

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.