

General Information and Qualification Requirements

1. Introduction

The American Petroleum Institute (API) initiated a Pressure Vessel Inspector Certification Program to improve management control of process unit operation, repair, and maintenance; reduce the potential for inspection delays resulting from regulatory requirements; and provide a continued high level of safety through the use of inspectors specialized in process equipment. The program promotes self-regulation and establishes a uniform national program that will assist state and local governments in pressure vessel regulations.

2. Qualification Requirements

1. You must be employed by or under contract to an authorized inspection agency or owner/user agency as defined in API 510.
2. You must have one of the following combinations of education and experience:

Education	Minimum Experience Required	Skills
BS or higher in engineering	1 year	Supervision or performance of inspection activities as described in API 510
2-year degree or certificate in engineering or technology	2 years	Design, construction, repair, operation, or inspection of pressure vessels, of which one year must be in supervision performance of inspection activities.
High school diploma or equivalent	3 years	Design, construction, repair, operation, or inspection of pressure vessels, of which one year must be in supervision performance of inspection activities.
None	5 or more years	Design, construction, repair, operation, or inspection of pressure vessels, of which one year must be in supervision performance of inspection activities

3. Methods to Become API 510 Certified

1. Successful completion of National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors Commission exam or Certificate of Competency.

Applicants who have successfully passed the written examination for the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors are eligible for API 510 certification without taking API test. Please fill out the application package for API 510 certification, including the Employment Reference Form, and provide the appropriate documentation cited in the Application Form to confirm your qualifications.

2. Written Examination under API Standard 510

If an applicant does not qualify under the National Board Commission, he/she must be certified by written examination.