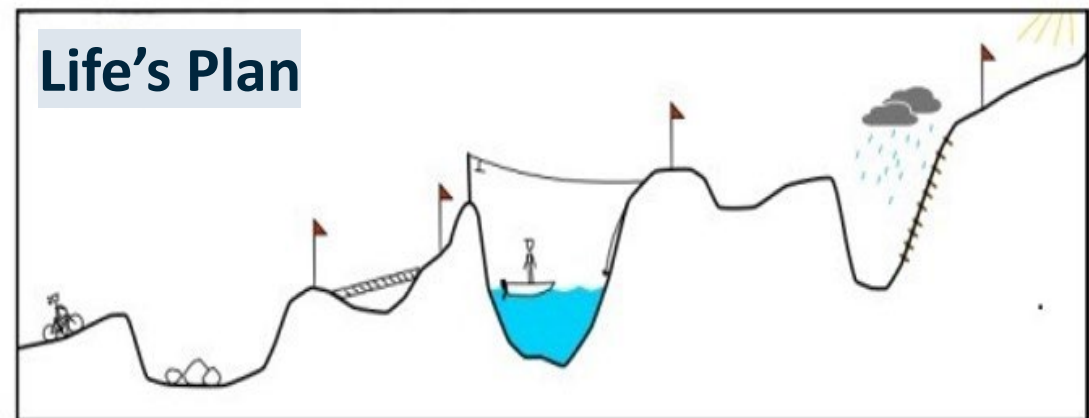
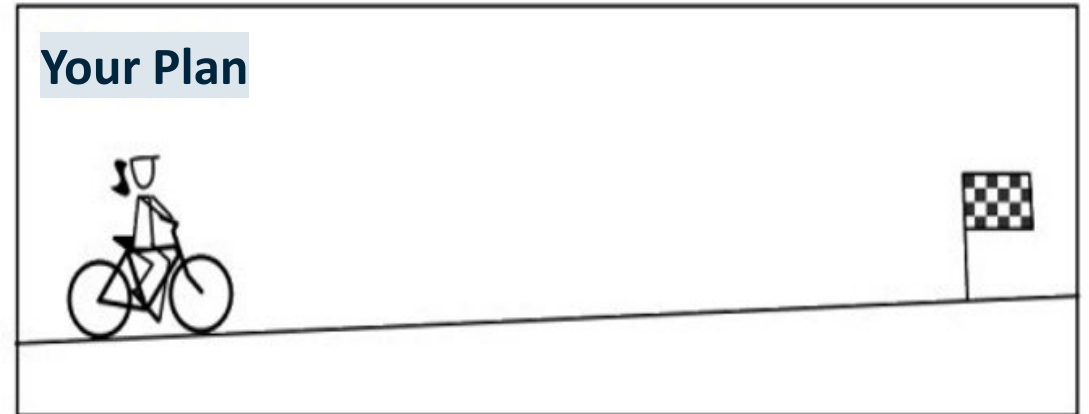
-serving both Electric & Natural Gas
Distribution Utilities and the companies
that work with them





MEA Strengths

- What our members tell us we do well ...
 - Online & In-Person Training**
 - Conferences & Events**
 - Committees & Partnerships**





**Conferences
& Webinars**

**OQ &
Training**

**Technical
Training Classes**

50+ Events each year!

Gas Events – Summit & Roundtable

Electric Events – Summit

OQ related training events – Evaluator Training

Leak Detection Training

Construction Inspector Training

Measurement Excellence Training

Energetic Women Conference

National Gas Rodeo

Executive / Board Meetings

Free Webinars



MEEA Technical Training Classes



- ✦ **Train the Evaluator** [Monthly | Bloomington, MN]
 - ✦ Provides useful information & hands-on practice for conducting credible performance evaluations
- ✦ **Construction Inspector Training** [Mar 3-7, 2025 | Online]
 - ✦ For new or existing pipeline inspectors
- ✦ **Measurement Excellence Training** [Apr 22-24, 2025 | Bloomington, MN]
 - ✦ For measurement technicians, meter shop apprentices, field & regulator maintenance crew
- ✦ **Leak Investigation Training** [TBD 2025 | In-Person]
 - ✦ For service & gas technicians, mechanical engineers, pipe fitters, inspectors & supervisors



