



**CERTIFIED MANUFACTURING ENGINEER  
(CMfgE)  
CERTIFICATION PROCESS GUIDE 2025**

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## What is certification?

Earning a professional certification is a voluntary process by which candidates are assessed against predetermined and standardized criteria for knowledge, skills, competencies, and/or abilities required of a profession. Those successfully completing certification requirements are granted a time-limited credential. To retain your certification, recertification is required after a specific period and involves continuing training and development.

### [Code of Ethics](#)

## Why become certified?

Whether you are just starting out, or a seasoned professional, certification can help you become a high-value commodity to your employer and be among the most sought-after individuals in your industry. Certifications not only help you attain knowledge, they prove it. Certifications are recognized and respected industry credentials. Professional certifications:

- Validate your knowledge against industry standards.
- Provide a portable, industry-recognized credential that travels with you throughout your career.
- Enhance your career opportunities — certification can provide a competitive advantage in the job market.
- Improve your marketability by demonstrating your commitment to continuous learning.

## SME certification standards

As a certifying body, SME is held to rigorous standards to ensure certification integrity. SME's Certification Oversight & Appeals Committee, composed of member volunteers representing industry and academia, routinely evaluate all exam questions for performance, relevance, currency, and integrity.

## CMfgE Certification

Earning your Certified Manufacturing Engineer (CMfgE) requires an investment of time and energy that will reap dividends throughout your career. Explore earning your CMfgE certification if you already have advanced manufacturing engineering experience. This certification is perfect for you if you are in a leadership position or have supported manufacturing practices and processes at your organization.

**To earn your CMfgE certification, a minimum of eight combined years of manufacturing- related education and work experience (a minimum of four years' work experience) is recommended.** If you hold a CMfgT certification, you can qualify with seven combined years of manufacturing-related education and work experience.

## Career Pathways

Certification offers an initial step into a technology-robust industry filled with opportunities for continued growth and advancement into higher level positions. After earning certification, SME encourages individuals to explore a variety of available career pathways in manufacturing and continue with training or education to earn more advanced technical certifications.



## Groups

To inquire about certification for groups (companies, schools, etc.) please contact Tooling U-SME at [info@toolingu.com](mailto:info@toolingu.com) or 866.706.8665.

## Individuals

Individuals may pursue the CMfgE as part of their own professional development journey. Individuals must identify a proctor to monitor the individual while taking the exam. You may apply for the exam directly online or contact [certification@sme.org](mailto:certification@sme.org) with questions.

## Process to Earn Your Certification

### 1. Assess your knowledge and experience

The Body of Knowledge or BOK is a detailed content outline that focuses on documenting the topics, subtopics, importance, competency level and weighting of each content area. A completed BOK is utilized to build the certification exam. The BOK is a guide to what content areas will be tested and the weighting determines how much coverage from each content area will be presented on the certification exam.

[Technical Certification Body of Knowledge](#)

The Technical Competency Model describes the knowledge, skills, and abilities required by manufacturing professionals. It will help you better envision your role and evaluate your readiness for certification. The competency model provides additional information beyond the Technical Body of Knowledge.

[Technical Certification Competency Model](#)

### 2. Purchase the recommended reading materials

Exam questions are based on specific recommended reading materials selected by knowledgeable and experienced individuals.

[Certified Manufacturing Engineer Recommended Reading](#)

### 3. Review the exam preparation tips

The CMfgE exam is open book and notes. You can bring your recommended reading materials into the exam room. Sharing books, notes, and other materials during the exam is **not permitted**.

You may use an eBook of the recommended reading; however, it should be accessed on a separate device other than the device being used for your online exam.

You may bring a quiet, hand-held, and non-broadcasting or receiving calculator. You **MUST** clear all programmable memory from the calculator before you begin and after you complete the exam.

Tab sections of your books/materials to make it easier to find information during the exam. You will not have time to look up every answer, so be thoughtful about what you want to access quickly and easily.

