QP 1 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

START

DO YOU HAVE A:
- SAFETY PROGRAM?
- QUALITY PROGRAM?

YES

CAN YOU DEMONSTRATE SIX MONTHS OF PRODUCTION HISTORY FOR INDUSTRIAL/MARINE COATINGS?

NO

DO YOU HAVE A:
- SAFETY PROGRAM?
- QUALITY PROGRAM?

YES

PROGRAMES NEEDED:
- SAFETY
- QUALITY
- CAS CERTIFICATION

NO

FCA CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH:
- SAFETY & HEALTH PROGRAM
- INFORMATION TO OBTAIN A QUALITY PROGRAM THROUGH A THIRD PARTY

SUBMIT APPLICATION

SSPC EVALUATION

AUDIT
- OFFICE AUDIT
- JOBSITE AUDIT

FAIL

CORRECTIVE ACTION WITHIN 45 DAYS

PASS

AUDITOR REVIEW

PASS

QP1 CERTIFICATION


SSPC RARELY REJECTS APPLICATIONS. AS LONG AS THE CONTRACTOR IS WORKING TOWARDS CORRECTING THE PROBLEM, SSPC WILL KEEP THE CONTRACTOR’S APPLICATION OPEN UNTIL THE CONTRACTOR COMPLETES THE REQUIREMENTS.

DEPENDENT ON CONTRACTOR

TIMELINE

4 DAYS

CONFIRMED CERTIFICATION BY SSPC IN APPROXIMATELY 2 WEEKS

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How Does SSPC Evaluate a Contractor for Certification?

To become certified, the contractor or shop must:

- Complete a detailed application form describing its company and its work history.
- Submit quality control, safety and environmental compliance programs and procedures.
- Obtain SSPC acceptance of its submittal to ensure the submitted items are based on SSPC QP1 requirements.
- Avail itself to an on-site audit by an SSPC auditor to both its primary place of business and an active jobsite to demonstrate its capabilities.
- Comply with a rigorously enforced disciplinary action code (field contractors only).

How many owners in the USA require SSPC's Painting Contractor Certification Program?

Currently, many State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) require SSPC certification for bridge maintenance and other painting. Within those states are many major city DOTs and county governments that require the PCCP as well for bridge, water tank, and waste and water treatment facilities requiring maintenance painting. Certification is also frequently specified on a one-time per job basis by specifiers who do not have ongoing painting programs. SSPC certification is also specified by many private owners, and its use in the private sector continues to grow. View the list of known owners online, www.sspc.org/who-requires-qp-certification.

How long does it take for a contractor to achieve certification?

It usually takes one to two months from the time the contractor submits its application to the time the SSPC audit is complete. However, it can take longer if the contractor’s application or submittal is incomplete or needs clarification, or if the audit must be delayed to accommodate the contractor’s project work schedules. The SSPC auditor must be able to observe the contractor or shop performing bona fide work for a customer.

What is the cost of certification to the contractor?

Certification fees for the field contractor run from $5,000 – $8,000 the first year and $2,000 – $4,000 to maintain certification each year thereafter. All practicing contractors are eligible for SSPC certification, but only SSPC member contractors are eligible for discounts. The QP1 and QP2 audits can be done at the same time provided the QP1 portion of the evaluation is done first in the sequence. This can significantly reduce the contractor’s audit costs. Shop certification fees are lower and run from $3,000 – $4,000 the first year.

Which contractors are eligible for SSPC contractor certification?

All industrial coating contractors and shops, regardless of size, volume of work, markets worked in or affiliations, are eligible for SSPC certification provided they can demonstrate a six-month production history of compliance with SSPC QP1, and QP2, and/or QP3 requirements prior to their initial evaluation. The lists of SSPC certified contractors and shops include large, medium and small businesses; those that paint bridges, storage tanks, structural steel or a variety of complex industrial structures and those that may be minority or women owned.

Must a contractor be QP1 certified to become QP2 certified? What about QP3?

Yes. The contractor must first demonstrate knowledge of the basics of surface preparation and painting (QP1) to become QP2 certified. However, you do not have to be QP1 or QP2 certified to become QP3 certified.

Why does SSPC want to see my tax return and other confidential financial information?

SSPC only needs to verify legal identifiability, insurance coverage and the fact that the applicant follows accepted accounting practices and estimating procedures. The financial information contained on such documents is of no interest to SSPC and has no bearing on the outcome of the audit. In fact, we suggest the contractor "white out" those specific details to avoid any misunderstandings.