



**CANDIDATE AND CERTIFICANT HANDBOOK**  
**Paper and Pencil Assessments**

**for the**

**CERTIFIED PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN  
(CPT) Program**

*For individuals at federal, state or local correctional facilities*

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# **CANDIDATE and CERTIFICANT HANDBOOK**

Welcome to the Certified Production Technician (CPT) certification program!

MSSC developed the CPT program to assess and certify the skills of frontline manufacturing production workers. We define frontline production workers as entry-level through first level of supervision within all sectors of the manufacturing industry. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are about 6 million jobs in this category in the U.S.

MSSC is a leading, nationwide national certification body. Those who succeed in MSSC Assessments receive industry-recognized, nationally portable credentials. The CPT program was developed by industry experts and is updated annually to ensure that the skills assessed are the most relevant to today's manufacturing employers. For more information about MSSC, please visit our website at [www.msscusa.org](http://www.msscusa.org).

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Program Description**

The purpose of the CPT is to recognize through certification individuals who demonstrate mastery of the core competencies of manufacturing production at the frontline level through successful completion of the certification assessments. The goal of the CPT certification program is to raise the level of performance of production workers both to assist the individuals in finding higher-wage jobs and to help employers ensure their workforce increases the company's productivity and competitiveness.

The CPT program consists of five individual certificate modules: Safety; Quality Practices & Measurement; Manufacturing Processes & Production; Maintenance Awareness and Green Production. Candidates must earn the first four certificates to qualify for the full CPT certification (Green Production is not required for full CPT).

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Four CPT program certificates: In order to earn the CPT certification, candidates must successfully complete each of the following four assessments in the program: Safety, Quality Practices & Measurement, Manufacturing Processes & Production and Maintenance Awareness.

Additional Requirements: MSSC does not have any other specific educational requirements in order to sit for the CPT assessment. However, MSSC strongly suggests that candidates possess at least a 10<sup>th</sup> grade reading (English) and 9<sup>th</sup> grade math level.

Training Requirements: MSSC does not require candidates to take a specific course or training program in order to sit for an assessment. However, we find that students enrolled in a training program perform better than those who do not. There are many training programs available and many use MSSC's own Authorized Courses.

MSSC Courses were developed in strict adherence to the industry-recognized, nationally validated standards upon which the Certified Production Technician (CPT) is based. These Courses, developed and delivered by Amatrol, have a proven track record of success in teaching the knowledge and skills identified in the national standards. MSSC Courses are highly interactive and utilize state-of-the-art, computer-based, simulation e-learning technologies and are delivered by MSSC-Authorized Instructors. MSSC does not authorize, review or endorse any other courses or curricula. MSSC does not require that individuals take MSSC Courses or any other MSSC-related courses before taking an MSSC Assessment.

## CERTIFICATES AND FEES

To obtain the total cost for registration and assessments, please contact your local assessment center.

You are able to download from any computer a **FREE** high-quality, high-resolution copy of your MSSC certificate(s). Certificates are available for download 2-3 weeks after your assessment date. MSSC will provide a candidate who is Full CPT-certified with a copy of their Full CPT certificate and a patch via mail.

For individuals participating in an MSSC program at a federal, state or county correctional facility that do not have access to the internet, your Site Coordinator or program administrator can download the free copy of your certificate for you.

### Certificates:

#### Individual Items

\$25 for one certificate + \$10 shipping = \$35

\$5 for one patch + \$10 shipping = \$15

#### Package discounts

CPT - \$45 for all (5) certificates + \$10 shipping = \$55

### . Refunds:

Registrations and Assessments are non-refundable. No refunds will be issued for individuals who take the assessment or who fail to appear for a scheduled assessment.

**NOTE:** These and other assessment fees may or may not be paid by a third party including but not limited to: local, state and federal grant programs; community college credit or non-credit programs; other education or tuition based programs; employer training/certification programs; individual payment, etc.

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

### Submission

Prior to sitting for an MSSC assessment, all candidates must register with MSSC online at <http://login.msscusa.org>.

For individuals participating in an MSSC program at a federal, state or county correctional facility who do not have access to the internet, may complete the registration by signing the page at the back of this Handbook or by completing the registration sign-in sheet provided by your Site Coordinator.

### Deadlines

Registration must be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled assessment date.

**NOTE:** Individual Assessment Centers may have additional deadlines.

### Special Accommodations

MSSC strives to provide a favorable environment for every participant during the assessment session. Special accommodations must be approved by MSSC. An application for special accommodations must be submitted by the site coordinator to MSSC two weeks prior to the assessment date. MSSC will review the following accommodation requests if accompanied by the required paperwork.

- Extended time: option for adding time to assessment administration sessions, to accommodate individuals with documented reading disabilities.

- Readers: additional copy of the assessment can be provided when a reader is used to accommodate individuals with documented eyesight difficulties. Readers have to be pre-approved by MSSC.
- MSSC does not allow for translators or translation of assessments into languages other than those of the country in which the assessment is given.

## **ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION**

### **Development of CPT Assessment**

The CPT certification program was developed to credential front-line production workers in the United States. MSSC worked with 4000 front-line workers, 700 companies, leading industrial unions, 350 subject matter experts and a public-private investment of over \$9 million. In 2001, the industry-led, national production standards were formally endorsed by the National Skill Standards Board.