MEA Webinars



- ✦ **Transition from 192 to ASME [February 19th | 9:30-10:00 am]**
 - ✦ Brief review of code requirements found in CFR 192.801 regarding OQ requirements. Also includes an introduction of ASME B31Q Standard and how to transition from 192 to B31Q Pipeline Personnel Qualification to satisfy the federal regulatory requirements
- ✦ **Field Leader Training - Preview [March 4th | 9:30-10:00 am]**
 - ✦ Get to know a bit about MEA's Field Leader Training during this 30-minute webinar. Our FLT is a defined program that focuses on real-life, practical skills that drive career progress - from being a crew member and individual contributor to becoming a crew lead and supervisor
- ✦ **Member Benefits Webinar [March 5th | 9:30-10:00 am]**
 - ✦ Get a look under the hood of MEA Energy Association and how we empower the energy industry through education, leadership development, and member connections. We'll cover MEA's events, education and training programs, online community forum, and discovering ways to enhance your workforce and/or build your business.
- ✦ **PHMSA Code Changes [March 13th | 9:30-10:00 am]**
 - ✦ PHMSA code changes plus balancing federal and state-level requirements



Leadership Programs

🔥 Field Leader Training:

- 🔥 MEA's most POPULAR Training Class for **Shift Supervisors, Crew Leads, and Team Leads** including 9 highly interactive & impactful training modules

🔥 Skills for Effective Training:

- 🔥 For Trainers, Facilitators, & Instructors in the Energy Industry

🔥 Leadership Integrator Cohort:

- 🔥 Nine-month, small group cohort with 1-on-1 coaching, live webinars, and in-person networking events for leaders who want to **improve their impact**



<https://www.meaenergy.org/education/combo/>





Field Leader Training Curriculum

9 Training Units

Covered

Culture of safety

weaved in throughout

Effective
Leadership

Leadership in
Action

Strong Teams

Recognizing &
Motivating
Crews

Coaching
Crews

Resolving
Conflicts

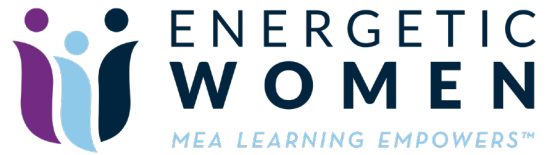
Working with
Management

Planning Work

Ensuring
Quality



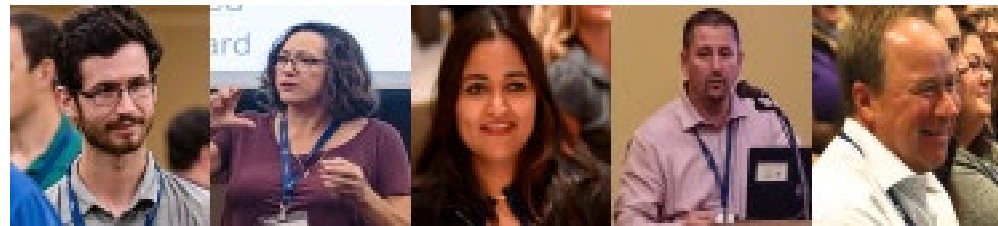
MEEA's "Tent Pole" Events



Electric Operations Technical & Leadership Summit



Gas Operations Technical & Leadership Summit





MEA Operations Events



Gas Operations Roundtable

Next: March 18-20, 2025 | St. Paul, MN

Past Locations – Indianapolis, Madison, Branson, Louisville

Gas Operations Technical & Leadership Summit

Next: August 19-21, 2025 | Iowa City, IA

Peer-to-peer dialogue around challenges & best practices

COUNTLESS

CONNECTIONS MADE THROUGH MEA



*Learning opportunities for Gas & Electric
Operations supervisors, managers, &
directors*



MEA Gas Ops Roundtable

The Gas Ops Roundtable is a unique opportunity to share in a small group discussion with your peers about current issues, trends, and best practices. All sessions are moderated by gas industry experts. This event is your chance to ask questions, learn from industry counterparts, and share your experiences.

MEA Member: \$600 per person
Non-Member: \$750 per person



Samples of this year's Roundtable topics include...

- Management of Change for Codes & Standards
- Gas Load Forecasting Programming & Tools
- Training vs OQ
- Working with Community Colleges & Trade Schools to Create a Hiring Pipeline
- Standard Designs for Regulator Stations & Meter Sets
- Locating Best Practices



MEA Gas Ops Summit

MEA has been offering best-in-class gas operations training since 1923. The summit features keynotes, exhibits, pre-conference courses, and tracks on compliance, safety, measurement and control, distribution and technology, engineering, and technical training.

