

CERTIFIED PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN (CPT) 4.0 CERTIFICATION

WHO ISSUES THE CERTIFICATION?

The [Manufacturing Skills Standards Council](#) (MSSC).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

This certification was established to improve the overall competitiveness of the U.S. manufacturing sector by providing workers with enhanced foundational manufacturing skills. It is a very factory floor-oriented certification that focuses entirely on industry-wide foundational skills and knowledge applicable to production work (entry-level through front-line supervisory roles). Committed to keeping pace with technological change, MSSC has added coverage of nine “Industry 4.0” emerging digital technologies that are increasingly impacting advanced manufacturing and related workforce skills, including artificial intelligence, 5G, additive 3D, industrial internet of things, autonomous robots, data analytics, augmented reality, advanced materials, and nano-manufacturing.

WHAT IS THE CAREER LEVEL OF THE CERTIFICATION AND WHO IS IT GEARED TO?

The [CPT 4.0](#) is a certification geared to entry-level production workers through front-line supervisors in in all sectors of manufacturing.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE PREREQUISITES FOR THE CERTIFICATION?

The CPT 4.0 does not have any prerequisites.

WHAT IS THE COST AND STRUCTURE OF THE CERTIFICATION'S EXAM(S)?

The CPT 4.0 exam can be taken in a variety of proctoring locations, including remotely, but most are taken in community college and secondary school testing centers that contract with MSSC. The cost can vary by testing location, but generally the base price is \$40 per CPT module (of which there are four required modules plus an optional module on green production), totaling \$160–200. The assessment can be delivered online or in a paper-and-pencil format, and each contains 80–101 multiple-choice questions.

WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

National.

IS THE CERTIFICATION ACCREDITED?

Yes, MSSC meets the International Accreditation Service (IAS) accreditation program requirements and those set forth in ISO/IEC 17024:2012 *Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons* for the CPT 4.0 certification.

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HOW LONG IS THE CERTIFICATION VALID?

It is valid for five years.

IS THERE A PROCESS FOR RENEWING THE CERTIFICATION, OR RECERTIFICATION?

Yes, certification holders recertify every five years through a combination of select continuing education and professional development activities, including continuing education courses, earning other relevant certifications, remaining employed in the manufacturing sector, and volunteer activities relevant to manufacturing.

CAN THE CERTIFICATION BE REVOKED?

MSSC has a code of conduct focused on the exam itself that could theoretically lead to revocation, but it is rarely violated. In addition, MSSC developed a model code of conduct for manufacturing employees that they encourage employers to adopt (but do not require), which contains guidance on general professional behaviors (e.g., showing up for work on time and not swearing in the workplace).

IS THE CERTIFICATION LINKED TO LICENSURE?

No.

HOW DOES THE CERTIFICATION RELATE TO OTHER MSSC CERTIFICATIONS OR THOSE OF OTHER CERTIFICATION BODIES?

The certification is complimentary to the other MSSC credentials, but covers a distinct body of knowledge with minimal overlap to other certifications (e.g., Certified Forklift Technician, Certified Logistics Technician, and Certified Technician in Supply Chain Automation).

WHAT ARE SOME ORGANIZATIONS OR INDUSTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE OR USE THE CERTIFICATION?

The leading trade associations that have formally endorsed MSSC's certifications include the National Association of Manufacturers, the Material Handling Industry, and the Material Handling Equipment Distributors Association.

ARE THERE ANY COMPANIES, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THEY PREFER OR REQUIRE THE CERTIFICATION?

Most manufacturing companies do not declare publicly the certifications that they prefer for hiring, and typically base their hiring decisions on multiple factors. However, large employers are more likely than others to use the CPT 4.0 in the hiring process or in the professional development of incumbent workers. This may be because smaller manufacturers seem to be less familiar with MSSC.

WHAT OCCUPATIONS USE THE CERTIFICATION?

This certification is not industry specific – the CPT's core skills can be used in all sorts of manufacturing environments from food to cars to electronics. Additionally, the CPT 4.0 covers all manufacturing production occupations from the list of 55 occupations published in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Handbook.

DOES MSSC OFFER TRAINING MATERIALS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFICATION EXAM?

Yes, MSSC provides the exam blueprint in their candidate handbook. They also partner with various training providers, including employers with in-house training capability and community colleges.