In 2002, NCCER’s pipeline program was developed in cooperation with the American Petroleum Institute (API) to help pipeline owners comply with the Operator Qualification (OQ) Rule. This rule stems from a 1992 mandate and continues today through the Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 49 CFR, Parts 192 and 195. These regulations were developed by the DOT’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Office of Pipeline Safety. To find out more about the regulations, visit: www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations

With a core focus on OQ, NCCER built methods of qualification based on Covered Tasks, a performance-based qualification standard. NCCER also developed and maintains a full training program to encourage workforce development in the pipeline industry.

NCCER is still the most accepted provider of qualifications among liquid pipeline operators and continues to lead the way in OQ and workforce development solutions. Through participation on API’s OQ Workgroup, the ASME B31Q standards committee and the NCCER Pipeline Users Council, NCCER works with operators, contractors and the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to understand impacts on the industry and to offer solutions.
NCCER’s PIPELINE PROGRAM

The NCCER Pipeline Program is now more flexible than ever. Whether you are looking for covered task modules with knowledge and performance tests to meet Operator Qualifications (OQ), or you are looking for a comprehensive training program for your classes, NCCER has it all.

NCCER has broken down its pipeline program into 127 covered task training modules with corresponding tests for OQ testing. This allows contractors to offer multiple or single tasks as specified by operators and provide study materials to the individuals preparing for those tests. The content in these modules is based on API RP 1161, 3rd edition and includes other industry-mandated tasks. The tests and study materials are available online and in print.

NCCER also maintains a full comprehensive training program which includes the covered task training and testing, opportunities for NCCER credentials and a pipeline career pathway to help recruit into the industry.

NOTE: In order to provide OQ testing or recognized pipeline training with credentials, your organization must either be an NCCER Accredited Training Sponsor (ATS) or work with one.
PROVIDING TRAINING
NCCER offers a full comprehensive training program which includes the 127 covered task training modules combined with additional modules for level training. Successful level completions can lead to NCCER credentials and recognition as a pipeline professional (see the pipeline career pathway on page 8).

Printed books with these predetermined levels can be purchased or customers can build their own custom books to include only the modules they need in their program. Instructor resources are available, including lesson plans, PowerPoints and Performance Profiles.

TESTING OPTIONS
NCCER has brought all of its testing under one system—the NCCER Testing System. This system is for both module testing and OQ. This makes it easy to test quickly and efficiently. Online tests are scored automatically and transferred to NCCER’s Registry System and ISNetworld (ISN). If your site doesn’t have access to the internet, paper tests are available as well through this system.

In addition, if you only provide OQ testing, study materials for each of the 127 covered tasks are available online and can be downloaded instantly.

RECORD MANAGEMENT
NCCER partners with ISN to allow pipeline contractors to share workers’ qualification information with operators. When training or OQ testing is successfully completed, the information is first transferred to NCCER’s Registry System and then to ISN.

In addition to the benefits provided by ISN’s database, the NCCER Registry System houses all of the completion information allowing candidates to share their training information and employers to verify successful covered task and level completions.
In order to provide training with credentials, your organization must either be an NCCER Accredited Training Sponsor (ATS) or work with one.

NCCER sponsors are the foundation of the NCCER standardized craft training program. An ATS is responsible for conducting and delivering a quality training program based on uniform standards and criteria.

Each ATS benefits from NCCER’s Registry System. This international database maintained by NCCER keeps track of the individuals who have successfully completed NCCER standardized construction, maintenance, safety and/or pipeline training programs conducted by an NCCER accredited organization.

The registry records training completions/tests/performance verifications and issues appropriate credentials (transcripts, certificates and wallet cards). This assures portability of each trainee’s/participant’s accomplishments, ensuring recognition wherever they go.

The registry allows an ATS to electronically submit and track training, assessments and performance verifications through a secure web-based system. The data is then made available for users to access records electronically for quick and easy confirmation of credentials.

To learn more about our pipeline program, visit www.nccer.org/pipeline. If you would like to provide training and/or OQ in-house, contact NCCER at 888.622.3720 to start the accreditation process.
TRAINED GUIDES
NCCER has maintained its full level trainee guides for the development of pipeline professionals.

- Available in print
- No minimum order
- 3 weeks for delivery
- Ordering details on page 10
- Instructor resources include lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations and Performance Profiles

INTRODUCTION TO THE PIPELINE INDUSTRY
Introduces the foundational concepts required to safely work on and around pipelines. Includes: Introduction to the Pipeline Industry; Tools of the Trade; Introduction to Pipeline Documents; Basic Pipeline Pneumatics and Equipment; Basic Pipeline Hydraulics and Equipment; Communications; and Release Identification and Response.

- 172.5 hours | ISBN: 978-0-13-480566-5
  (includes 72.5 hours from Core Curriculum*)

ABNORMAL OPERATING CONDITIONS CONTROL CENTER
Introduces the abnormal operating conditions (AOCs) that can occur on a pipeline or in a pipeline facility and explains how to recognize and react to the conditions from the control center. Also covered are the necessary documentation and notifications that must be completed when responding to these conditions.

