

## Why do I have to pick a date and pre-register four to six weeks before taking the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test?

The test can be offered only at I-CAR authorized steel welding qualification test sites but the number of participants is limited to four, so registrations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Please visit I-CAR online for SPSQT availability in your area. Participants will receive informational materials when they pre-register and pre-pay for the test. These informational sheets briefly summarize the test and provide details about what materials a participant should bring to the test.

## How is my performance measured during the SPSQT?

To pass the SPSQT, a participant's test steel structural part must fit in a specially designed I-CAR fixture. The allowable tolerance has been built in to the fixture. If any pin on the fixture does not fit into the reference hole on the test part, it will not qualify. Welds are also visually inspected following strict guidelines. The methods used to evaluate a passing test part are explained during the prep program (SPS04).

## How do I know if I passed the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test?

Participants receive a complete report from I-CAR within four to six weeks after the test, indicating if the test steel structural part passed. If any portion of the test part does not meet inspection, a participant must complete the test within six months of the original test date to obtain savings on retesting costs.

## How often do I have to take the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test to remain qualified?

To maintain your Structural Parts Steel Qualification status, you must re-qualify every five years.

## Will I be awarded Gold Class points for completing the prep program and qualification test?

Participants earn four Gold Class points upon successful completion of the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test (SPS05). However, Gold Class points are not earned for completing the prep program (SPS04).

*Gold Class points are valid towards meeting the requirements for the Gold Class Professionals® designation and the Platinum Individual™ designation. The Gold Class Professionals designation is awarded to those businesses that meet specific position-related training requirements for each of their employees. Platinum Individuals are professionals who have achieved a higher standard of training and also maintain a level of continued training.*



For the most up-to-date information on the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test and I-CAR training programs, please visit I-CAR at [www.i-car.com](http://www.i-car.com) or call 800.422.7872.



# The I-CAR Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test



With help from collision industry professionals, I-CAR, a leader in collision repair training, developed a "hands-on" skills-based qualification test specifically designed for structural collision repair. The I-CAR Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test (SPSQT) is a method of allowing experienced collision repair technicians to demonstrate their skills on measuring, cutting, and GMA (MIG) welding when sectioning steel structural parts. Collision damage may require sectioning to structural parts. How well a technician performs these tasks while sectioning impacts the structural integrity of the vehicle and passenger safety.

## Who benefits from the test?

Many people benefit from the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test.

- Technicians gain greater self-esteem, a more professional attitude, a sense of accomplishment, and confidence while sectioning steel structural parts on vehicles that they are repairing.
- Collision repair businesses are able to make proper and efficient repairs, reduce liability exposure, gain a competitive marketing advantage, and increase customer satisfaction.
- Insurance companies are able to reduce their liability exposure, ensure more consistent and higher quality repairs for their customers, and therefore increase customer satisfaction.
- Consumers benefit from a better quality repair.
- Career and technical schools and colleges that serve as test sites are provided with more collision industry exposure and recognition. Students enrolled in the school's collision repair program who pass the test have additional skills and a credential to increase their employability.





## When and where are Structural Parts Steel Qualification Tests held?

Tests are held at a variety of times, which are determined by the test site. I-CAR has authorized test sites throughout North America. Facilities most often used for providing all of the required elements are career and technical schools and colleges. To locate the nearest authorized test site, call I-CAR customer care at 800.422.7872 or visit I-CAR online at [www.i-car.com](http://www.i-car.com).

## Are there prerequisites to taking the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test?

No, but there are several prior recommended I-CAR training programs - a complete list of the recommended programs is available in the I-CAR Training Catalog or on the I-CAR web site. The SPSQT is a skills-based test and proper preparation is important. It is highly recommended that a participant complete the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test Prep program (SPS04) before taking the test.

### Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test Prep (SPS04)

This program allows participants to practice for the test by measuring, cutting, and welding while learning how to visually inspect their welds.

## What is the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test (SPS05)?

The SPS05 program is when the actual Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test is administered. This qualification test gives participants an opportunity to demonstrate their measuring, cutting, and GMA (MIG) welding skills while sectioning steel structural parts. The test measures a participant's skills in making accurate measurements, determining accurate sectioning locations, and sectioning steel structural parts. It also measures a participant's skills in making offset fillet welds, plug welds, and butt joint with backing welds on steel structural parts. Working with automotive-grade, 18-gauge, 60/60 electro-galvanized steel, the structural part must fit in a specially designed I-CAR fixture in order to pass the qualification test. In addition, the welds must pass visual inspection to qualify. I-CAR issues a Certificate Of Professional Development Through Training for participants who pass the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test. It is necessary to re-qualify every five years.

For the latest information on these programs or to find out when training programs and qualification tests are being held in your area, please visit I-CAR online at [www.i-car.com](http://www.i-car.com).

## How long does the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test (SPS05) take to complete?

Testing takes about seven hours. Following a classroom introduction, participants have one hour to familiarize themselves with the equipment and surroundings and practice the flat, vertical, and overhead welds. Practicing the welds on coupons before welding on the test steel structural part is permitted and encouraged.

## Do I need to pre-register for the SPSQT and prep?

Yes, pre-registration and pre-payment are required for both the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test Prep (SPS04) and Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test (SPS05). Pre-registration information is available from the I-CAR web site at [www.i-car.com](http://www.i-car.com).

The SPSQT can only be offered at I-CAR authorized steel welding qualification test sites, but the number of participants is limited to four, so registrations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Pre-registration is required four to six weeks before the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test (SPSQT). Please visit I-CAR online for test availability in your area.

## Can I pre-register for the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test over the phone?

No, participants may not pre-register by phone. Pre-registration must be done either by fax with a credit card or by mail with your payment of check or I-CAR discount coupons. Pre-registration information is available from the I-CAR web site at [www.i-car.com](http://www.i-car.com).

## Can I pay for the test or prep at the door?

No, pre-payment is required for both the prep program (SPS04) and the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test (SPS05).

## Can I pay for the test and prep with I-CAR discount coupons?

Yes, I-CAR discount coupons can be used for both the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test Prep (SPS04) and the Structural Parts Steel Qualification Test (SPS05). The fee structure varies for the prep test, full test, retest, and re-qualification test. For a complete price structure, or to download the I-CAR discount coupon order form, please visit [www.i-car.com](http://www.i-car.com).