The MSSC National Experts Panel for Production ensures that the assessments and the standards upon which they are based are updated annually. The assessments are also reviewed annually to ensure that questions which are unclear, inaccurate or outdated are modified or deleted from the assessment item bank.

The CPT certification is awarded only when a candidate has completed the application, submitted the registration and assessment fees and successfully completed all four modular CPT assessments.

### **English Language Only**

The CPT assessments are offered only in the English language.

### **Assessment**

Safety: The Safety assessment consists of 83 multiple choice questions. Candidates are allowed 90 minutes to complete the assessment.

Quality Practices and Measurement: The Quality assessment consists of 85 multiple choice questions. Candidates are allowed 90 minutes to complete the assessment.

Manufacturing Processes and Production: The Production assessment consists of 89 multiple choice questions. Candidates are allowed 90 minutes to complete the assessment.

Maintenance Awareness: The Maintenance assessment consists of 89 multiple choice questions. Candidates are allowed 90 minutes to complete the assessment.

Green Production: The Green assessment consists of 94 multiple choice questions. Candidates are allowed 90 minutes to complete the assessment.

### **Assessment Options and Locations**

MSSC offers assessments at various Authorized Assessment Centers throughout the country. To find a center near you, see this map: <http://msscusa.org/locations>.

Computer-Based: The primary method of delivery for MSSC assessments is through an online assessment process supported by NOCTI/The Whitener Group.

Paper/Pencil: If computers are not accessible, MSSC will make paper/pencil assessments available. Note: individuals who use the paper/pencil method will experience up to a two-week delay in receiving their credentials due to the additional time

required to process the scores. ***If you take a paper/pencil assessment, you should bring at least two sharpened NO.2 pencils with you.***

### **Assessment Security**

A significant component of a successful and respected professional certification credential is maintaining the security of the assessment. MSSC relies upon the ethical behavior of certificants and applicants to maintain the security of the CPT assessments. When those who seek to obtain the credential, or those who hold the MSSC credential reveal information about MSSC assessment content (other than that information published by MSSC), they violate the Affirmation and Authorization agreement all candidates agree to and accept when they apply for certification and take the assessment. They also violate the MSSC Code of Ethics.

The MSSC Board will take action against individuals who violate MSSC Board Policies and the Code of Ethics. Actions taken may include permanently barring individuals from pursuing MSSC credentials and revoking certifications from those who have been awarded the credential. MSSC will also pursue legal action against individuals or organizations who infringe upon our copyrights, proprietary rights and intellectual property.

### **Assessment Preparation**

The MSSC Board employs strict measures to prevent the possession, reproduction and removal of assessment materials. A strategy for taking this assessment is:

1. Prepare in advance by becoming familiar with the concepts of the MSSC Production Standards. MSSC does not require that individuals take any courses, however, before taking a CPT assessment.
2. When you receive your paper exam, answer the questions that you know, and skip those which you do not know the answer to or are uncertain about.
3. On the second review, go back through the questions you skipped and try to choose the best answer.
4. Use remaining time to answer any last questions and to make sure that you have answered all questions.

### **Assessment Admission**

You are responsible for bringing your MSSC Identification Number (received upon registration) with you to the assessment and a valid photo ID. Candidates who do not possess valid identification will be denied access to the assessment. Identification must be a current government issued picture ID bearing the candidate's signature. Acceptable forms of government issued ID include a driver's license, passport, military ID, federal state or county issued ID.

Individuals participating in an MSSC program at a federal, state or county correctional facility may be required by the facilitator to provide an alternate form of identification to be determined by the Site Coordinator.

### **Assessment Rules and Procedures**

The following rules and procedures will be strictly enforced on the day of the assessment.

- The assessment will begin promptly at the hour designated by the proctor and end at the stated time allowed for each particular exam offering.
- Candidates will not be allowed to enter the assessment after it starts.
- Visitors are not permitted in the assessment room.
- Candidates are allowed to leave the room during the assessment with the proctor's permission. Lost time cannot be made up.
- Textbooks and notes are NOT permitted.

- Scientific calculators and other such aids are NOT permitted. (Four-function calculators are permitted)
- Scratch paper may be permitted, but may not be taken from the assessment room.
- No cellular phones, pagers or other audible electronic devices, including watches with alarms are permitted to be used during the assessment.

**MSSC will invalidate your assessment and take action in accordance with the disciplinary procedure if you access prohibited materials, have contact with anyone except proctoring staff, or engage in disruptive, unprofessional or conduct that violates the Code of Ethics at any assessment facility.**

### **Actions / Disqualifications**

The assessment center proctor or MSSC will take appropriate actions, up to and including disqualification from taking the assessment and withdrawal or revocation of certification when a candidate:

- Impersonates a candidate
- Creates a disturbance
- Gives or receives help on the assessment
- Uses a scientific calculator or other such aid, which is prohibited during the assessment
- Attempts to remove assessment material or notes about the assessment from the assessment room
- Exhibits irregular assessment taking behavior, including consulting or attempting to consult with or give or obtain assistance during the assessment; bringing in or using unauthorized materials including cheat sheets, printed and/or other handwritten materials
- Provides false, misleading or incomplete information on the application form

### **Examinee Conduct**

All candidates are required to sign a statement agreeing not to disclose the contents of the assessment nor remove assessment materials from the assessment room. All candidates are also required to attest to the authenticity of their credentials and the accuracy of all statements made in their application.