- 5 hours | ISBN: 978-0-13-472782-0

ABNORMAL OPERATING CONDITIONS FIELD & GAS
Provides an overview of the types of abnormal operating conditions (AOCs) that may occur on the pipeline or in company facilities. Appropriate responses to AOCs are also covered with a focus on following company policy to protect lives and pipeline equipment along with reports required by federal law.

- 5 hours | ISBN: 978-0-13-472784-4

*The NCCER Core Curriculum is a prerequisite to Level 1 curriculum and purchased separately.
PIPELINE CAREER PATHWAY TRAINING

ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION
Provides basic, intermediate and advanced training to safely inspect, operate and maintain electrical components and instrumentation on pipelines. Level 1 is comprised of two separate volumes and Level 2 includes covered task training for Operator Qualification (OQ).

- **Level 1, Volume 1**: 272.5 hours  
  **Level 1, Volume 2**: 240† hours  
- **Level 2**: 152.5 hours  

CORROSION CONTROL
Provides basic, intermediate and advanced training to safely inspect and prepare pipelines for the installation and repair of corrosion inhibitors. Both Level 1 and Level 2 include covered task training.

- **Level 1**: 105 hours  
  ISBN: 978-0-13-470520-0  
- **Level 2**: 90 hours  
  ISBN: 978-0-13-471651-0

FIELD & CONTROL CENTER OPERATIONS
Provides basic, intermediate and advanced training to safely operate gas and liquid pipelines as well as manage operations in the control center. Level 1 includes key content such as quality control and measurement, while Level 2 includes covered task training for OQ.

- **Field & Control Center Operations Level 1**: 115 hours  
- **Pipeline Operations Level 2**: 110 hours  
  ISBN: 978-0-13-472539-0

MAINTENANCE & MECHANICAL
Provides basic, intermediate and advanced training to safely perform general and mechanical maintenance on pipelines. After Level 1, the maintenance and mechanical pathways separate. See the chart on page 9.

- **Level 1, Volume 1**: 140 hours  
  **Level 1, Volume 2**: 205† hours  
- **Maintenance Level 2**: 132.5 hours  
  ISBN: 978-0-13-471653-4  
  **Maintenance Level 3**: 187.5 hours  
- **Mechanical Level 2**: 67.5 hours  
  **Mechanical Level 3**: 80 hours  

*Due to page count, these levels have been split into two volumes.*
The newly established pipeline career pathway represented on this page provides the recognition pipeline professionals deserve through standardized training and industry-recognized credentials.

Levels of training have been established by combining training modules into specific focus areas within the industry. This allows trainees to progress through a standardized program and earn a professional credential.

In addition, Levels 2 and 3 are comprised of covered task training modules that can lead to Operator Qualifications (OQ). Pipeline Corrosion Control is the only exception providing covered task training in Level 1.

The blue boxes denote the professional credential that can be earned with successful completion of each program.

Each of these titles have corresponding OQ. The Covered Task list is available online at www.nccer.org/pipeline
Level 2: Craft-Specific Training with Operator Qualification

Pipeline Operations (Control Center/ Gas/Liquid)

Pipeline Mechanical

Pipeline Maintenance

Pipeline Electrical and Instrumentation

Pipeline Corrosion Control

Level 3: Craft-Specific Training with Operator Qualification

Pipeline Operations Technician

Pipeline Mechanical Technician

Pipeline Maintenance Technician

Pipeline Electrical and Instrumentation Technician

Pipeline Corrosion Technician

Trained & Qualified Pipeline Professional Credential
ORDERING BOOKS & MODULES

STANDARD PRINT BOOK ORDERS
There are three options for ordering printed, traditional textbooks from Pearson:

- Call the Pearson ordering department at: 800-922-0579
- Email the Pearson ordering department at: pearson-ot.orderdept@pearson.com
- Existing customers: use the Pearson Oasis system at oasis.pearson.com.

First time customers need to provide information to verify the school or business they work for and fill out a credit application. You will receive your 11-digit Pearson account number and order confirmation via email within 48-72 hours of the call. An account can only be opened when placing an order.

- Institutional/Business Price: $100.00 per level
- Student/Retail Price: $133.33 per level

CUSTOM BOOK & MODULE ORDERS
Pearson Collections allows an instructor/organization to make custom bulk purchases in both print and digital. If an organization only wants specific modules instead of full books, they should use this platform to build their custom books.

- www.pearsoncollections.com
- There is an order minimum of 10 custom books
- Digital copies can be added by selecting the option when ordering
- Printed books take 3 weeks to fulfill
- Digital PDFs are available within 5 days and are accessible for 180 days
- Quantity-based pricing available

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING MODULES FOR OQ
VitalSource is available for individuals needing covered task modules that can be used for training or as a study guide for OQ tests.

- www.nccer.org/pipeline-program
- Training modules will be available immediately after purchase
- Interactive Ebook format
- No print option and cannot be downloaded
- Accessible for 180 days
- $18 per module

ORDERING BOOKS & MODULES
Have a question? We can help. We’ve developed a robust collection of training resources designed to help you learn about the pipeline program in a format that works for you.

