

Recommended Practice for Pipeline Operator Qualification (OQ)

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Suggested revisions are invited and should be submitted to the Standards Department, API, 200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20001. standards@api.org.

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Recommended Practice for Pipeline Operator Qualification (OQ)

1 Scope

The purpose of this recommended practice (RP) is to provide guidance for developing and maintaining an operator qualification (OQ) program. This document is comprised of the RP along with normative and nonmandatory, informative annexes.

This RP is applicable for all pipelines, both onshore and offshore, subject to 49 *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* Part 192 and/or Part 195. References to 49 *CFR* Part 192 are applicable to gas-transmission tasks, and references to 49 *CFR* Part 195 are applicable to liquid-only tasks. Operators may choose to use all, part, or none of this document as applicable to their operations.

Operators should be aware that the OQ regulation is applicable only to United States Department of Transportation (DOT) jurisdictional pipelines. For purposes of this document, the word "pipeline" is used interchangeably with pipeline, pipeline facility, pipeline system, and any and all jurisdictional pipeline components as defined in 49 *CFR* Part 192 and Part 195.

Annexes F and G have been added to this edition to address management of change and abnormal operating conditions.

2 Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated reference, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

API 510, *Pressure Vessel Inspection Code: In-service Inspection, Rating, Repair, and Alteration*

API Standard 653, *Tank Inspection, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction*

API Standard 1104, *Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities*

API Recommended Practice 2350, *Overfill Protection for Storage Tanks in Petroleum Facilities*

ASME *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code*¹, Section IX: *Welding and Brazing Qualifications*

ASNT Recommended Practice SNT-TC-1A², *Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing*

U.S. DOT Title 49, *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 192*³, *Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline*

U.S. DOT Title 49, *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 195, Transportation of Hazardous Liquids by Pipeline*

U.S. DOT Title 49, *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 191.23, Reporting Safety-related Conditions*

¹ ASME International, 2 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990, www.asme.org.

² American Society for Nondestructive Testing, PO Box 28518, 1711 Arlinggate Lane, Columbus, OH 43228, www.asnt.org.

³ Department of Transportation. The *Code of Federal Regulations* is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, www.gpo.gov/fdsys.