

So you want to be an AFPA Health and Safety Auditor?

Health and Safety Audits are undertaken for a number of reasons:

- they allow for a review of a company's health and safety systems to determine whether the minimum standards are being met
- they indicate to the employer what they are doing well, and where improvements should be made.

In order for an audit's results to be valid, the person performing the audit must be well qualified and up to the task. Much of what they need to know can be acquired through a good training and certification program, but there are some characteristics which are not easily taught or learned, and which are required to make a good auditor.

The AFPA wants you to be successful, so before you invest the time and effort needed to meet the training requirements for becoming an AFPA Certified Auditor, ask yourself the following questions.

1. **Do I have an interest in health and safety, and enough experience with the type of workplace I'll be assessing? How is my knowledge of the legislation governing my work site?** *Knowledge of the specific issues and hazards of the industry/work site being audited is essential for a comprehensive review.*
2. **How well can I read?** *This may seem like a silly question, but in order to provide accurate audit results, the auditor must be able to read and comprehend both the protocol questions, and the supporting documentation that verifies the company's health and safety processes.*
3. **Can I effectively conduct interviews (and deal with possible hostility or fear of those I encounter on the work site being audited)? Am I comfortable talking to strangers? Can I make those around me feel at ease and comfortable in a stressful situation?**
4. **Can I remain objective when assessing and observing a company's work site/s conditions/processes? How about in assessing my own work site?**
5. **Am I comfortable leading a meeting?**
6. **Will I be able to tactfully communicate any negative findings to the site's owner or representative?**
7. **Can I communicate clearly in writing?** *This is an important skill to have, as the auditor will be required to convey their findings to the employer in the form of a professional, complete, and accurate audit report.*

The intent of these questions is to ask you to reflect on your own interests and abilities. It is not a test. The AFPA believes that the above are more than "soft skills." They are "core competencies" which can directly impact your success as an auditor.

Should you have any questions about the above, or about AFPA Auditor Certification guidelines, contact Lloyd Harman (780-452-2841 x238) or Lena Cimmarrusti (780-452-2841 x237).