



Certification Partners

The Skills Certification System currently includes 14 certification sponsors that provide industry standards and assessments, spanning the entire occupational pathway from entry-level workers to engineers. Outlined below is a snapshot of each partner. Each industry sponsor's website contains extensive information about standards, certifications, assessments, and costs.

Academic and Core Technical Skills



At the foundation of the skills system is the **ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)**[™]. The NCRC is an industry-recognized, portable credential that demonstrates achievement and a certain level of applied academic and employability skills for workplace success. Individuals may earn the NCRC by taking three WorkKeys[®] assessments: Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information.



Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) assessment and certification system is focused on the core technical knowledge and skills needed by front-line production workers. MSSC offers the Certified Production Technician (CPT), which consists of four modules: Safety; Quality Practices and Measurement; Manufacturing Processes and Production; and Maintenance Awareness. MSSC is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under ISO Standard 17024.

Occupation-Specific Skills



National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) is the only ANSI- accredited developer of precision manufacturing skill standards and competency assessments in the nation. NIMS has developed skill standards in 24 operational areas covering the breadth of metalworking operations, with 52 distinct skills certifications. NIMS certifications cover a range of machining specialties, including CNC programming and operation.



American Welding Society (AWS) is the nation's premier entity for welding certification and has a robust collection of certification documents on its website. A few suggested links include the standards for the Certified Welders and the Body of Knowledge for the Certified Welding Inspector, 2 critical positions for many manufacturers.



Association for Operations Management (APICS) is the global leader and premier source of the body of knowledge in supply chain and operations management. The APICS Certified in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM) and APICS Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP) designations are recognized globally for setting the standard of professional excellence in the industry.



American Society for Quality (ASQ) is the worldwide leader in providing credentials to the global quality community. The Society currently offers 16 different certifications including Quality Technician, Quality Inspector, and Quality Engineer. More than 170,000 certifications have been issued to dedicated professionals worldwide.



Society for Manufacturing Engineers (SME) partners with three organizations to offer Lean Certification: the Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME), The Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence, and the American Society for Quality (ASQ). The certification aligns these leading organizations to a single standard for the industry.



International Fluid Power Society (IFPS) is the only organization that provides comprehensive technical certification in the fluid power and motion control industry. Numerous certifications are currently offered, such as Fluid Power Certified Technician and Fluid Power Electronic Controls.



PMMI members manufacture packaging and packaging-related converting machinery. The PMMI Mechatronics Certificate Program and the PMMI Certified Trainer Program are among the most popular.



National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) is recognized as one of the premier workforce development organizations for the construction and maintenance industry. The NCCER training and certification system offers more than 80 different assessments in over 60 different craft areas.



International Society of Automation (ISA) is a global nonprofit organization setting the standard for automation by helping over 30,000 worldwide members solve difficult technical problems. ISA's Certified Control Systems Technician (CCST) and Certified Automation Professional (CAP) certifications are key elements of the Skills Certification System.



Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, International (FMA) Precision Sheet Metal Operator Certification (PSMO) is the metal fabricating industry's only comprehensive exam designed to assess a candidate's knowledge of fundamental precision sheet metal operations. Fabrication processes covered in the exam include shearing, sawing, press brake, and more.



North American Die Casting Association (NADCA) requires candidates to pass the specified examinations and fulfill the minimum apprenticeship period to become certified. The Certification Program has several levels ranging from Die Casting Technician to Master of Die Casting Technology.



American Society of Transportation and Logistics (AST&L) facilitates education and certification in the fields of transportation, logistics, and supply chain management. It provides globally-recognized credentials such as the Professional Designation in Logistics and Supply Chain Management (PLS) and the Certified in Transportation and Logistics (CTL) designation.



Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) Certified Logistics Technician Certification (CLT) is the industry-recognized national certification for the core technical skills of front-line workers (entry level through first line of supervision) involved in the handling and distribution of materials throughout the supply chain and logistics industry.

Professional Association



Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) offers the Certified Manufacturing Technologist, which focuses on the fundamentals of manufacturing and is acquired through a baccalaureate program or a combination of four years academic and work experience. The Certified Manufacturing Engineer is focused on applied and advanced manufacturing knowledge and may be acquired through a combination of eight years of work experience and a manufacturing or engineering degree.