Cheating will not be tolerated, and all instances of suspected cheating will be fully investigated. Candidates that are caught cheating will have their assessment invalidated.

### **Scoring**

#### Paper/Pencil Scoring

Answers are recorded on a separate answer sheet using a No. 2 pencil. No credit will be given for an answer written or indicated in the assessment booklet. A no response or multiple responses to a single question will be scored as incorrect. A previous mark for a changed answer must be completely erased. The proctor will provide instructions for entering information on the answer sheet. The candidate's name and other requested information must appear on the answer sheet and must be entered correctly to assure that scores will be reported correctly and promptly.

By submitting the answer sheet, the candidates are certifying that they are the person whose name appears on the answer sheet and that they will not copy or retain assessment questions or transmit them in any form to anyone else. Scores of candidates sharing such assessment information will automatically be invalidated. If an individual has obtained the CPT certification, that certification will be forfeited for such actions. The Proctor is not allowed to respond to any inquiries about the assessment questions.



### **Computer-Based Scoring**

Please reference the Candidate and Certificant Handbook Online Assessment for Certified Production Technician (CPT) Program for complete guidelines.

### **Results**

The passing score for Safety is 76 percent (76%).

The passing score for Quality Practices and Measurement is 75 percent (75%).

The passing score for Manufacturing Processes and Production is 74 percent (74%).

The passing score for Maintenance Awareness is 73 percent (73%).

The passing score for Green production is 78 percent (78%).

Based upon guidance from industry experts, MSSC has established a minimum score for passing each CPT assessments. MSSC policy prohibits release of any assessment scores to anyone other than the Candidate. The Candidate may choose to share their scores with the Proctor or other individuals.

Candidates will be able to see the results of their test within 2 weeks of the test date, on their MSSC candidate record. If no internet access is available, the Site Coordinator will be able to access this information for you.

### **Confidentiality Statement**

Assessment results are confidential. MSSC shall not disclose information regarding assessment results or other information without the candidate's consent except:

1. as necessary for MSSC staff, authorized consultants or others with a need to know;
2. when verifying references provided by the candidate; or
3. as required by law. Candidates must request disclosure of assessment information in writing and identify the person to whom the disclosure should be made.

MSSC reserves the right to publish on the MSSC website the name of any certificant when a complaint about them has been upheld.

### **Information Release Policy**

MSSC will not release any information regarding a Candidate's registration or assessment administration without written authorization from the Candidate. Assessment materials and answer sheets remain the sole property of MSSC. The materials are confidential and are not available for review by any persons or agency for any reason.

During the candidate registration process, candidates will be asked to verify that they have read and understand the following:

I hereby authorize the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) to share my assessment results, including date(s) and location of testing, pass/fail status and assessment scores, with the following entities: federal or state or local educational authorities funding my training or assessments; employers funding my training or assessments.

[PLEASE NOTE: MSSC does not require your authorization for participation. However, some funding entities may require access to your assessment results in order to fund or allow your participation. Opting out may result in termination from the program. If you have any questions about your disclosure requirements, please contact your training and testing organization for more information.]

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act applies to schools that receive federal funding. Under this act, MSSC is authorized to share your assessment results with:

- 1) federal or state or local educational authorities conducting an audit or evaluation or enforcement of education programs
- 2) organizations conducting studies on behalf of schools
- 3) state and local officials in connection with service students under the juvenile justice system.

### **Rescheduling, Cancellation and Withdrawal Policy**

Should you be unable to attend the assessment at the time you scheduled, you must notify your Assessment Site Coordinator in the timeframe established by your Assessment Site. Your assessment payment will remain valid for six months from your scheduled assessment date. You are responsible for rescheduling the assessment time with your Assessment Site.

### **Retaking the Assessment**

Candidates who do not pass the assessment may retake the assessment after a 15-day waiting period. Candidate may take the assessment up to three times (the original assessment plus two retakes) within a 45 day period from the date of their initially taking the assessment. If the Candidate does not pass the exam upon the third try, they must then wait an additional 60 days before attempting the assessment again.

## **RECERTIFICATION**

### **Recertification Requirement**

To ensure that the CPT certification reflects the most current standard in the front-line manufacturing profession, full- CPT certificate holders are required to recertify every five years. Recertification may be obtained by earning points through continuing education and/or employment in a related field. For more information about the recertification process, please visit the website: [www.msscusa.org/recertification](http://www.msscusa.org/recertification).

## **APPEAL PROCESS**

### **Right to Appeal**

Candidates have the right to file an appeal on matters relating to their application, assessment, certification, annual renewal, recertification or other matters affecting their status as a Candidate or Certified Individual. There are generally two types of appeals, an administrative appeal and a personal appeal.

