

Why become certified?

API's Individual Certification Programs provide the petroleum and petrochemical industries with a way to evaluate the knowledge and experience of inspectors. These programs improve management control of the operation, repair, and maintenance of process units and tanks; reduce the potential for inspection delays resulting from regulatory requirements; and provide a continued high level of safety through the use of inspectors specialized in a field.

What does API certification mean?

It means that the individual has the ability to work with various code books and standards, including the API standards that cover the inspection, repair, and maintenance of process equipment.

Will I get assigned to the test location of my choice?

Almost always, providing the examination does take place at your chosen location. Occasionally when we have only 2 or 3 candidates for a particular location, we are forced to cancel it. In that instance you will be contacted by API staff and informed about your options.

What if my desired testing location is not on the list?

API can organize an examination location just about anywhere in the world, providing there is sufficient interest. We are unlikely to hold a test just for one person; however, if there are 7-10 applicants interested we can definitely work it out. Please contact API staff for more information.

When will the examination results announced?

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

Can I change my testing location after I am registered to take the examination?

Yes. You may request a site change up to three weeks prior to the examination. If you contact our office by the application deadline and there is room available at the site you would like to change to, there is no fee. There is a charge of \$100 for changes made after the application deadline. There is no guarantee that your site may be changed. API reserves the right to deny requests to change examination site. Room sizes are limited and not all requests may be accommodated. Changes must be submitted in writing by mail or by fax.

Are the API Examinations graded on a "Curve"?

No. Marking on a "curve" means comparing the scores of one candidate to all the other candidates who took the examination and assigning grades or passing status according to a fixed percentage. The implication is that whether an individual passes the examination or not might depend on the ability level (or preparation) of all the other candidates who took the examination. This would not be fair for a credentialing examination.

API uses a statistical method called "equating" to score the examinations. The original passing point of the examination is set by a committee of experts and it represents an absolute standard of knowledge - the minimum amount that a competent inspector should know in order to be certified). Each examination has different questions in it. The equating process then adjusts the passing point of each examination to compensate for differences in the difficulty level of those questions. Thus, the passing point always represents the minimum knowledge required and the absolute knowledge standard is held constant. The test results of candidates only reflect whether they have this minimum amount of knowledge or not. Passing the examination is not affected by any other candidate's performance. For more information please see Examination Development and Grading.

If I do not apply for recertification by the expiration date on my wallet card, will I be decertified?

Yes. However API does give you a 3-month grace period to prepare and send your application package to us. Beware that if applying after your expiration date and within this grace period you will be charged a late fee of \$150. If you do not file for recertification within three months of the expiration of your certification, you will be decertified. You will then have to take the test again and pay a full fee in order to get your certification back.

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

You have the option of signing up for the next examination or requesting a 50% refund. Requests to take the next examination or to obtain a refund must be submitted in writing by mail or by fax. (For more information please see [Refunds](#).) If you wish to reschedule for the next examination date you must submit a reschedule fee of \$50.

How do I apply for recertification?

To ensure the continuity of your certification, you MUST submit recertification information to API by the expiration date on your wallet card and certificate. The forms will be mailed to your chosen mailing address; however they are also available online. You may download them, fill out and return to API via mail.

How often are the examinations given?

Each examination is given twice a year. API 510 and API 570 are usually held on the first Wednesday of June and December of each year. API 653, 936, TES and 571 examination is usually held in March and September of each year. Each application package contains the schedule of examinations for the year.