

American Society for Quality



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(December 2015) ([Learn how and when to remove this template message](#))

American Society for Quality (ASQ)



Abbreviation	ASQ
Motto	The Global Voice of Quality
Formation	February 16, 1946; 73 years ago
Founder	George D. Edwards
Type	Professional association
Purpose	To provide the quality community with training, professional certifications, and knowledge to a vast network of members of the global quality community.
Headquarters	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Coordinates	43.03740°N 87.91117°W Coordinates: 43.03740°N 87.91117°W
Region served	Worldwide
Services	Certification, training, publications,

conferences

Membership	80000 (approximately) (2013)
CEO	William Troy
Chairman	Benito Flores
Chair-elect	Austin S. Lin
Treasurer	Mark Moyer
Main organ	Board of directors
Affiliations	Exemplar Global
Website	asq.org
Formerly called	American Society for Quality Control



ASQ registration booth at [America's Center](#) in [St. Louis](#) for the 2010 meeting on 24 May

The **American Society for Quality (ASQ)**, formerly the **American Society for Quality Control (ASQC)**, is a knowledge-based global community of quality professionals, with nearly 80,000 members dedicated to promoting and advancing quality tools, principles, and practices in their workplaces and communities.



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History

ASQC was established on February 16, 1946 by 253 members in [Milwaukee, Wisconsin](#), with [George D. Edwards](#) as its first president. The organization was first created as a way for quality experts and manufacturers to sustain quality-improvement techniques used during [World War II](#).^{[1][2]}

In 1948, ASQC's Code of Ethics establishes standards for members to conduct their activities and business.

In 1997, the members of the organization voted to change its name from "American Society for Quality Control" to "American Society for Quality".^[3]

Today, ASQ is a global organization with members in more than 140 countries. ASQ operates regional centers in North Asia, South Asia, Latin America, the Middle East/Africa and has established strategic alliances with 24 organizations through the World Partners® Program^[4] in countries like Brazil, Canada, and the United Arab Emirates to promote ASQ products and training.^[4]

Quality

ASQ provides its members with [certification](#), training, publications, conferences, and other services. Internationally, ASQ has formed relationships with [nonprofit organizations](#) that have comparable missions and principles, forming collaborative efforts to meet the quality needs of companies, individuals, and organizations. ASQ is a founding partner of the [American Customer Satisfaction Index](#) (ACSI), a quarterly [economic indicator](#).

Since 1989,^[5] ASQ has administered the annual [Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award](#).^{[6][7]} The ASQ also gives the [Dorian Shainin](#) Medal, which is awarded annually for the "Development and Application of Creative or Unique Statistical Approaches in the Solving of Problems Relative to the Quality of Product or Service".^[8]

Certifications

ASQ offers 18 professional certifications relating to various aspects of the quality profession. Professional certification exams are translated into five languages included English, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish.^[9] Exams are given nationally and, to a limited degree, worldwide several times annually. The [body of knowledge](#) for each certification is maintained through [peer review](#) every few years on a rotating schedule.

In 1968, the first ASQ certification was offered. [\[10\]\[11\]](#)

In 2016, ASQ's certification exam delivery method changed from paper to computer based testing at Prometric nationwide testing facilities. [\[12\]\[13\]](#)

All certifications listed are from this reference [\[10\]](#) unless noted.

Year created	Certification	ASQ initials	Covers	Comments	Other reference
1968	Engineer	CQE	Principle of product and service, quality evaluation, and control.		[14]
1970	Technician	CQT	Quality problem, analysis, inspection sampling plans and statistical process control applications.		[15]
1972	Reliability Engineer	CRE	Principles of performance evaluation for product and system safety, reliability, and maintainability.	American Society for Quality Reliability Division	[16]
1984	Inspector	CQI	Hardware documentation, lab, and calibration procedures, inspection, process performance, data collection, and reports.	Initially known as mechanical inspector.	[17]
1987	Auditor	CQA	Standards and principles of auditing, questions, evaluations and reports for quality system adequacy.		[18]
1995	Manager	CMQ/OE (CQM: 1995-2005)	Champions process improvement initiatives and supports strategic planning and deployment initiatives.	Changed to Certified Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence in 2006 to reflect the broader scope of the quality manager's position.	[19]