### **Administrative Appeal**

Candidates for the CPT program who allege inappropriate administration procedures, severe environmental assessment conditions, or for other reason challenge results of an assessment have the right to file an administrative appeal in accordance with the appeal procedures.

Candidates who believe they were unjustly denied recertification, placed on "inactive" status incorrectly, or for other reasons have the right to an administrative appeal in accordance with the appeal procedures.

## **Appeal Procedures**

All such appeals must be filed in the office set out below within the earlier of 30 days of the assessment or notice of non-certification or recertification. The appeal fee is \$50. The fee will be refunded to the candidate if the Appeal and Complaint Committee resolves the appeal in favor of the Candidate.

Each appeal must include a statement submitted by the Candidate in writing or via email of no more than five typed pages setting out the basis of the appeal, including information as specific as the Candidate feels necessary why he or she is entitled to the relief requested.

The Appeal and Complaint Committee will consider each such written statement. The Appeal and Complaint Committee is entitled to seek further information from the applicant or any other person, organization or office that it feels appropriate and review any materials that it feels appropriate to determine the appeal. The Appeal and Complaint Committee will determine the appeal and respond to the applicant.

Appeals will be resolved within 90 days of submission. The Appeal and Complaint Committee reserves the right to waive or extend any time period set out in the procedure, or modify any process as it deems appropriate to properly determine any appeal. All steps of the Appeal and Complaint process will take place in writing unless otherwise determined by the Appeal and Complaint Committee.

Submit all Appeals along with the \$50 fee to:  
MSSC Certification Department  
901 N. Washington St., Ste 600  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## **Personal Appeal**

Candidates dissatisfied with the actions of the Appeal and Complaint Committee have the right to a Personal Appeal with the MSSC Board. A Personal Appeal must be submitted in writing and sent to the above address. A meeting of the Board will be set up within 180 days of receipt of the Personal Appeal. Appeal and Complaint Committee members are recused from the Personal Appeal process. Any action taken by a majority of a quorum of the Board pursuant to such appeal shall be final. The Board decision shall be sent to the person submitting the appeal within ninety (90) days of the decision of the Board.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

This document sets for the following code of ethics for CPT Candidates:

- To comply with relevant provisions of the certification scheme
- To make claims only with respect to the scope (of the standards) for which the certification has been granted
- To discontinue the use of all claims to certification that contains any reference to the certification body upon suspension or withdrawal of certification
- To understand the MSSC Key Activities document that describes the principal production activities to which the CPT certificates and full certification applies.
- To explain that the MSSC certificates document the individual's competency to achieve the required performance level on a national certification assessment only with respect to the Key Activities related to that certificate.
- To avoid using the certification in a manner that will bring MSSC into disrepute
- To refrain from using certification in a misleading manner

- To understand that a violation of any of the above principles could lead to the suspension or withdrawal of this credential, after which the individual should discontinue the use of all claims to MSSC certification
- To refrain from altering the certification document in any way

Certificants shall, in their professional production activities, sustain and advance the integrity, honor and prestige of the CPT certification by adherence to this Code of Ethics. Certificants who intentionally or knowingly violate any provision of the Code of Ethics will be subject to revocation of the certification.

## CPT LOGOS

### Logo Usage

As a CPT in good standing, you may want to utilize the official CPT logo to place on your business cards; email signature or other personal identification documents.

To request an electronic version of the CPT color logo JPG please contact: MSSC at [info@msscusa.org](mailto:info@msscusa.org) or 703-739-9000.

Please adhere to the following guidelines when using the CPT logo:

The logo may not be revised or altered in any way. The logo must be displayed in the same form as produced by MSSC and cannot be reproduced unless such reproduction is identical to the logos provided by MSSC. The CPT logo is meant to identify a certified individual as opposed to a business entity. The logo may be used only on the individual's own business cards, stationery, forms showing the individual's letterhead, inspection tags, and similar documents on which the name and address of the individual is prominently displayed.

The logo may not be used in any manner that detracts from the high ideals of MSSC or the CPT certification. The CPT logo may not be used in any manner which would tend to imply a connection between CPT and the individual which, in fact, may not exist. This includes any use of the logo the public might construe as an endorsement, approval or sponsorship by MSSC of an individual or their business, or which might be taken to support or encourage an individual's sale of product, process or installation. An individual is allowed to print the logo on an advertisement or product literature. Without limiting the foregoing restrictions, the logo may not be shown larger than 1.5 inches or 4 centimeters on a full page or proportionally on a smaller page.

If you have any questions regarding use of the logo, please contact MSSC at [info@msscusa.org](mailto:info@msscusa.org) or 703-739-9000.

### Affirmation of Proper Usage of CPT Logo

All CPT candidates sign an agreement that they will comply with the relevant provision of the CPT<sup>AE</sup> program described in the CPT Candidate Handbook. No person gains any rights whatsoever in the logo or its use; it remains the property of MSSC. MSSC reserves the right in its sole discretion to require the removal of the logo from any location or thing MSSC feels does not comply with these guidelines.

