

Question 28.3

Topic: QI vs QSTI

Question: I have heard two similar-sounding terms pertaining to persons who are responsible for overseeing emission tests, i.e., “Qualified Individual” and “Qualified Source Testing Individual”. What is the difference between these two terms?

Answer: The terms refer to separate qualifications established by two independent professional organizations using related but distinct criteria. ASTM D7036-04, issued by ASTM International, defines certain requirements for an individual to attain and maintain status as a “Qualified Individual” (QI).

The Source Evaluation Society (SES) has a program which will certify an individual who meets certain requirements as a “Qualified Source Testing Individual” (QSTI). Part 75 requires that the person overseeing emission testing or RATA(s) have QI status, not QSTI certification. The relationship of QI status and QSTI certification is further discussed below.

A “Qualified Individual” (QI) is one who, in accordance with ASTM D7036-04:

- (a) has passed one or more emissions testing knowledge (“qualifying”) exams, such as the Group 1 through 5 exams provided by the Source Evaluation Society (SES);
- (b) has at least one year of experience or has participated in at least 10 tests for the method(s) that will be under his or her supervision; and
- (c) agrees that all tests and projects under his or her supervision will conform to the organization’s quality manual.

A “Qualified Source Testing Individual” (QSTI) is one who has met the basic requirements of ASTM D7036-04 and voluntarily chooses to participate in the QSTI/QSTO Program administered by SES. That program, which has been in existence since 2004, requires the individual to submit an application for “qualification approval certificates”. The applicant may request a certificate for each SES Group exam that has been passed. In addition, the applicant must provide two project descriptions for each Group for which a certificate is being requested, and three references.

The application and supplementary information are reviewed by the QSTI/QSTO Committee, and for each Group that receives Committee approval, a QSTI qualification approval certificate is issued. Part 75 requires only that the person overseeing the emission testing or RATA(s) be a Qualified Individual (QI)---QSTI status is not required.

However, a person who has been approved as a QSTI for a particular test method used in Part 75 applications is also a QI for that test method (provided that the person has re-taken and passed the relevant exam(s) when required – see Question 12 below) if the person signs a statement to be kept on file with the AETB, agreeing that all test projects conducted

under his/her supervision will conform to the AETB's quality manual and to ASTM D7036-04 in all respects.

References:

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