



updated May 8, 2017

# Pipeline Inspector Certification Program

## Program Overview Information

### INTRODUCTION

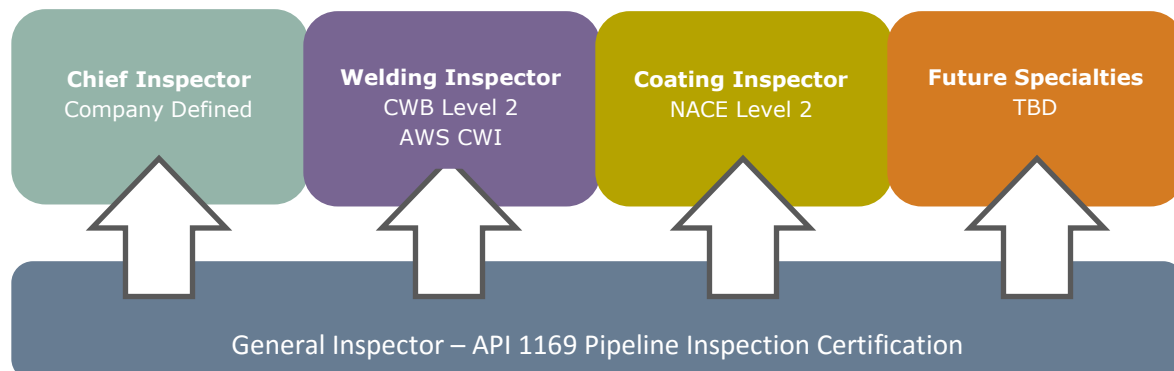
In early 2016, the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America and the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, the INGAA Foundation and the CEPA Foundation (the Associations) endorsed the API 1169 Pipeline Construction Inspector Certification program, for adoption by their member companies. Under the Associations’ overall program, this pipeline inspector certification was described as a baseline for existing and future pipeline construction inspectors performing work for the member companies and further, performance goals were established.

The Associations’ program is part of a continuous improvement process to enhance the operational reliability of pipelines. By standardizing the baseline certification of pipeline inspectors across the industry, pipeline construction quality is enhanced.

### CERTIFICATION

The API 1169 Pipeline Construction Inspector Certification program, available since November 2014, was developed by the American Petroleum Institute in cooperation with industry experts to establish an industry-wide credential for the inspection of new onshore pipeline construction. The API 1169 Pipeline Construction Inspector Certification was updated in 2016 to meet industry requirements in Canada. Under the Associations’ program, the API 1169 certification is applicable to all pipeline construction inspectors, regardless of other certifications. This means that specialty inspectors, such as CWB Level 2/AWS CWI for Welding Inspectors and NACE Level 2 for Coating Inspectors should also obtain the API 1169 certification. The structure of the Associations’ inspector certification program, that shows the API 1169 certification as a baseline, is further illustrated in Fig. 1 below.

Fig. 1 Structure



## SCHEDULE

The goal of the Associations' program is to systematically advance toward complete certification over a three-year period as depicted in Fig. 2. Each owner or operator can determine its own implementation timetable.

**Fig. 2 Implementation Goals**



## FUTURE CERTIFICATION PLANS

The CEPA and INGAA Foundations have developed “*A Practical Guide for Pipeline Construction Inspectors*,” that is subject to revision and improvement over time. In April 2017, this guide was incorporated into the current versions of the API 1169 certification exam.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### Who are the members of INGAA and the INGAA Foundation?

INGAA is comprised of 25 members, representing the vast majority of the interstate natural gas transmission pipeline companies in the U.S. and comparable companies in Canada. INGAA's members operate approximately 165,000 miles of pipelines, and serve as an indispensable link between natural gas producers and consumers. [www.ingaa.org](http://www.ingaa.org)

The INGAA Foundation brings together pipeline operators and contractors –currently 185 members—including construction companies, pipe mills, engineering companies, consultants, environmental and safety groups and others—to facilitate efficient, quality construction and safe and reliable operation of the North American natural gas pipeline system.

### Who are the Member Companies of CEPA and the CEPA Foundation?

The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) represents Canada's transmission pipeline companies. CEPA members transport 97% of Canada's daily natural gas and onshore crude oil production from producing regions to markets throughout Canada and the United States. [www.cepa.com](http://www.cepa.com)

The CEPA Foundation is comprised of both pipeline operators and the various companies in the supply chain that perform work in the Canadian pipeline industry.

## **Will there be any grandfathering into certification from other certifications not listed?**

No. Under the Associations' program, all pipeline construction inspectors are required to obtain the certifications required by the program. There is no ability to apply for equivalent certifications.

## **How will inspectors benefit from certification?**

Certification will benefit inspectors in many specific ways:

- Preference for selection for work on pipeline projects will be given to those certified as per the Pipeline Inspector Certification Program.
- Certification provides a more defined career path for new pipeline inspectors, and the opportunity for advancement for experienced inspectors.
- Certification raises the prestige of the pipeline inspection career by validating experience by an independent quality standard—the API 1169 certification.
- Certification helps maintain quality, safety and a high level of performance within inspection crews.

## **Who will pay for inspectors to become certified?**

As with other certifications and professions, the expectation is that the inspectors will invest in the costs to obtain certification. Pipeline inspectors in Canada are generally independent consultants who continually invest in training, certifications, equipment and tools, as part of their professional and business development. In the U.S., inspectors are generally employed by inspection service providers. Neither INGAA nor CEPA charges any fees related to certification.

## **Is training available?**

There are several online and in-class exam prep training courses for API 1169 Pipeline Construction Inspector Certification, CWB Level 2 and AWS Welding Inspector Certification and NACE Level 2 Coating Inspector Certification. Some certification bodies (CWB, AWS, NACE) keep lists of training/exam prep providers. For further details about training or certification exams, please contact the appropriate certification bodies:

[www.api.org](http://www.api.org)

[www.cwbgroup.org](http://www.cwbgroup.org)

[www.aws.org](http://www.aws.org)

[www.nace.org](http://www.nace.org)