

# Quality Control Inspectors

SOC: 51-9061 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

**\$47,460**

Median Salary

**598,000**

Employment

**+0.0%**

Growth Rate

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

**Education:** High school diploma

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Medium Risk** - 32.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

## ■■ Work-Life Balance

**7.6/10** - Good work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	8.4/10	Investigative	5.0/10
Artistic	3.8/10	Social	4.6/10
Enterprising	4.0/10	Conventional	8.0/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Detail oriented, Math skills, Mechanical skills, Physical stamina, Physical strength, Technical skills

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Quality Control Inspectors are manufacturing and production professionals who ensure **products and materials meet required quality, safety, and performance standards**. Their work helps prevent defects, reduce waste, and protect consumers by identifying problems before products reach customers. They serve as a critical checkpoint between production and delivery across many industries.

This career is well suited for individuals who are detail-oriented, methodical, and committed to maintaining high standards.

## What Do Quality Control Inspectors Do?

Quality control inspectors examine products and processes at various stages of production.

Common responsibilities include:

- Inspecting raw materials, components, or finished products
- Measuring dimensions and tolerances using precision tools
- Testing products for functionality and performance
- Identifying defects, irregularities, or deviations from standards
- Recording inspection results and maintaining quality documentation
- Communicating issues to production teams and supervisors
- Verifying corrective actions and process improvements

## Types of Quality Control Inspection Roles

Inspectors may specialize based on industry or inspection method:

- Manufacturing Inspectors: Inspect mechanical or assembled products.
- Electrical or Electronics Inspectors: Test circuits and electronic components.
- Food and Safety Inspectors (related roles): Focus on hygiene and safety standards.
- Process Inspectors: Monitor production processes for consistency.
- Incoming or Final Inspectors: Check materials before or after production.

## Skills and Abilities Needed

Quality control inspectors combine technical measurement skills with analytical judgment.

### ***Core Professional Skills***

### ***Personal Qualities That Matter***

## Education and Training Pathway

Most quality control inspectors enter the field through hands-on technical training:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent: Typical minimum requirement
- On-the-Job Training: Learning inspection procedures and standards
- Technical or Vocational Training (helpful): Manufacturing, machining, or electronics
- Certification (optional): Quality or inspection credentials
- Continuous Skill Development: Training in new tools, standards, or technologies

## Where Do Quality Control Inspectors Work?

Quality control inspectors work across many production environments:

- Manufacturing and Assembly Plants
- Aerospace and Automotive Facilities
- Food and Consumer Goods Production
- Electronics and Technology Manufacturing

- Warehousing and Distribution Centers

Work may involve standing for long periods and following shift schedules.

## How Much Do Quality Control Inspectors Earn?

Earnings vary by industry, experience, and specialization:

- Entry-Level Inspectors: Typically earn hourly wages
- Experienced or Specialized Inspectors: Often earn higher pay
- Quality Technicians or Supervisors: May earn more with leadership responsibility

Compensation often includes overtime and shift differentials.

## Is This Career Difficult?

Quality control inspection is detail-intensive and requires sustained concentration. Inspectors must consistently apply standards, detect subtle defects, and sometimes enforce unpopular decisions. The challenge lies in maintaining accuracy, impartiality, and consistency under production pressure.

## Who Should Consider Becoming a Quality Control Inspector?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy precision and structured work
- Have a strong eye for detail
- Value safety and quality standards
- Are comfortable documenting and reporting findings
- Want a stable role in manufacturing or production

## How to Prepare Early

- Study math, measurement, and basic statistics
- Learn to read technical drawings or specifications
- Practice using measurement tools accurately
- Develop patience and attention to detail
- Explore manufacturing or quality-focused training programs

**Quality control inspectors safeguard product reliability and consumer trust by ensuring that every component meets required standards—turning careful inspection into consistency, safety, and quality across modern production systems.**

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/production/quality-control-inspectors.htm>