MSSC acts to challenge those who use the CPT designation without authority from MSSC. Penalties may include barring from pursuing the certification and publishing the names of the violators. MSSC may authorize the use of the symbol, the phrase "Certified Production Technician-AE", and the initials "CPT" by certified individuals only; provided such holder currently possesses a valid certificate issued by MSSC. A candidate who has had their applicant status terminated may appeal to MSSC in accordance with the Appeal and Complaint Process

described in the CPT Applicant Handbook. Individuals whose CPT status is terminated are entitled to the same Appeal Process.

## VERIFICATION OF PERSONAL DATA

Candidates wishing to verify any personal data on file other than scores may contact MSSC at 901 N. Washington St., Ste 600, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-739-9000 or [info@msscusa.org](mailto:info@msscusa.org).

## ASSESSMENT CONTENT OUTLINE (WORK STANDARDS)

### Safety Content Area Weighting

The following shows the relative importance of each content domain on the certification exam. When preparing for the exam, candidates should spend proportionately more time studying the content domains that are more heavily weighted.

#### Work in a Safe and Productive Manufacturing Workplace (5%)

- a. Recognize ways in which manufacturing affects the national and global economies
- b. Recognize systems of safety used by high-performance manufacturers to produce quality products at lowest possible costs
- c. Identify the role of production workers in helping to ensure competitive levels of cost, quality and delivery in a safe work environment
- d. Identify external and internal customers

#### Perform safety and environmental assessments (11.5%)

- a. Identify, report and monitor potential hazards in the work
- b. Take corrective action to eliminate potential hazards
- c. Review health, safety and environmental documentation and policies
- d. Ensure that inspections meet all relevant health, safety and environmental laws and regulations
- e. Perform inspections according to company schedule and procedures
- f. Document inspections
- g. Store inspection records correctly

#### Perform emergency drills and participate in emergency teams (6%)

- a. Ensure that training and certification on relevant emergency and first aid procedures are complete and up-to-date
- b. Follow company and regulatory procedures for responding to fire and electrical emergencies
- c. Ensure that emergency response complies with company and regulatory policies and procedures
- d. Document emergency drills and incidents according to company and regulatory procedures

#### Identify unsafe conditions and take corrective action (9%)

- a. Identify, report and document conditions that present a threat to health, safety and the environment
- b. Identify corrective actions
- c. Consult appropriate parties about corrective actions
- d. Take corrective actions according to company procedures
- e. Track and report ongoing safety concerns until corrective action is taken

#### Participate in safety training (11.5%)

- a. Follow orientation that covers all topics and procedures needed to facilitate employee safety
- b. Follow orientation that identifies needs and processes to raise safety concerns, ask questions and receive additional training
- c. Receive orientation on use of personal protective equipment
- d. Document orientation according to company requirements
- e. Follow safety orientation for relevant laws, policies and regulations
- f. Participate in regular safety training

Participate in equipment safety training (15%)

- a. Receive complete orientation to equipment and guidelines for ergonomic safety
- b. Communicate all important information regarding equipment safety, including material handling equipment
- c. Make suggestions regarding training materials and content to the correct parties
- d. Provide evaluations and feedback to improve training materials and methods
- e. Ensure trainee has the correct tools to do the job during training
- f. Ensure that workers can operate equipment safely through post-training evaluation
- g. Ensure that training and facilitation techniques used are appropriate for trainees
- h. Document quality and effectiveness of training

Suggest processes and procedures that support safety of work environment (8%)

- a. Consult health and safety representatives in the development of suggestions
- b. Provide operator feedback to create a safer, more effective work environment
- c. Make suggestions to correct parties, according to company procedure
- d. Document suggestions
- e. Ensure that content of suggestions responds to safety, quality and productivity issues

Fulfill safety and health requirements for maintenance, installation, and repair (13%)

- a. Participate in regular safety communications
- b. Participate in job safety analyses regularly according to company policy
- c. Follow hazardous materials procedures and policies, such as Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and right-to-know
- d. Perform environmental testing of workplace on a regular basis as required by company policy and regulation
- e. Audit equipment to ensure there are no by-passes of safety guards
- f. Follow all regulatory and company safety procedures, including those related to lock-out/tag-out, confined space and ergonomics
- g. Follow good housekeeping procedures

Monitor safe equipment and operator performance (14%)

- a. Perform regular monitoring
- b. Report out-of-compliance or unsafe conditions immediately
- c. Take corrective action on out-of-compliance or unsafe conditions
- d. Check equipment to ensure it is operating according to safety specifications
- e. Check tools to ensure they are in compliance with safety specifications
- f. Forward accident and injury data to appropriate personnel for inclusion in OSHA recordables
- g. Gather information on equipment use from operators to reveal existing or potential safety problems
- h. Document all safety monitoring data

Utilize effective, safety-enhancing workplace practices (7%)

- a. Communicate clearly
- b. Participate in work teams
- c. Make production job assignments
- d. Run training programs efficiently
- e. Follows company code of good conduct

**Quality Practices & Measurement Content Area Weighting**

The following shows the relative importance of each content domain on the certification exam. When preparing for the exam, candidates should spend proportionately more time studying the content domains that are more heavily weighted.

