



STI/SPFA PIPE QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Specifying engineers frequently demand that manufacturers be certified through third party audits, to gain assurance that a supplier goes beyond minimum standards to develop a quality product. The STI/SPFA Pipe Quality Certification is a requirement in many piping bid specifications in the water transmission industry, due to its industry specific focus. "All steel pipe and steel pipe fittings shall be manufactured and fabricated by a certified SPFA (Steel Plate Fabricators Association) facility," is a standard phrase in pipe specifications.

The STI/SPFA audit program is administered through a third party quality assurance organization, and requires rigorous annual inspections and re-certification every three years. The audit evaluates a company's management, organization, QC program, procurement, and engineering, specifically as they relate to the needs of the water transmission industry. The STI/SPFA Pipe Quality Certification denotes outstanding achievement.

The initial certification audit by the contractor takes approximately two days to complete. Follow-up inspections during years two and three take approximately one day to complete. If you are a member of STI/SPFA and a member of the Pipe Section, we require you to pre-pay, for the first year's audit only, a deposit of \$5,000. Any audit costs in excess of this amount will be invoiced to you after the audit is completed. If the audit ends up costing less than the \$5,000 pre-payment, the difference will be returned to you.

In regards to the 2nd year and 3rd year audit costs, these will be billed to you when we are billed by the inspection contractor. We will pass on to you the charges we were billed. If you are a member of STI/SPFA, but not a member of the Pipe Section, a \$1,500 administrative fee will be added to each year's audit fees.

If you are not a member of STI/SPFA and you desire to take part in the Pipe Quality Certification Program, we require you to prepay the first year audit cost of \$5,000 plus an administrative fee of \$6,500 for a total cost of \$11,500. For the 2nd and 3rd year audits, we will invoice you the cost of the audit plus an administrative fee of \$3,000. Once your payment is received, your audit certification and report will be provided to you.

To enroll in the STI/SPFA Pipe Quality Certification Program, complete and return this form to the address shown below, along with a check in the amount of \$5,000 for STI/SPFA members, or \$11,500 for non-members. Make the check payable to STI/SPFA.

Membership in STI/SPFA is encouraged for all Pipe Quality Certification Program Members. To apply for membership in STI/SPFA, click on the following link to download an application form <http://www.steeltank.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=0JPrVV/Sz1NM%3d&tabid=310&mid=971>.

DATE: _____ CONTACT NAME: _____

COMPANY NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

RETURN THIS COMPLETED ENROLLMENT FORM TO STI/SPFA
944 Donata Court, Lake Zurich, IL 60047 • Tel: 847/438-8265 Ext. 238 • Fax: 847/438-8766
E-mail: ewhitney@steeltank.com • Web: www.steeltank.com