

ABOUT



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q - What is AICIP?

A - AICIP is a non-profit making body called the Australian Institute for the Certification of Inspection Personnel. It is incorporated with the Department of Fair Trading (a NSW Consumer Protection Agency) under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984. It has Australian Registered Body status with the Australian Securities Commission.

Q - Why was AICIP formed?

A - Due to Government policies, industry has been required to self-regulate itself with regard to the manufacture, installation and operation of engineered plant. In particular, with respect to the National Standard for Plant, owners of such plant need to ensure that competent persons are used to inspect such plant in-service. AICIP was therefore formed by industry organisations, with the support of the State Regulatory Authorities, to provide competency certification programs for inspection personnel. These programs are voluntary but will give employers greater confidence in the competency of the personnel.

Q - How is AICIP constituted and administered?

A - There is a Committee of Management with officer-bearers of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary/Public Officer and Treasurer, with all other members represented on the Committee of Management. The Welding Technology Institute of Australia (WTIA) performs the day-to-day secretarial and administrative functions on behalf of AICIP. Relevant organisations are invited to apply for membership of AICIP. Press releases and advertisements are published from time-to-time, welcoming such applications.

Q - Does AICIP intend to be accredited by the joint accreditation system, Australian and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ)?

A - AICIP is following Standard AS ISO/IEC 17024-2004 *Conformity assessment—general requirements for bodies operating certification of persons (earlier EN 45013 General criteria for certification of personnel)* to show that it is competent and reliable in the operation of its system for the certification of personnel. AICIP has had discussions regarding accreditation but is still undecided.

Q - Will AICIP be holding training courses or approve training organisations and their training courses?

A - No, AICIP will not conduct training courses since it must ensure that there is no conflict of interest between a body conducting the examination and a body training personnel. AICIP will therefore only be responsible for the examination/certification programs. It has decided however to have a system of listing training bodies and courses being conducted.

Q - What types of inspection personnel and plant are likely to be covered by AICIP?

A - AICIP started with design verifiers, welding fabrication inspectors and in-service inspectors. The types of equipment/plant that could be envisaged to be covered if there is demand, include, amongst others, pressure equipment, amusement devices, lifts and pipelines.

Q - What is the situation with design verifiers?

A - AICIP agreed with Engineers Australia that it should conduct the examinations for design verifiers and list successful candidates on its NER-3 register. Information can be obtained from:

Engineers Australia
11 National Circuit, Barton, ACT
Tel: 6270 6555 Fax: 6273 1488

Q - What is the situation with Welding Fabrication Inspectors?

A - Agreement was reached between AICIP and WTIA for WTIA to introduce, administer and conduct the programs for Welding Fabrication Inspectors. WTIA would link in with both AICIP and the International Institute of Welding (IIW) for both national (through AICIP) and international recognition through IIW. Such welding/fabrication inspector programs give certification across the whole range of engineered plant. Training is presently offered by the TAFE system.

Q - What is the situation with other in-service inspection personnel?

A - AICIP has gained enormous experience in the field of examination and certification of in-service inspectors of pressurised equipment. It is prepared to assist other organisations who would be interested in the certification of in-service inspection personnel in other fields, eg. cranes, amusement devices and lifts. Interested organisations can contact the AICIP Secretariat.

Q - How often will examinations be conducted and in what locations?

A - It is intended to offer to hold examinations on a national basis in suitable venues and locations, at least twice a year. The number of locations will obviously depend on demand and the frequency will be at approximately six monthly intervals. Additional examinations could be conducted by AICIP personnel in suitable locations at times to suit demand.

Q - Does AICIP insist on mandatory training requirements and does it give recognition for prior learning?

A - No, AICIP has no prerequisites for anyone wishing to apply for examination. AICIP has produced a list of competencies for inspectors of pressure equipment against which the examination questions are set. By not having mandatory requirements etc. AICIP is automatically giving recognition to all candidates for their prior learning.

Q - Will certificates of competency licences etc issued by Australian organisations such as Regulatory Authorities or overseas bodies such as the National Board for Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors be recognised for exemption from AICIP examinations?