MEA Member: \$600 per person
Non-Member: \$750 per person



Educational Tracks:

- Distribution & Technology
- Leadership and Workforce Development
- Regulatory Compliance
- Safety & Training
- Engineering & Technical Training
- Measurement & Control

Attendee Types:

- Field Supervisors & Managers
- Field Service Crew Leaders & Personnel
- Operations Supervisors & Managers
- Operations Technicians of All Levels
- Safety Personnel
- Emerging & Existing Leaders in Utility Ops
- Exhibitors – Contractors & Suppliers

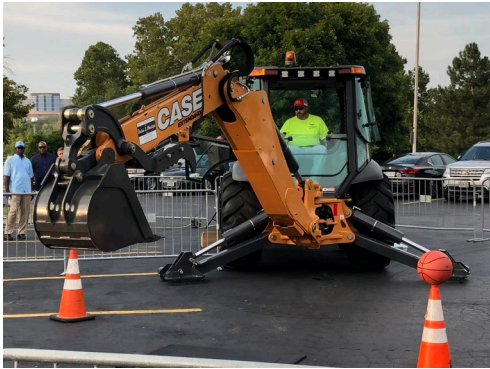


Great Crews
Don't
Just Happen

National Gas Rodeo

National Gas Rodeo

- Showcases the skills and teamwork of those working in the natural gas delivery industry through a competition focused on safety, efficiency, and accuracy.
- Next: September 10-12, 2025 | Turfway Park, KY
- <https://www.facebook.com/NationalGasRodeo>





MEA's National Gas Rodeo



2024 Winners





MEA Partnerships

MEA partners with other Associations like AGA, APGA, CEWD ...



Center For
ENERGY
 Workforce Development
 Industry Solutions—Regional Implementation

Natural Gas Boot Camp

Natural Gas Technician Boot Camp Outline

The purpose of this document is to outline the delivery of a natural gas technician boot camp over a multi-week period; a partnership between MEA, and the sponsoring utility. The utility provides the structure, subject matter experts, curriculum review, and logistics support. MEA provides content, subject matter expertise, and logistics. The sponsoring company provides location, instructors, and boot camp participants.

Benefit to the industry: At the end of the boot camp, the sponsoring company has a pool of candidates ready to compete for a career in the natural gas industry.

SAMPLE SIX WEEK outline based on the Natural Gas Technician Outline provided:

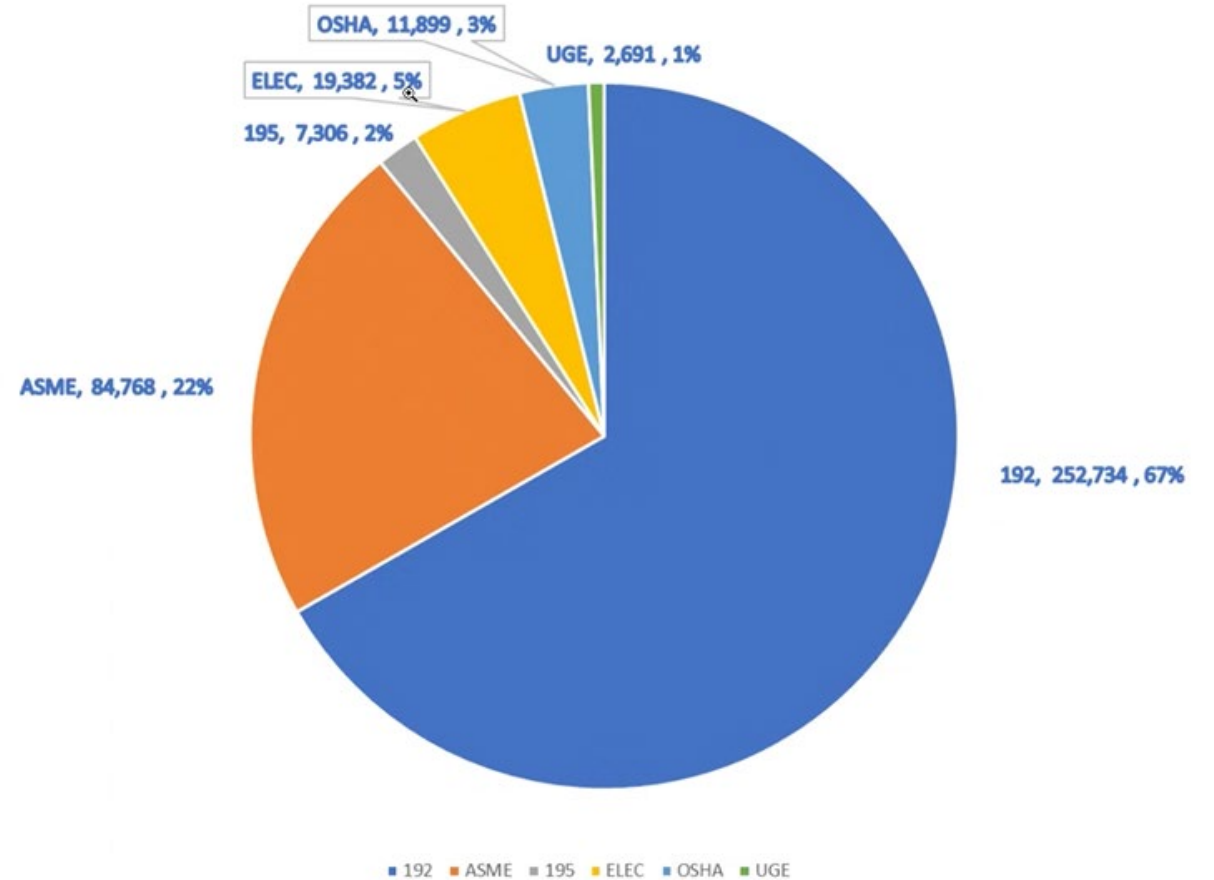
Week 1		Week 4	
Science and Technology	2 MEA courses	Gas Appliances and Service Piping	7 MEA courses
Basic Industry Knowledge	5 MEA courses	<u>MakeSafe</u> Leak Simulations	3 MEA courses
Customer Focus	2 MEA courses		
Week 2		Week 5	
Safety	11 MEA courses	Basic Corrosion	6 MEA courses
		Intermediate Industry Knowledge	6 MEA courses
Week 3		Week 6	
Meters and Regulators	9 MEA courses	Final Exams and Hands-On Evaluations	

