**CSTRA TES and API TES Exam Preparation Frequent Asked Questions**

**FAQ’S**

 

**Answers to Common Questions About API and CSTRA Exams**

[How do I register with API?](http://www.cstra.org.com/common-questions.html#top1)

[When Do I Need to Register?](http://www.cstra.org.com/common-questions.html#top2)

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[Where Can I Get the Codes and Standards Required for a Specific Examination?](http://www.cstra.org.com/common-questions.html#top5)

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**How do I register with API?**

Call the American Petroleum Institute (API) at 202-682-8064 to request a registration package for the inspector certification you are interested in obtaining or download the application from [www.api.org/icp](http://www.api.org/icp).

The API certifications that are available include API 510 Pressure Vessels, API 653 Aboveground Storage Tanks, API 570 Process Piping and TES. You can also visit www.api.org/icp for more information on API Inspector Certification Exams.

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**When Do I Need to Register?**

You must be registered 8 to 10 weeks before the actual API exam date. API publishes registration deadline dates for each exam in the applications. Browse the API TES Exam Prep Course pages for deadlines ,locations and dates. [www.cstra.org](http://www.cstra.org)

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**Who Administers the API Exam?**

The API exams are administered by a subcontractor to API. There is no difference in the registration process with API either way. However; if the exam is administered by one of the states or provinces there is often an additional fee that must be paid to that organization. The subcontractor will send you a letter about three to four weeks in advance of the exam which will give you the exact site where the exam will be administered.

We don’t know until you do exactly where the exam will be given.  We do provide a map and directions from the Houston course locations whenever possible once we do know the exam location.  Transportation from the course site to the exam is your responsibility.

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**What Are the CSTRA Final Exams Like?**

Each individual is tested on each section of the CSTRA TES Field Manual, the missed questions on each section are reviewed and verified in the appropriate reference. The CSTRA TES final exams are similar to the API final exam. All the exams have the same length and presentation format.

The CSTRA Certification Final exams are all 8 hours with a lunch break. All exams include 120 questions. The “Open Book”, Review portion will be administered in the afternoon. The “Open Book” is approximately 1/3 of the exam (45 to 50 questions) and the “Closed Book” morning session, is about 2/3 of the exam ( maybe 85 to 105 questions). The passing score is a mandatory 85%. The passing score will be given to you when you get your final grade. It takes about six to eight days for you to get your grade. Your certificate and wallet card will be sent to you by CSTRA shortly after the grades are sent out.

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**What Are the API Exams Like?**

All the exams have the same length and presentation format.

The exams are all 4 hours. All exams include 120 questions. “Closed Book” The passing score is 82% and will be pass/fail given to you when you get your final grade. It takes about six to eight weeks for you to get your grade. Your certificate and wallet card will be sent to you by API shortly after the grades are sent out.

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**Where Can I Get the Codes and Standards Required for a Specific Examination?**

Purchase required exam prep course publications from:

* **Techstreet: API and partial ASME publications. Call toll free 800-699-9277, or visit their web site at** [**www.techstreet.com**](http://www.techstreet.com)
* **CSTRA TES Tank Entry Supervisor Field Manual (Complete API TES Study Guide) Call 832-864-2542, or by fax 832-864-3670 or visit our web sites at** [**www.cstra.org**](http://www.cstra.org) **or oshaplans.com**

The Codes and Standards required for the exams are listed in general terms in several places. However; there is an “Effectivity Sheet” for each exam in the application booklet sent out by API. This sheet lists the exact Edition, Addenda, or Supplement required for each exam. This is the list you should go by when ordering the books you will need to study.

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**What Should I Study?**

It is a very difficult exam to pass. You can download the “Body of Knowledge” for the certification you are studying for. This outlines in general the areas you will need to be familiar with for the exam and even points out some areas not to study. It will help you to some extent to get started. Also see our "[Pre Course Preparation](http://www.cstra.org.tes/pre-course-preparation.html)" page on this site.

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