Job Description:
Operator Qualification (OQ) Evaluator

Reports To: OQ Manager/Owner
FLSA Status: Non-Exempt
Employment Type: Contract Employee, Hourly
Compensation: $35.00–$45.00 per hour, commensurate with experience, qualifications, and applicable certifications. Final compensation will be determined based on business needs and candidate qualifications. This range represents a good faith estimate of the compensation for this position.

Position Summary

The Operator Qualification (OQ) Evaluator is responsible for conducting objective, standardized evaluations of covered tasks to verify that individuals are qualified to perform pipeline-related activities in compliance with the PHMSA OQ Rule, applicable federal regulations (49 CFR Parts 192 and/or 195), and operator-specific requirements.

This position plays a critical role in ensuring that individuals performing covered tasks can recognize and react to abnormal operating conditions, perform tasks safely and correctly, and meet regulatory and company performance expectations.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Conduct evaluations using approved methods and criteria consistent with applicable OQ Plans and regulatory requirements.
- Evaluate an individual's ability to recognize and react to abnormal operating conditions.
- Ensure evaluations are objective, standardized, and free from coaching.
- Verify individual identity and eligibility prior to evaluation.
- Accurately document pass/fail determinations, observations, and follow-up actions.
- Ensure evaluation conditions and equipment are representative of actual job tasks.
- Identify and report unsafe acts, conditions, or compliance concerns.
- Maintain evaluator authorization and qualifications.
- Support audits, inspections, and regulatory reviews.
- Communicate professionally with evaluated individuals, supervisors, clients, and internal staff.
- Protect the confidentiality and integrity of evaluation materials and results.

Required Qualifications

- Minimum of five (5) years of documented experience performing pipeline covered tasks.
- Ability to successfully complete all required examinations to obtain and maintain OQ Evaluator certifications in accordance with applicable accreditation requirements.
- Working knowledge of Operator Qualification requirements and PHMSA OQ Rule expectations.
- Ability to interpret procedures, task descriptions, and evaluation criteria.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- High level of professionalism, objectivity, and integrity.
- Proficiency with electronic documentation systems.
- Valid driver's license and ability to travel periodically to customer locations via vehicle or air.

Preferred Qualifications

- Proficiency and a minimum of five (5) years of hands-on field experience performing plastic pipe fusion tasks, including butt fusion (manual and hydraulic), sidewall fusion, and electrofusion.
- Ability to communicate effectively in both English and Spanish.
- Prior authorization as an OQ Evaluator or Proctor.
- Experience with knowledge-based and hands-on evaluations.
- Familiarity with Veriforce, Energy Worldnet, OQSG/Pinion, or NCCER.
- Strong understanding of pipeline safety and abnormal operating conditions.
- OSHA 10/30, SafeLand Basic Orientation, or equivalent.
- CPR/First Aid or related safety certifications.

Physical & Work Environment Requirements

- Ability to work in active field environments and wear required PPE.
- Ability to stand, walk, and observe work for extended periods.
- Ability to lift and carry up to 50 pounds in support of job duties, including handling tools, equipment, and performing shop-related tasks.
- Exposure to outdoor weather and industrial conditions.

Disclaimer

This job description is not intended to be all-inclusive and may be modified to meet regulatory, client, or business needs. A minimum of three references are required to verify industry experience and character of the applicant.