Participate in periodic or statistically based internal quality audit activities (11%)

- a. Ensure audit data are relevant and correct
- b. Complete all relevant audit forms and forward to proper parties in a timely manner
- c. Assess and document conformance to quality standards
- d. Include observation of operation in audit to ensure process and product meet specifications, when appropriate

- e. Participate in audits in accordance with company and other required schedules and procedures
- f. Participate in ongoing audits to optimize the outcomes of corrective actions

Check and document calibration of gauges and other data collection equipment (6%)

- a. Follow calibration schedule according to specifications
- b. Check instrument certification by reviewing documentation and observing during use
- c. Recalibrate instruments out of calibration or refer to appropriate parties for recalibration repairs

Suggest continuous improvements (6%)

- a. Recognize potential improvements through observation and data analysis
- b. Include measurable and data-driven benefits to the company, customers and employees in suggestions
- c. Make suggestions according to proper procedures and documentation
- d. Review all relevant data before making suggestions

Inspect materials and product/process at all stages to ensure they meet specifications (17%)

- a. Perform sampling and inspection according to schedule and procedures
- b. Select and use correct inspection tools and procedures
- c. Verify calibration of testing equipment
- d. Inspect materials against specifications
- e. Identify products, processes and materials that do not meet specifications
- f. Verify implementation of corrective actions through spot checks
- g. Document and report inspection results to correct parties

Document the results of quality tests (9%)

- a. Check data forms to ensure that they are complete and accurate
- b. Evaluate and interpret information
- c. Forward data to correct parties
- d. Select and use correct analytical tools, including statistical process controls (SPC)
- e. Store reports for the specified time frames

Communicate quality problems (8%)

- a. Review quality problems with production operators and supervisors
- b. Communicate quality problems to appropriate parties
- c. Document quality problems according to established processes
- d. Summarize and report defect trends to appropriate parties

Take corrective actions to restore or maintain quality (13%)

- a. Identify appropriate corrective actions and obtain approvals when needed
- b. Make clear, concise, data-supported recommendations for action
- c. Make recommendations to the appropriate parties
- d. Make adjustments in a timely manner to eliminate deviations and bring process back into control
- e. Document adjustments and follow-up product quality checks in correct format
- f. Implement corrective action/quality improvements in standardized manner

Record process outcomes and trends (11%)

- a. Maintain records on quality process
- b. Chart outcomes of quality processes according to appropriate methods and standards
- c. Ensure data on quality process performance is accurate
- d. Analyze quality process performance data to identify trends
- e. Report quality process performance data to appropriate parties in a timely manner
- f. Examine previous documentation on similar process issues to identify possible solutions

Identify fundamentals of blueprint reading (9%)

- a. Visualize objects in a drawing
- b. Identify blueprint features
- c. Read and understand dimensions of an object in a technical drawing

- d. Recognize functions of sectional drawings

Use common measurement systems and precision measurement tools (10%)

- a. Use and convert U.S. measurement and standard international metric systems
- b. Measure parts using a machinist's rule and tape measure
- c. Measure part dimensions using a caliper and micrometer
- d. Measure data from a digital gauge using a computer

**Manufacturing Processes & Production Content Area Weighting**

The following shows the relative importance of each content domain on the certification exam. When preparing for the exam, candidates should spend proportionately more time studying the content domains that are more heavily weighted.

Identify customer needs (10%)

- a. Recognize the different and common needs of internal and external customers
- b. Maintain customer contact about product aspects and printed specifications to ensure understanding of needs
- c. Review customer needs on a regular basis
- d. Ensure customer specifications are up-to-date
- e. Communicate customer needs to others including shift-to-shift, co-workers and managers
- f. Address issues preventing customer needs from being met

Determine resources available for the production process (10%)

- a. Check raw materials against work orders
- b. Check tools and equipment against work orders
- c. Communicate discrepancies to the proper parties
- d. Ensure that necessary resources are at workstation when required
- e. Schedule workers with appropriate skills according to production needs
- f. Use advanced technologies to increase productivity

Set up and verify equipment for the production process (11.5%)

- a. Make proper repairs and adjustments to production equipment prior to putting into service
- b. Ensure set-up meets process requirements and product specifications
- c. Ensure first piece or production run meets specifications
- d. Document set-up procedures to ensure repeatability
- e. Ensure set-up meets ergonomic and other relevant health, safety and environmental standards
- f. Ensure set up meets equipment specifications

Set team production goals (8%)

- a. Set team goals that are specific, measurable and achievable
- b. Align team goals with customer and business needs
- c. Ensure team goals focus the team in order to meet team objectives
- d. Document team goals and communicate them to all parties

Make job assignments (8%)

- a. Ensure job assignments match skills with the production work to be done
- b. Ensure job assignments maximize the use of available skills
- c. Ensure business and customer needs are met
- d. Ensure workers are notified of job assignments effectively

Coordinate work flow with team members and other work groups (11.5%)

- a. Meet production schedules
- b. Notify team members of schedule requirements in a timely way
- c. Ensure production workflow runs efficiently
- d. Minimize downtime
- e. Work with others to facilitate effective workflow
- f. Participate in meetings and problem-solving groups

Communicate production and material requirements and product specifications (11.5%)



