



# QUALIFIED INDUSTRIAL STORMWATER PRACTITIONER FACT SHEET

The California Storm Water Industrial General Permit (IGP) glossary defines a Qualified Industrial Storm Water Practitioner (QISP) as:

*“Only required once a Discharger reaches Level 1 status, a QISP is the individual assigned to ensure compliance with this General Permit or to assist New Dischargers with determining coverage eligibility for discharges to an impaired water body. A QISP’s responsibilities include implementing the SWPPP, performing the Annual Comprehensive Facility Compliance Evaluation (Annual Evaluation), assisting in the preparation of Annual Reports, performing ERAs, and training appropriate Pollution Prevention Team members. The individual must take the appropriate State-approved or sponsored training to be qualified. Dischargers shall ensure that the designated QISP is geographically located in an area where they will be able to adequately perform the permit requirements at all of the facilities they represent.”*

## Purposes Identified by the IGP for having QISPs

- To improve compliance and maintain consistent implementation of the IGP (Finding #49);
- To assist the Discharger and other on-site personnel with the implementation of IGP requirements (Finding #50);
- To have a high degree of technical knowledge and environmental experience in the assistance given to Dischargers (Fact Sheet p. 6);
- To improve the quality of the data submitted (Fact Sheet p. 20); and
- To avoid costly retrofits or closure of new facilities that cannot demonstrate that the facility will not cause or contribute to a 303(d) impairment (Fact Sheet p. 26).

## Ten QISP Roles According to the IGP

1. May represent one or more facilities but must be able to perform the functions required by the IGP at all times (Fact Sheet p. 28).
2. Assigned to a facility that reaches Level 1 and Level 2 status (Fact Sheet p. 48).
3. More accurately identify discharge locations representative of the facility’s storm water discharge (Fact Sheet p. 48).
4. Select and implement appropriate sampling procedures (Fact Sheet p. 48).
5. Evaluate and develop additional BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants in industrial storm water discharges (Fact Sheet p. 48).
6. Assist with the completion of the Level 1 Evaluation and preparation of the Level 1 ERA Report (Fact Sheet p. 61).
7. Assist with the completion of the Level 2 ERA requirements and the preparation of the Level 2 Action Plan & Level 2 Technical Reports (Fact Sheet p. 62).
8. Assist New Dischargers in preparing the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and monitoring program in addition to gaining coverage for New Dischargers that discharge directly to an impaired water body (Order p. 22).
9. Provide training to “appropriate team members” for Level 1 facilities (Order p. 23 & 33).
10. Be informed, responsible, and attentive to the required duties of a QISP while keeping the QISP certification in good standing with the State Water Board and the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) (Fact Sheet p. 28).

## Becoming a QISP

Sign up for the QISP Certificate Program by going to the California State University, Sacramento Office of Water Programs (OWP) website at [www.owp.csus.edu](http://www.owp.csus.edu).

After creating an account, click [Stormwater Certification](#), then [IGP QISP](#). The website guides you through the process of completing the QISP Certificate Program.

## QISP Certificate Program FAQs

### ***Are there prerequisites or underlying certifications required to be a QISP?***

There are no formal prerequisites to be a QISP. There is, however, a practical prerequisite. The material presented in the QISP Certificate Program was developed for QISP candidates who have basic knowledge of storm water principles, working knowledge of the IGP, and experience implementing industrial storm water compliance. This program is not designed for a “Storm Water 101” audience.

### ***How much time is a QISP candidate allowed to complete the QISP Certificate Program?***

The training program must be completed within one year of the initial registration date. If your registration expires before you complete all steps in the program, you would need to re-register and restart the QISP Certificate Program.

## More QISP Certificate Program FAQs

### ***How do I earn a QISP certificate?***

To earn a QISP certificate, candidates must complete online training; pass a midterm exam; attend a one-day, in-person class; and pass a final exam.

### ***How long will the online training take?***

On average it takes 16 hours to complete the self-study online training material. This consists of videos, site scenarios, readings from the IGP, information from the CASQA Industrial and Commercial BMP Online Handbook, and quizzes.

### ***How many attempts does a QISP candidate have to pass the midterm and final exams?***

The QISP candidate is allowed to take each exam twice. If the candidate does not pass the midterm exam in two attempts, the candidate must pay to re-register and retake the online training.

If the candidate does not pass the final exam in two attempts, the candidate must pay to re-register, retake the online training, complete the midterm with a passing grade, and attend another one-day, in-person class before re-attempting the final exam. A separate fee may be charged for each class attended.

### ***How do I register for an in-person Trainer of Record (ToR) class?***

After passing the midterm, the QISP candidate needs to attend a one-day in-person class with a ToR. Register for a class by visiting the training calendar in the Stormwater Certification portal at [www.owp.csus.edu](http://www.owp.csus.edu). A separate fee is charged for this class by the ToR, who will provide payment instruction. When you complete the class, the ToR records your pass/fail in the system. Candidates who pass the class are eligible to take the final exam.

### ***Do California-registered Professional Engineers and Geologists need to take this training?***

California licensed professional civil, industrial, chemical, and mechanical engineers and geologists have licenses that have professional overlap with topics in the Industrial General Permit. The California Department of Consumer Affairs, Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (CBPELSG) provides the licensure and regulation of professional civil, industrial, chemical, and mechanical engineers and professional geologists in California. The State Water Board developed a specialized self-guided State Water Board-sponsored registration and training program specifically for these CPBELSG licensed engineers and geologists in good standing with CBPELSG. To complete the training and self-certification, create an account on the Office of Water Programs website at [www.owp.csus.edu](http://www.owp.csus.edu). Click [Stormwater Certification](#) then click [IGP CBPELSG](#).

### ***What is required to renew the QISP Certification?***

The State Water Board, CASQA, and IGP Training Team have not yet determined what is required to renew QISP certification. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

### ***What if a QISP Candidate has a disability, such as hearing impairment, that requires special accommodations to access online class material in the QISP Certificate Program?***

To request online training accommodations, contact Laurel Warddrip of the State Water Board by email at [Laurel.Warddrip@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Laurel.Warddrip@waterboards.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 341-5531. Please plan your QISP Certificate Program training to give yourself adequate time to coordinate your accommodation needs with the State Water Board and to complete your training.