

# CSA Group Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) technician training & certification

Supports better efficiency and performance for Pensacola city services



Vehicle fleets owned and operated by cities are now running on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Cheaper, cleaner, and abundantly available, CNG is formed when natural gas is compressed to less than 1% of the space it would normally occupy in the atmosphere, and in this state it must be safely contained in special containers. Ensuring that these containers are safe and free from dangerous defects is paramount to protecting both those using and fueling the vehicles. This can be realized not only through a cost-efficient regulatory framework

that is adequately supported by nationally-accepted codes and standards, but also through third-party certified comprehensive training and third-party certification for the inspector tasked with ensuring CNG cylinders and infrastructure are in safe operating condition.

The city of Pensacola runs a fleet of transportation vehicles that are utilizing CNG as a fuel source.

**“With a CSA Personnel Certification you can rest assured that the successful candidates are proficient in inspecting CNG vehicle cylinders and fuel systems to the level of detail that contributes to the safety of vehicle users, inspectors, and the general public.”**

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Pensacola is the principal city of the Pensacola metropolitan area and is the westernmost city in the Florida Panhandle. A sea port on Pensacola Bay, the city has a population of almost 60,000 and is home to a large United States Naval Air Station, the National Aviation Museum, and the main campus of the University of West Florida. The Pensacola Bay Area is famous for its natural beauty, historic culture, and miles of shoreline making it attractive to tourists. City transportation is a key contributor to supporting this bustling industry.

The City operates more than 475 licensed vehicles and CNG provides a safe and reliable fuel source for a number of them, including sanitation collection trucks, service support vehicles, and many others. The city's first CNG vehicle purchase was in April 2011, and since that time they have acquired 48 more CNG powered units. Most of the CNG vehicles are bi-fuel powered, meaning they have switchable systems where you can switch to gasoline once the CNG runs out. This system provides expanded fueling capability in the event of storms and other natural disasters.

Doug Resmondo is the Assistant Sanitation Services and Fleet Management Director for the City of Pensacola. His primary responsibility is overall fleet management, from acquisition to final disposition including operations and budget for the city garage. “We have a large and diverse fleet with a growing number of CNG powered vehicles” he states, “and it is imperative that we have the knowledge and understanding of how to safely maintain and repair all the city's vehicles”.

Mr. Resmondo identified a need to ensure that qualified and certified CNG inspectors were part of his staff. “Most repair work is done in-house” he states. “Therefore, it was necessary to provide training for the staff to properly service

and maintain the fleet.” Recognizing that American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited personnel certification could best meet their needs, the city explored the training offered by CSA Group® that could help their staff prepare for this certification.

ANSI is the voice of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment system, overseeing the creation, promulgation, and use of thousands of norms and guidelines that directly impact businesses in nearly every sector. ANSI accreditation helps ensure that internationally-accepted best practices are met. The benefits of ANSI certification are numerous – from assurance of competence to promotion of consistency. In addition, it provides an added layer of accountability and demonstrated due diligence which may help protect against invalid claims. CSA Group offers an *ANSI accredited CNG Cylinder and Fuel Inspector Personnel Certification exam* as well as a practice exam that provides sample questions to help participants prepare for the *CNG Cylinder & Fuel Inspection Certification exam*. Successful completion of the exam means that candidates have demonstrated proficiency in inspecting CNG vehicle cylinders and fuel systems, identifying and documenting defects, and the safe handling of cylinders and fuel system components. CSA Group also offers a two- day CNG Cylinder and Fuel System Inspector training course in locations across North America to help students gain the necessary knowledge for the most important elements of an inspection in preparation for their exam and offers insight into requirements of the Certification Program.

Karin Fahey, Product Portfolio Manager in CSA Group's Learning Division has this to say about the unique education offered by the company, and the important benefits that it offers.

"Successful completion of our ANSI accredited CNG Cylinder and Fuel System Inspector Personnel Certification exam means that candidates have demonstrated proficiency as defined by a committee of industry stakeholders. Our ANSI accreditation and adherence to this process is essential to mitigating risk. CSA does not push people through the process. With a CSA Personnel Certification you can rest assured that the successful candidates are proficient in inspecting CNG vehicle cylinders and fuel systems to the level of detail that contributes to the safety of vehicle users, inspectors, and the general public. That is something to feel good about."

Mrs. Fahey goes on to emphasize the importance of a being prepared for the exam. "Given that this certification exam has such an impact on safety, it is very detailed and thorough. So it's critical to be prepared. That's why we offer a comprehensive CNG training course. While the course itself is not ANSI certified, it really prepares candidates for the ANSI certified exam and certification."

While city staff reported that the training instructor was very knowledgeable of the subject matter, answered all questions thoroughly, and went into great detail providing emphasis on key points, the benefits of the training went far beyond the classroom. "Training provided through CSA has given our employees the knowledge and tools they need to ensure their safety and confidence while performing tank inspections and servicing the fleet's compressed natural gas vehicles" states Mr. Resmondo. "Our technicians are more confident in servicing and making repairs to the high pressure systems and associated components found on CNG vehicles. Additionally, having 'in-house' trained staff means we now have the ability to quickly make repairs and schedule work according to our schedule."

## Contact Us

To learn more about CSA Group's training programs, contact us today.

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