

# PIPELINE INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



The boards of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, the INGAA Foundation Inc., the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association and the CEPA Foundation – major pipeline trade associations in the U.S. and Canada, respectively – have voted to endorse a program to ensure all pipeline inspectors doing work for their member companies are certified by 2018.

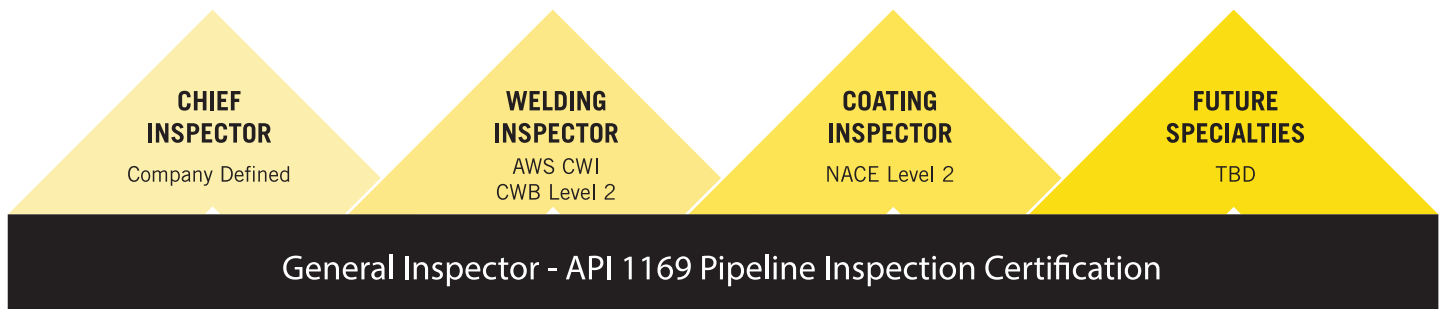
The Pipeline Inspector Certification Program is part of the continuous improvement process to enhance the operational reliability and safety of pipelines. By standardizing the baseline certification of pipeline inspectors across the industry, we can enhance the quality of new construction.



## Certification

The American Petroleum Institute (API) 1169 Pipeline Inspector Certification Program, available since November 2014, was developed in cooperation with industry experts to establish an industry-wide credential for the inspection of onshore pipelines. The API 1169 Pipeline Inspector examinations are structured in a way that it meets both U.S. and Canadian industry requirements. API 1169 certification is available to all pipeline inspectors, as well as other industry personnel. Before applying, please be sure to review the qualification requirements of the individual certification programs (ICP) at [www.api.org](http://www.api.org). Additional certifications are available for specialty inspectors, such as CWB Level 2/AWS CWI for welding and NACE Level 2 for coating. The structure of inspector certification programs is illustrated in Fig. 1 below.

Fig. 1 Structure



## Schedule

The Pipeline Inspector Certification Program is available in both the U.S. and Canada, and envisions certification by all inspectors over a three-year period as depicted in Fig. 2. Each owner/operator can determine its own implementation timetable.

Fig. 2 Implementation Goals



## Future Certification Plans

The INGAA and CEPA Foundations have developed the first version of “A Practical Guide for Pipeline Construction Inspectors.” The Foundations intend to revise and improve the guide over time and work with API to develop future versions of the API 1169 certification test.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

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

No. All inspectors are required to pass the examination required by the program. There is no ability to apply for equivalent certifications.

### Who will pay to certify inspectors?

As with other certifications and professions, inspectors are expected to pay to obtain certification. Please check with your employer to determine if it offers reimbursement. 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 a number of online and in-class exam prep training courses for API 1169 Pipeline Inspector Certification, AWS Welding Inspector Certification and CWB Level 2 and NACE Level 2 Coating Inspector Certification. Most certification associations (AWS, NACE, CWB) keep a list of training and exam prep providers.

For further details, please contact the appropriate certification bodies:

- [www.api.org](http://www.api.org)
- [www.aws.org](http://www.aws.org)
- [www.nace.org](http://www.nace.org)
- [www.cwbgroup.org](http://www.cwbgroup.org)