A - AICIP has given this matter great consideration. Firstly, AICIP certification means that, on the days AICIP conducted the examinations, successful candidates were found to be competent in the competencies being examined. Based simply on the wide range and diversity of documents being put forward by candidates for exemptions, AICIP has not been able to confidently state that a person was competent on the date of issue of such an AICIP

certificate. Any solutions must be equitable to all relevant parties. AICIP has not found such a solution for in-service inspectors of pressure equipment and has decided that all candidates seeking AICIP certification must undertake the examinations.

Secondly, the above decision also applies to personnel recognised in other countries. If, at some future date however, mutual recognition agreements occur between AICIP and organisations in other countries, then this decision will change.

Q - What does AICIP certification mean to an employer of a person holding such certification?

A - It is the employer's/owner's responsibility to ensure that inspection is performed by a competent person. AICIP certification means that on the day of the examination, such a person was found to be competent in the competencies examined. It is still the responsibility of the employer to ensure that the person has the competencies required by the employer for the work to be undertaken. The employer of the inspector has the assurance however that at a particular time, the inspector was independently examined and found to have certain competencies.

Q - Can an employer recognise inspectors who have previously obtained recognition from Regulatory Authorities and overseas bodies?

A - It is the prerogative of the employer, owner user etc to employ whoever they wish. They must comply with the appropriate standards and regulations in place in States and Territories of Australia. AICIP offers them the opportunity to utilise a nationally recognised, independent certification program for them to make decisions to assist them with their responsibilities to employ a competent person.

Q - How do you estimate the cost of examinations?

A - AICIP has needed to estimate the examination fees based on anticipated numbers of candidates and costs of conducting the examinations on a national basis. AICIP is independent of all government funding agencies and relies on the examination fees, goodwill of its members and possible sponsorship to administer AICIP.

Q - Can I sit for the Senior Inspector Level without sitting the In-Service Inspector Level?

A - Candidates must complete the Inspector level before proceeding to the Senior Inspector Level.

Q - When will Re-Certification take effect?

A - Re-certification will be necessary after five (5) years. Notification of Re-Certification will be posted to the Inspector two (2) months prior to expiry date.

Q - When were the first AICIP examinations held?

A - The first examinations for the Australian Institute for the Certification of Inspection Personnel (AICIP) were successfully completed on the 10 July 1997. These examinations were for the certification of inspection personnel as In-Service Inspector and Senior In-Service Inspector of Pressure Equipment.

Q - How may Examination Papers be required to be sat for the In-Service Inspector of Pressure Equipment.

Applicants for the In-Service Inspector sit three papers, each of 3 hours duration on Preliminary and General Practice, on Inspection Practice for Specific Equipment and a Practical Examination.

Q - How may Examination Papers be required to be sat for the Senior In-Service Inspector of Pressure Equipment.

A - Applicants for the Senior In-Service Inspector sit two written papers, on Calculations which is a 1 hour paper and Inspection which is a 2 hour paper.

Q - Where are Examinations held?.

A - The examinations are held in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane, Darwin and Sydney. The invigilation staff are provided by the TAFE colleges or WTIA, while the practical examinations are conducted in all centres by AICIP examiners.

Q - How are Examiners Selected?

A - Examiners are selected from the National Panel of Examiners to finalise papers, monitor the marking and moderate the results. Support was provided by the Chairman of the Panel, Stan Ambrose and Chris Smallbone, Secretary of AICIP.

AICIP prepares reports to highlight the areas where improvements might be made in the examinations by applicants, trainers and employers. The experience gained by AICIP can be used for the certification of inspection personnel in various other fields like welding fabrication, inspection, amusement devices, lifts and cranes as required by industry.

The preparation and ground work required to conduct these examinations has been extensive and AICIP was fortunate to have excellent guidance and support from WTIA staff, the examiners, and acceptance and encouragement from the pressure equipment industry. Various information sessions on the examinations have been held from time to time which has resulted in fruitful question-answer sessions.

Since 1997 the examinations could not have been conducted successfully without the assistance of a large number of people from industry and organisations Australia wide, and AICIP would like to acknowledge their contributions.

Q - Where can I obtain a list of Certified In-Service and Senior In-Service Inspector of Pressure Equipment?

A - The holders of AICIP certification are listed on the AICIP internet site. Just visit the Home Page and click onto Certified Inspectors.