

# KEEPING CURRENT

## CERTIFICATION

### NEW SUPPLIER QUALITY PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION SET

A certified supplier quality professional (CSQP) body of knowledge (BoK) and certification have been developed by ASQ and its Customer-Supplier Division (CSD). The first exams will be offered in October. The CSQP will provide credentials to quality professionals in the growing field of supplier quality engineering across several industries.

Significant changes in the global supply chain landscape over the last several years have increased the need for effective supply chain management. An organization's supply chain can be a competitive differentiator, but also can be vulnerable to disruption as the business environment becomes more challenging.

Inherent in a successful supply chain strategy is an integrated supply chain process architecture with supply chain professionals who can drive that infrastructure. There are a few different professional organizations that cover a supply chain BoK and offer certifications, but none other than ASQ that cover quality or the role a supplier quality professional provides in the development and deployment of an effective supply chain strategy.

The idea for a quality-centric supply chain certification was first brought to ASQ in 2013. As part of the process to consider a new exam, a market survey completed in May 2014 confirmed a high level of interest in the proposed certification:

- 67% of respondents agreed there was a need for a certification to validate a professional's knowledge and proficiency in understanding and applying supplier quality engineering concepts.
- 69% agreed a CSQP credential would add value to individuals in the marketplace.

To develop the BoK, a job analysis study was completed in July 2015. The study identified seven domains for the BoK and validated the originally proposed skills:

1. Supplier strategy.
2. Supplier selection.
3. Risk management.
4. Supplier performance monitoring and assessment.
5. Supplier maintenance and improvement.
6. Relationship management.
7. Business governance, and ethics and compliance.

The CSQP BoK will enhance the sup-

plier quality professional's understanding and comprehension of how the supplier quality function fits into the supply chain process—from product development to supplier qualification to supplier monitoring to communications.

A team of several supplier quality professionals from the CSD is working on the *Certified Supplier Quality Professional Handbook*, which will be published by ASQ Quality Press later this year.

For more information about the new certification, visit [asq.org/cert/supplier-quality](http://asq.org/cert/supplier-quality).

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