HOW-TO DOCUMENTS
- Learn tasks step-by-step
- Includes screen grabs

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDES
- Infographic-style reference sheets
- Bite-sized chunks of information

TRAINING WEBINARS
- On-demand training available 24/7 online
- Pre-recorded training sessions guided by NCCER staff
- Learn at your own pace

LEVEL EXAM SPECIFICATION SHEETS
- Specification sheets outline the topics covered for each level of training
- Includes covered and non covered tasks

Get Trained
All of our pipeline resources can be found at nccer.org/pipeline.
TESTING FOR OPERATOR QUALIFICATION (OQ)

1. Know what the operator requires for OQ.

2. Familiarize yourself with the methods the operator requires on each task (written, performance, AOC, etc.).

3. Find the corresponding method on NCCER’s Covered Task list.*

To test for OQ, your organization must either be an NCCER Accredited Training Sponsor (ATS) or work with one.

Once individuals have successfully completed the testing, results will be automatically recorded in NCCER’s Registry System and ISNetworld.

NCCER’s covered task list can be found at [www.nccer.org/pipeline](http://www.nccer.org/pipeline).

* Aligns to API RP 1161, 3rd Edition and to industry-mandated tasks.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Only pipeline operators (not NCCER) can determine what criteria will qualify workers, contractors and subcontractors working on their pipeline.
# PURCHASING PIPELINE TESTS

Once set up in the new testing system, accredited organizations have two ways to buy and pay for tests:

## ORGANIZATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>PIPELINE</th>
<th>PER TEST PRICING</th>
<th>PACKAGE TEST PRICING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Go directly to the NCCER Testing System and have trainees/students begin taking tests. Monthly invoices will be automatically generated for tests taken during that month. There are no pricing discounts for this option and purchase orders are not accepted.</td>
<td>Prepay for tests and receive discounts through <a href="http://shop.nccer.org">shop.nccer.org</a>. You can buy packages of 100 tests with discounts starting at packages of 500. Using <a href="http://shop.nccer.org">shop.nccer.org</a> allows you to pay for your tests in advance, receive discounts and use purchase orders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
<td>$5.00 per digital test, no discount per test</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>$4.75 per digital test, 5% discount per test</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>$4.65 per digital test, 7% discount per test</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>$4.50 per digital test, 10% discount per test</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>7,000+</td>
<td>$4.25 per digital test, 15% discount per test</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The tests in each package are not tied to any specific pipeline module. They can be used at your discretion for either knowledge or performance-based testing. Paper test options and pricing will be available by September 2, 2017.
Abnormal Operating Condition
A condition within a pipeline system, identified by the operator, that may indicate
1. A malfunction of a component or
2. A deviation from normal operations that may indicate a condition exceeding design limits or result in a hazard to persons, property, or the environment.

API RP 1161
American Petroleum Institute’s Recommend Practice 1161 for Pipeline Operator Qualification (OQ) was developed in 2002 in response to the OQ rule which required Pipeline Operators to develop a written qualification program for internal and contractor personnel. Originally intended for liquid pipeline operators, this guidance document includes covered tasks that ascribe to the ‘Four Part Rule’. 

Four Part Rule
Refers to the section in the Operator Qualification Final Rule (64 FR 46853; August 27, 1999, otherwise known as the ‘OQ Rule’), defining a covered task.

Covered Task
An activity, identified by the operator, that:
1. Is performed on a pipeline facility;
2. Is an operations or maintenance task;
3. Is performed as a requirement of the OQ Rule; and
4. Affects the operation or integrity of the pipeline.

PHMSA
The purpose of the Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is to identify and manage risks presented by transportation of hazardous materials in commerce.

OQ Rule
The Operator Qualification rule requires pipeline operators to document that certain employees have been adequately trained to recognize and react to abnormal operating conditions that may occur while performing specific tasks. To adhere to the rule, operators must have a written plan that establishes covered tasks and defines training and qualification requirements for their program.

ASME B31Q
ASME (formerly American Society for Mechanical Engineers) published B31Q as a standard to join with ASME’s other B31 codes on piping systems in 2006. Unlike API’s ‘Recommended Practice’, ASME B31Q is a standard that applies to any covered task affecting the safety or integrity of a pipeline. Also ASME B31Q does not ascribe to the four-part rule for covered tasks. While intended for use by both liquid and gas operators, ASME B31Q is still primarily followed by gas pipeline operators.
If you have questions or need assistance utilizing NCCER’s services, we have a variety of customer service options:

- **24/7:** Visit NCCER’s Support page at [support.nccer.org](http://support.nccer.org) to view How-To documents, videos and self-help resources.

- **Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm EST:** Use the chat feature on [nccer.org](http://nccer.org) or call 888.622.3720 to speak with NCCER’s customer service department.
ABOUT NCCER

NCCER is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) education foundation created by the construction industry to develop standardized curriculum and assessments with portable credentials and to help address the skilled construction workforce shortage. NCCER is recognized by the industry as the training, assessment, certification and career development standard for the construction and maintenance craft professional.

For more information, visit www.nccer.org or contact NCCER customer service at 888.622.3720.