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION



EnergyU Courses

- MEa's 192 Natural Gas library is still the most commonly-accessed content (67%)
- ASME B31Q is gaining in usage each year
- Also offer 195 Liquids gas, Electric Journeyman, Utility General, OSHA, and Leadership courses



ASME B31Q Pipeline Personnel Qualification

OVERVIEW OF THE B31Q STANDARD

Today's Discussion

- » Brief history and background of ASME B31Q
- » ASME B31Q committee structure
- » Highlights of the Standard
- » Ways to participate

Disclaimer

This presentation represents the views of the voting members of the B31Q committee. Any opinions or views expressed during today's discussion do not necessarily represent those of ASME

Scope

- » Establishes the requirements for developing and implementing an effective Pipeline Personnel Qualification Program (qualification program) utilizing a combination of technically based data, accepted industry practices, and consensus-based decisions.
- » Offers guidance and examples of a variety of methods that may be used to meet selected requirements.
- » Specifies the requirements for identifying covered tasks that impact the safety or integrity of pipelines, for qualifying individuals to perform those tasks, and for managing the qualifications of pipeline personnel.

Historical Perspective

- » **1999:** OPS published Operator Qualification (OQ) rule
- » **2002:** NTSB labeled Operator Qualification as “unsatisfactory”
- » **2003:** OPS issued 13 areas they considered as gaps in the rule
- » **2003:** Four public meetings held to address the 13 issues
 - Industry and OPS agreed to develop a new standard that will holistically address qualification of pipeline personnel
 - American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) selected as entity to help develop and house standard
 - ASME B31Q Project Team formed to develop a technically sound, holistic, consensus standard for the qualification of pipeline personnel

Historical Perspective

- » Since 2006 ASME has published six editions of B31Q
- » Seventh edition scheduled for publication late 2024

Underlying Principles of ASME B31Q

- » Scope covers tasks that impact the safety or integrity of the pipeline
- » Technically based with Prescriptive and Performance options
- » Clear – should be clear and concise
- » Durable – adequate for multiple cycles
- » Complete – answers all known technical issues
- » Sound – technically sound foundation
- » Use existing rule where practical
- » **Not a regulatory document, it's an International Standard**

ASME B31Q Committee Diversity



**State and Federal
regulators**



**Operators from all
segments of the industry**



Contractor community



**Industry associations,
Labor, Vendors**

Organization of Committee

Chair	Todd Cash- Enstor
Vice-Chair	Tom Meek - Veriforce
Secretary	Andres Carrion - ASME

Teams (Sub-Committees)

- Team 1: Technical Issues – Task Related
 - Dennis Kuhn - ASTAR
- Team 2: Technical issues – Non-Task Related
 - Amy Borgmeyer – 1898 & Co
- Team 3: Administrative

ASME B31Q Benefits

- » Standardized task list
- » Standardized requalification intervals
- » Identifies key qualification components
- » Allows for portability
- » Rationale are embedded in document