1996	Software Quality Engineer	CSQE	Development of software processes, measurement, verification, and validation, analytical methods, and quality management.		[20]
1996	CQA- HACCP	CHA since 2004	Developed to test applicants knowledge of the HACCP standards.	Changed to Certified HACCP Auditor in 2004.	[21]
2000	Improvement Associate	CQIA	Designed to test basic knowledge of quality tools and their uses, along with involvement in quality improvement projects.		[22]
2001	Six Sigma Black Belt	CSSBB	To demonstrate competency in Six Sigma methods.		[23]
2002	CQA-biomedical	CBA since 2005.	Understands principles of standards, regulations, directives, and guidance for auditing a biomedical system.	Changed to Certified Biomedical Auditor in 2005.	[24]
2003	Calibration Technician	CCT	Tests, maintains, and repairs electrical, mechanical, electromechanical, analytical, and electronic measuring/recording equipment for conformance to established standards.		[25]
2005	Process Analyst	CQPA	Paraprofessional who analyzes and solves quality problems and is quality improvement projects.		[26]
2006	Six Sigma Green Belt	CSSGB	Paraprofessional who works with process development and documentation, collects, and summarizes data, and creates, and interprets multivar studies.		[27]

2009	Pharmaceutical good manufacturing practices professional certification	CPGP	Tests applicant knowledge of principles as regulated and guided by national and international agencies.	[28]
2010	Six Sigma Master Black Belt	CMBB	To demonstrate master competency in six sigma methodology.	[29]
2015	Six Sigma Yellow Belt	CSSYB	Participates as a project team member. Reviews process improvements that support the project.	[30]
2016	Supplier Quality Professional	CSQP	Works with an organization's supply chain and suppliers to continuously improve the performance of key system components by implementing process controls and developing quality assurance plans.	[31]

In a 2008 press release for the 40th anniversary of ASQ's certifications, the three most popular were the engineer (CQE), followed closely by the auditor (CQA) and the Six Sigma Black Belt (CSSBB).

Publications

ASQ publishes a range of magazines and journals:[\[32\]](#)

- [Quality Progress](#), ASQ's flagship publication which appears monthly for more than 50 years. Each publication features in-depth articles describing the application of innovative methods and timely information about quality principles, tools, and techniques. The Quality Progress editorial staff strives to clearly present such material to readers, to stimulate discussion on what does and does not work, and provide the means by which individuals, organizations, and society can improve. Topics include knowledge management, process improvement, and organizational behavior. Full text access is available online from 1995–present to ASQ members and subscribers.

Quarterly:

- [*Journal for Quality and Participation*](#), ASQ's peer-reviewed journal which appears four times per year in January, April, July, and October. Each publication features articles related to the education market and are focused on the people side of quality, particularly employee involvement, facilitation, and teams. Full text access is available online from 1987–present.
- [*Journal of Quality Technology*](#), ASQ's peer-reviewed journal which appears four times per year. Each publication features articles and papers that emphasize the practical applicability of new statistical techniques on design of experiments, process monitoring, reliability, and applied statistics. Papers present new methods, case study examples, comparisons of existing methods, and reviews of the literature on topics of current interest. Full text is available online from 1969–present to ASQ members and subscribers.
- [*Quality Engineering*](#) (Co-published with [Taylor & Francis](#)), ASQ's peer-reviewed journal which appears four times per year. It's written for professionals in all engineering and management fields interested in quality improvement focusing on comprehensive quality science applications throughout the entire economy and society. Each publication features articles on the latest thinking on quality control and quality assurance management, related physical technology, associated statistical tools, standards information, and more. Full text is available online from 1988–present.
- [*Quality Management Journal*](#), ASQ's peer-reviewed journal which appears four times per year. It is considered is the first journal to link the efforts of academic researchers and quality management practitioners. Each publication aims to link the efforts of academic researchers and quality management practitioners by publishing significant research relevant to quality management practice and provide a forum for discussion of such research by academics and practitioners. Full text is available online from 1993–present to ASQ members and subscribers.
- [*Lean and Six Sigma Review*](#), ASQ's Lean and Six Sigma magazine which appears four times per year in February, May, August, and November. It's considered the first publication that addresses the specific needs of Six Sigma professions. Each publication features articles that provides a holistic view of Six Sigma, from the basics to the boardroom, by addressing the various professional development needs of Six Sigma Executives, Champions, Master Black Belts, Black Belts, Green Belts, and Yellow Belts. Full text access is available online from 2001–present.
- [*Software Quality Professional*](#), ASQ's peer-reviewed journal which appears four times per year in December, March, June, and September. Each publication features articles that focus on applying quality principles to the development and use of software and software-based systems. It publishes case studies, experience-based reports, and state-of-the-art reviews to provide practitioners with an understanding of those software quality practices that have proven effective in a wide range of industries, applications, and organizational settings. Full text is available online from 1998–present.
- [*Technometrics*](#) (Co-published with the [American Statistical Association](#)), ASQ's statistics journal which appears four times per year. Each publication features articles that contribute to the development and use of statistical methods in the physical, chemical, and engineering sciences as well as information sciences and technology. It features papers that describe new statistical techniques; illustrate innovative applications of known statistical methods; or review methods, issues, or philosophy in a particular area of statistics or science. Full text is available online from 1959–present.

Division and Forum Publications:

- ***Quality Approaches in Higher Education***
- ***Quality Management Forum***

- *Primers on Human Development and Leadership*