American Petroleum Institute

26_OQWG_RP1161_6thEd_Add1

FM-3003

Standards Resource & Research Request (SR^3) Form

Pipeline Standards / Committee on Pipeline Standards

Revision: 2.0
Date: 04/05/2023

Document Information

Standard Designation:	**Recommend Practice 1161**								
Title:	**Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Operator Qualification (OQ)**								
Edition:	**6th Ed. Addendum 1**								
Budget Year:	2027								
Committee/Subcommittee/Group: (check all that apply if a joint project)	**SMS VG**		**Public Awareness & Engagement VG**		**Cybernetics VG**		**Operator Qualifications VG**	X	
	Pipeline Integrity VG		**Emergency Response VG**		**Construction & Operations VG**		**Underground Storage VG**		
	Gathering Lines VG		**Environment, Health & Safety VG**		**COPS**		**Cybersecurity VG**		
Priority Matrix Ranking: (to be completed by API Staff)	X	**Priority 1 (Rank 10-15)**		**Priority 2 (Rank 7-9)**		**Priority 3 (Rank ≤6)**			
API Climate Action Framework (To be completed by API Staff Should be filled out before policy committee approval)	X	**#1 Accelerate Technology & Innovation**		**#2 Mitigate Emissions from Operations**		**#4 Advance Cleaner Fuels**		**#5 Support GHG/Climate Reporting**	
UN Sustainable Development Goal (to be completed by API Staff)		**#7 Access to Energy**		**#8 Economic Growth**	X	**#9 Resilient Infrastructure**		**Other**	
API Energy Excellence Program (to be completed by API Staff)		**Yes**		**No**					
Proposed Action:		**New Standard**			X	**Revise Current Standard**			
		Withdraw Current Standard				**Research Only**			
Proposed Funding Type:		**Budget Request**				**Special Solicitation**			
Total Funding Request (Parts A & B):	**$**	**0**							
Name of Submitter(s):	Nicholas Montebello								
Date:	11/9/2026								

Part A – Resource Plan

I. Background and Information:

1. **Explain the business need for the proposed action.** Indicate potential cost savings to industry where possible.

Recommended Practice (RP) 1161 – Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Operator Qualification (OQ) is currently on its 6th edition which was published in May 2025. This request for an addendum to the 6th edition is being driven by PHMSA enforcement actions (namely **CPF 4-2019-5020W**), and an API policy communication issued to PHMSA dated 5/16/2025 which noted which covered tasks assigned by PHMSA had been incorporated into the 6th edition and indicating a new buffing and grinding covered task would be published shortly after the 6th edition publication.

Task 40.18: "Buffing or Grinding a Pipeline" has now passed the ballot phase and is ready to go to publication. Even though the 7th edition is not due for publication until 2030, this request to publish an

addendum to the 6th edition will satisfy the obligations to PHMSA so that operators can have a standardized approach to implement the covered task operator qualifications.

2. What is the scope of the standard?

RP1161 provides a standardized framework for qualifying operators on covered tasks. The proposed addendum will introduce a new covered task number 40.18 entitled Buffing or Grinding a Pipeline.

This task involves the use of powered buffing or grinding equipment for pipeline repairs which may include but not limited to the removal of surface cracks, mechanical damage, or prepping pipeline for welding activities. during a steel pipeline defect repair.

3. Is this standard on the work program of another standards development organization (SDO)?

Yes		No	x

If yes, specify SDO and standard designation/project title/contact

If yes, is the work being coordinated with the appropriate group? Are there special circumstances that would justify independent API initiation of the proposed action?

4. Are a volunteer chair and group of experts available to perform the proposed action?
Please include names and company affiliation and indicate chair, if available.

Yes – Operator Qualification Workgroup which has already drafted the content will be used to perform a consensus ballot of the addendum.

5. Is there a need to commit resources to supplement the development of the draft? Would a paid content specialist accelerate progress on the development/revision? Is there a readily available content specialist?

N/A

6. Are there special format requirements for final document, i.e. knowledge of ISO template required), significant graphics, photos or equations) required that would need extraordinary resources?

Yes		No	x

If Yes, please provide details:

7. Please provide any other information that is pertinent to the proposed action.

8. What are the implications of not initiating the proposed action? Include potential safety, reliability, environmental and financial impacts that may arise.

9. Is there research proposed to accomplish the proposed action?

Yes		No	x
If yes, complete Part B of this form.			

II. Project Timing

Proposed start date:	01/04/2027	**Proposed date draft will be ready for letter ballot:**	01/04/2027
TG/WG: (estimated number of volunteers needed)	None	**Content Management:** ($ amount "if needed" or volunteer)	

PART B – Research Plan

I. Background and Information

1. **Proposed Research Title:**

2. **Proposed Project Scope:**

3. **Research Amount:**

$	

4. **What is the business need for the proposed research?**

5. **Is the proposed research edition-specific for a single standard or will it result in technology enhancement for multiple standards?**

Yes		No	
If multiple standards, please cite the standards effected:			

6. **Research Timing:**

	Research is necessary prior to scheduled revision.		Research can be done concurrent with revision.

7. **How does the research support the proposed action identified in Part A?**

8. **Is a joint industry project (JIP) a possibility?**

Yes		No	
If Yes, with whom?			

9. **Are there opportunities for leveraged research with other organizations?**

Yes		No	
What organizations?			

10. **What are the implications of not performing the proposed research?**

II. Dates and Funding:

Estimated Completion Date	Prior Research Funding Requested		Anticipated Future Research Funding Needs					
	$		Year 2: $		Year 3: $		Year 4: $	

PART C – Proposal Feedback/Approval Information

For API Use ONLY

COPS comments to Proposer/WG:	
Date approved by COPS:	
Date entered into API Publications DB:	