- a. Ensure communication reflects knowledge of production requirements, levels and product specifications
- b. Ensure communication reflects knowledge of material specifications and delivery issues and schedules
- c. Ensure communication demonstrates knowledge of customer and business production needs
- d. Initiate cross-functionally in a timely and accurate manner to the correct parties
- e. Ensure communication is clear and relevant to production and products
- f. Track and document communications, as appropriate

Perform, monitor and document the process to make the product (9%)

- a. Monitor process control data to ensure that the manufacturing process is meeting product specifications
- b. Ensure manufacturing process cycle time meets customer and business needs
- c. Ensure product meets customer specifications
- d. Label products appropriately for compliance or non-compliance
- e. Perform production operations in a manner that fully complies with all health, safety, and environmental policies and practices

Document product and process compliance with customer requirements (9%)

- a. Complete documentation of compliance legibly
- b. Write documentation of compliance in the appropriate format and store correctly
- c. Forward documentation of compliance to the proper parties
- d. Complete documentation and obtain "sign off"
- e. Label products appropriately for compliance or non-compliance

Prepare final product for shipping or distribution (11.5%)

- a. Ensure packaging materials meet packaging and shipping specifications, including proper labeling and safety requirements
- b. Ensure completed documentation of customer packaging and shipping instructions accompany product to next destination
- c. Communicate product availability to the proper parties in a timely manner
- d. Check product and all relevant information, such as quantity, destination and packaging instruction, against the work order
- e. Store or stage product for shipping
- f. Follow all laws and regulations with regard to labeling, packaging and transport
- g. Follow material handling procedures to prevent product damage

**Maintenance Awareness Content Area Weighting**

The following shows the relative importance of each content domain on the certification exam. When preparing for the exam, candidates should spend proportionately more time studying the content domains that are more heavily weighted.

Perform preventive maintenance and routine repair (26%)

- a. Monitor preventive maintenance schedule
- b. Follow preventive maintenance schedule
- c. Document preventive maintenance in a timely manner
- d. Communicate repair needs to the correct parties using correct procedures and forms
- e. Check any necessary repair work through follow up
- f. Ensure necessary supplies are available to perform preventive maintenance
- g. Communicate preventive maintenance schedules, documentation, equipment needs and outstanding repairs from shift-to-shift, to team members, to managers and to others as required
- h. Follow all safety procedures when performing repairs

Monitor indicators to ensure correct operations (16%)

- a. Compare current equipment performance to optimal equipment operations regularly
- b. Investigate abnormal equipment conditions
- c. Correct abnormal equipment conditions in a timely manner
- d. Monitor equipment to ensure that corrective action solved the problem
- e. Document equipment repair history

Perform all housekeeping to maintain production schedule (23%)

- a. Store tools in proper locations
- b. Store materials in a safe manner
- c. Identify and promptly report unsafe conditions
- d. Take corrective action to address unsafe conditions
- e. Ensure workstation is clean and clear of safety hazards
- f. Pass scheduled housekeeping inspections
- g. Organize workstation to maximize efficiency

Recognize potential maintenance issues with basic production systems, including knowledge of when to inform maintenance personnel about problems with (35%)

- a. Electrical systems
- b. Pneumatic systems
- c. Hydraulic systems
- d. Machine automation systems
- e. Lubrication processes
- f. Bearings and couplings
- g. Belts and chain drives
- h. High vacuum systems
- i. Laser systems

**Green Production Content Area Weighting**

The following shows the relative importance of each content domain on the certification exam. When preparing for the exam, candidates should spend proportionately more time studying the content domains that are more heavily weighted.

Train workers in environmental issues (13%)

- a. Include basic characteristics of a “green” manufacturing environment, including new trends and their impact on production workers, the company and society in workforce training
- b. Include the benefits of workplace environmental assurance programs to the worker, the company and society in workforce training
- c. Participate in environmental training for employees both at time of hire and on a recurrent basis
- d. Document required environmental training
- e. Participate in environmental training courses regarding the latest technology advancements
- f. Incorporate input from instructors and the results of course evaluations into routine updates of environmental training courses

Implement and promote environmental programs, projects, policies or procedures (12%)

- a. Document regulatory compliance
- b. Ensure company, local, state and federal environmental policies and procedures are communicated and posted as required
- c. Identify and report practices inconsistent with established environmental policies and procedures
- d. Report violations
- e. Ensure materials supporting environmental assurance programs are written consistent with needs of the intended audience
- f. Keep environmental assurance materials on file and readily accessible

Conduct environmental incident and hazard investigations (10%)

- a. Investigate environmental incidents and hazards, including near misses
- b. Document environmental investigation findings

- c. Review all environmental investigations and audits and assign corrective actions
- d. Check and implement prescribed actions to correct environmental problems

Conduct preventive environmental inspections (10%)

- a. Identify, report and document conditions that present a threat to the environment
- b. Identify, report and monitor potential environmental hazards in the work area
- c. Take corrective action to eliminate potential hazards
- d. Gather environmental documentation required from workers is gathered and ensure policies are followed
- e. Ensure inspections and audits include all relevant and required environmental laws and regulations

Monitor environmental aspects at each stage of production (16%)

