

PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION: WORKFORCE FACTS

SERIES 1 | REPORT 6

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Many pipeline owners and operators require inspectors to have API 1169 certification, which is an exam offered by the American Petroleum Institute (API). To be allowed to take the exam, a candidate must have a certain amount of experience. Inspectors typically also require safety training, such as first aid, WHIMIS, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, and Ground Disturbance Supervisor Training, Level 2.

FAST FACT:

Half of pipeline construction inspectors found their first inspection job through word of mouth.

REFERENCES

¹ Jiva Consulting. (2019). *Pipeline construction inspection benchmarking survey*.

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Starting a Career as a Pipeline Construction Inspector

A HIDDEN JOB MARKET

Jobs for pipeline construction inspectors are part of the hidden oil and gas job market, and, historically, positions for new entrants have not been well advertised. Finding information about this career, or even a job posting with an accurate job description, has been difficult.

CANADIAN HIRING MODEL

In Canada, when a pipeline operator/owner needs a pipeline construction inspector, it contacts an inspection services provider (Figure 2), who has a list of screened inspectors. The provider looks through its inventory for inspectors who have the credentials, experience, and availability the pipeline owner/operator needs.



Figure 2. The key players in the Canadian pipeline construction inspector hiring model.

The provider then submits the inspectors' names to a construction manager who works for the pipeline owner/operator. The construction manager ultimately chooses and hires an inspector from the names recommended by the provider.

Therefore, someone interested in becoming a pipeline construction inspector must first be accepted by an inspection services provider.

To be accepted, the individual must meet a checklist of requirements based on the needs of the provider's clients. Once accepted, the inspector is added to a database of candidates; however, it may be some time before the inspector is hired.

ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

In a 2019 survey¹, 100 inspectors were asked how they learned about their first job as a pipeline construction inspector (Figure 1).

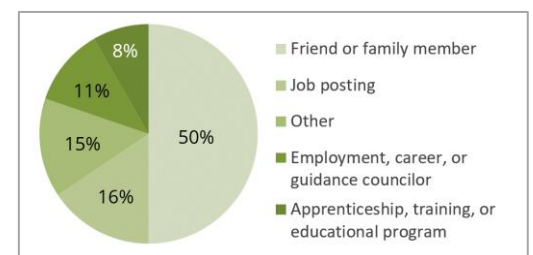


Figure 1. How survey respondents found their first job as a pipeline construction inspector.

Half of inspectors found the job through traditional means, such as a job posting, an employment counselor, or a training program. The other half of inspectors found their first job by word of mouth, usually from a friend or family member.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

As independent contractors, inspectors must be incorporated with a GST number and have commercial general liability and workers compensation insurance, or equivalent. They must supply their equipment, including a vehicle, laptop computer or tablet, smart phone, and personal protective equipment.

CONSEQUENCES OF HIRING MODEL

For prospective pipeline construction inspectors, the consequences of this hiring model are that they must:

- be comfortable setting up and operating as a corporation;
- have the funds to incorporate and get certified; and
- network within the industry to find work.

To learn more about a career in pipeline construction inspection, visit <https://jivaconsulting.com/cpk/career-resources/career-roadmap>.