ASME B31Q Elements

- » Foreword
- » Introduction
- » Definitions
- » References
- » Qualification Program
- » Determining Covered Tasks
- » Abnormal Operating Conditions
- » Training
- » Evaluation
- » Qualifications
- » Portability
- » Program Effectiveness
- » Communicating the Qualification Program and Managing Changes
- » Documentation Requirements
- » Bibliography
- » Non-Mandatory Appendices

ASME B31Q Elements

» Forward/Scope/Introduction/Definitions/References

- Two-part test to develop covered tasks
 - Impact to safety and integrity of pipeline
 - New construction included
- Exclusions
 - Engineering/design tasks
 - Tasks performed off the pipeline right-of-way or facilities
 - Personal safety
- Industry established definitions
- Referenced documents
 - ASNT
 - API 653, 1104

ASME B31Q Elements

» Qualification Program

- Lists essential elements for development of written qualification program
- Appendix H provides guidance how to implement B31Q
 - Includes checklist flowcharts, and timeline with references to various B31Q sections

ASME B31Q Elements

» Covered Task List Development Process

- Provides three methods for development of task list
 - Subject Matter Experts
 - Fault Tree Development
 - Alternate Process (Operator-defined or adoption of applicable B31Q tasks)

» Over 160 covered tasks included in the standard

- Applicability identified (Gas, Distribution, Liquid)
- Offshore specific tasks included

ASME B31Q Elements

- » Abnormal Operating Conditions (AOCs)
 - Appendix E provides list of generic AOCs
 - Operators can also develop own list using subject matter experts

ASME B31Q Elements

» Training and Evaluation

- Defines KSA (knowledge, skill, and ability)
- Discusses appropriate evaluation methods
 - Written evaluations
 - Oral evaluations
 - Performance evaluations

ASME B31Q Elements

» Qualification

- Establishes minimum requirements for initial and subsequent qualification
- Suspension/reinstatement/revocation of qualifications
- Assigning qualified and nonqualified individuals to perform covered tasks
- Establishing/maintaining span-of-control and subsequent qualification intervals
- Use of emergency response personnel
- Mutual aid

ASME B31Q Elements

» Portability

- Standard addresses a common basis for utilizing and developing portable evaluations
 - Commonality accepted by multiple entities (provider and acceptor)
 - Identifies the documentation necessary to demonstrate acceptance
 - Identifies the common evaluation requirements
 - Addresses the acceptance of qualification standards within other referenced documents or standards

ASME B31Q Elements

» Effectiveness Review

- Appendix I provides guidance
- Required every three years not to exceed 39 months
- Three critical parts:
 - Program implementation – executed as documented
 - Program measures – appraise effectiveness
 - Program updates – incorporate changes to address deficiencies identified by review

ASME B31Q Elements

» Management of Change

- Requires a process to communicate responsibilities, content, and requirements
- Goal to ensure qualified individuals remain qualified
- Rating the impact of change
 - Low
 - Medium
 - High

B31Q – Non-Mandatory Appendices

- » **A** Covered Task List
- » **B** Covered Tasks & Status History by Categories
- » **C** Task List Development Process
- » **D** Example of Evaluation Criteria
- » **E** AOCs
- » **F** Evaluation Method Selection
- » **G** DIF analysis for Subsequent Qualification Intervals
- » **H** Implementation of B31Q
- » **I** Program Implementation and Effectiveness Appraisals

B31Q – Current Focus/Challenges

- » On-going maintenance of covered tasks and processes
- » Federal/state regulatory requirements
- » Equipment technology advances
- » Remote/virtual evaluations
- » SOC development history and guidance

Ways to Participate

- » Join the B31Q Resource Development Group
- » Attend full committee meetings (in-person &/or virtual)
- » Attend team meetings
- » Provide comments to ASME Staff Secretary
- » Visit B31Q Committee Page on C&S Connect:
 - <https://cstools.asme.org/csconnect/CommitteePages.cfm?Committee=N10021810>

Contact Information

- » Todd Cash – Committee Chair
 - Todd.cash@enstorinc.com
- » Tom Meek – Committee Vice-Chair
 - tom.meek@veriforce.com
- » Andres Carrion – ASME Staff Secretary
 - carriona@asme.org
- » ASME – Search for B31Q under “Codes and Standards”
 - <http://www.asme.org/>



Next Steps

Swing by MEA's booth across the hall...

- ✦ **Get more details about Membership**
- ✦ **Sign up for a free webinar**
- ✦ **Sign up your team for the 2025
National Gas Rodeo**
- ✦ **Join a committee & get involved**





Thank You!



Chad Shannon
Membership Services Director
chads@meaenergy.org
651-289-9600 x 112



Larry Murray
Compliance Director
larrym@meaenergy.org
651-289-9600 x 103