- a. Environmental issues involved in production processes are recognized
- b. Identify and monitor relevant environmentally significant aspects in the production process for each stage of production to determine whether practical environmental improvements can be made
- c. Program equipment to control and monitor the environmental impact of production processes at each stage
- d. Monitor environmental indicators and gauges according to established procedures and use computers and/or other instruments to inspect and analyze results
- e. Monitor consumption and conservation of resources throughout the production process
- f. Monitor environmentally impactful agents in the production process are to reduce environmental impact
- g. Monitor and evaluate energy use, areas of energy waste and emissions leakage in industrial facilities and production processes
- h. Identify and evaluate opportunities for enhancing energy-efficiency and reducing energy-related carbon emissions

Implement continuous improvement in environmental assurance practices (7%)

- a. Prioritize and inspect root causes or problems according to established hierarchy
- b. Maintain worker knowledge of policies and procedures for environmental issues
- c. Participate in meetings with all relevant groups about environmental assurance programs and developments
- d. Make suggestions to management for improvement in environmentally-related practices

Use advanced materials in production to reduce weight and increase life (18%)

- a. Use designated equipment to monitor, measure and handle advanced materials
- b. Take and document measures to ensure cost-effective production line energy efficiency
- c. Read and interpret instruments to ensure required controls, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- d. Use environmental controls/levels required for production with advanced materials
- e. Adhere to environmental and quality requirements of advanced materials
- f. Handle advanced materials, surplus and waste according to established requirements to minimize waste
- g. Identify opportunities to reduce materials and volume of waste

Reprocess materials by recycling and reuse throughout product life cycle to optimize waste reduction (13%)

- a. Sort waste and used or rejected materials to determine which should go to re-cycling and which can be reused or repurposed inside the company
- b. Place waste designated for recycling into prescribed containers
- c. Coordinate recycling activities with contractors or other third-party representatives
- d. Code and label materials designated for reuse or repurpose
- e. Assess rejected products to determine whether the product should be repaired, reused or recycled

## CPT SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following questions are provided for your reference when preparing to take a CPT assessment. These questions will not appear on any CPT assessment. Answers to the sample assessment questions are located at the end of this section.

1. A process to verify actual inventory on hand on a continuous basis throughout the year is
  - a. Annual physical inventory
  - b. Cycle count
  - c. Barcode tracking system
  - d. Inventory intake check
2. A worker must lift a box weighing 12 pounds frequently during the day. The company should\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Provide a step ladder
  - b. Do nothing, it is not that heavy
  - c. Arrange to move the box to a comfortable height
  - d. Be sure that the person is tall enough to do the job
3. A lean manufacturing technique that focuses on creating a clean and orderly work area is?
  - a. Poka-Yoka (mistake proofing)
  - b. 5S program
  - c. Jidoka (building quality in)
  - d. Kanban (pull system)
4. Items susceptible to decay or spoilage are\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Flammable
  - b. Retardant
  - c. Fragile
  - d. Perishable
5. The size of the drill bit is stamped on the\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Lands
  - b. Flutes
  - c. Margin
  - d. Shank
6. Solve for Productivity:
 

$$T = (H_S \times D) - (H_B \times D)$$

$$N = N_P - N_S$$

$$P = N/T$$
  

$$H_S = 6 \text{ hours/day}$$

$$D = 5 \text{ days}$$

$$H_B = 0.5 \text{ hours/day}$$

$$N_P = 455 \text{ pieces}$$

$$N_S = 6$$

  - a. 16.55 pph
  - b. 441 pph
  - c. 16.33 pph
  - d. 78.83 pph
7. In the 5S lean strategy, what is the first step?
  - a. Sustain
  - b. Shine
  - c. Sort
  - d. Standardize

8. What should you do if you notice oil dripping on parts you are producing?
  - a. Call a plumber
  - b. Notify your supervisor
  - c. Shut down and fix the leak
  - d. Ignore it and keep running
9. Which document follows a product throughout the manufacturing process?
  - a. Material Safety Data Sheet
  - b. Bill of Material
  - c. Routing Sheet
  - d. Bill of Lading
10. What document is kept by the trucker and specifies handling and hazardous material information?
  - a. Packing Slip
  - b. Bill of Lading
  - c. MSDS
  - d. Shipping Manifest

## Answer Key

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. d
5. d
6. c
7. c
8. b
9. c
10. d

## CPT REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

MSSC requires Candidates to complete an online registration process. If you do not have Internet access, you may request a paper application from your Assessment Site Coordinator or directly from MSSC at [info@msscusa.org](mailto:info@msscusa.org) or 703-739-9000.

To avoid potential delays in completing your online registration, use this checklist to carefully review the required information before beginning the registration process.

### Have you...

- Read this Candidate Handbook cover-to-cover?
- Arranged for payment of the correct registration and assessment fees?
- Reviewed the MSSC Code of Ethics?

**Note:** During the registration process, you will be asked to confirm your receipt and conformance to the policies of this Candidate Handbook and receipt and acceptance of the MSSC Code of Ethics. You are responsible for reading these documents and adhering to their requirements.

## Statement of Receipt and Compliance

I have read and accept the terms and conditions of this CPT Candidate Handbook. I agree to the requirements of certification. I agree to uphold the Code of Ethics outline in this Handbook.

Date:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_