Some key areas you might want to tab/identify include:

- Glossaries, Indexes, Tables, Concepts, and Formulas
- Topics that you think have a high probability of being on the exam based on the Body of Knowledge weightings for the exam that you are taking

[Exam Preparation Tips](#)

### 4. Apply for the exam, schedule and take the exam

The Certified Manufacturing Engineer exam is offered in online format only. You will have six months to take the exam from the date you apply.

Certified Manufacturing Engineer (CMfgE)	Online Exam Pricing
Nonmember	\$520
SME Member	\$275

[Apply Here](#)

## SME Membership

At SME, we are committed to offering an extensive range of membership options tailored to suit the diverse needs of our members. From entry-level to experienced professionals, SME Membership is your partner in every phase of your manufacturing career lifecycle.

With a wealth of resources, networking opportunities and professional development programs, SME Membership is your key to advancing in the world of manufacturing. Join or renew now and invest in a thriving future for your manufacturing career.

### Membership Benefits at a Glance

- 15,000+ members across 15+ countries for global connections.
- 125+ local chapters for networking opportunities.
- Free [engagement programs](#) for professional development.
- Member-exclusive [newsletters](#).
- Access to [Jobs Connection](#), a job board specifically for manufacturing industry jobs. When logged in, SME Members receive additional premium features at no cost.
- Up to 50% off [SME certifications](#) and free access to [peer-reviewed journals](#).
- Member discounts on [10+ industry conferences](#), including free expo hall passes to SME-produced events.
- Access to a robust technical library through on-demand webinars, [Tooling U-SME](#) training courses, and [Manufacturing Engineering magazine](#).

### [SME Member Benefits](#)

## 5. Secure an exam proctor

Individuals must identify a proctor to monitor the individual while taking the exam. Your exam proctor can be your manager, supervisor, Human Resources representative, or a key administrator. They can also be a member of an SME chapter, or AME region, staff at your local college/university, library, or an authorized facilitator at the exam after a review program. All exam proctors must be approved by SME in advance. The proctor form should be completed and submitted at least two weeks before taking the exam. Your online exam details will be provided to your proctor directly and they will provide you with the information on the day of your exam.

Individual examinees may also request to have your exam scheduled with an online/virtual proctor. **This service is not available for groups.** Arrangements would be made through SME on your behalf. Please send your inquiry to [certification@sme.org](mailto:certification@sme.org). There is a \$55 proctor fee for this service. Please note: There is a \$8.00 fee you will be responsible to pay if you are a no-show on the date and time of your scheduled exam. Reschedule if needed.

[Proctor Form](#)

## 6. Take the exam

The Certified Manufacturing Engineer (CMfgE) exam is a four-hour, open book and open notes exam. It consists of approximately 173 multiple-choice questions mapped to the Body of Knowledge.

To pass the Certified Manufacturing Engineer (CMfgE) Certification exam, you will need to score 60% or higher.

## 7. Exam results

**How will I find out my exam results?**

After completing the online exam, you will learn your results immediately.

**When will I receive my results?**

You will receive your official results within 30 days of your exam date.

**What happens if I pass the exam?**

Examinees who successfully pass the exam, will be issued a digital badge via Credly. Once you accept your badge and create a Credly account you will be able to download your badge and certificate.

## What happens if I do not pass the exam?

If you do not pass your exam, you may retake it 30 days from your original exam date. Candidates may use this time to study and prepare for the retake. There is a reduced exam fee each time you retake the exam.

## 8. What is Credly?

- A digital badge is a graphic representation of the successful completion of a program or course. Metadata within the badge contains a verifiable description of the specific knowledge, skills, and criteria required to earn the badge.
- Badge earners can have a profile on Credly where their badges can be displayed and shared. They can also download a printable certificate through their profile.
- Access to Credly is free for those who earn the certification.
- Badge earners can link to their Credly profile on their resumes and share their badges on other social networks to show potential employers that they have up-to-date and relevant skills.
- Through their Credly accounts, badge earners have access to Credly's Talent Directory to help them find jobs and connect with employers.



## 9. How do I accept digital badges?

An examinee who successfully passes the CMfgE exam will receive an email via Credly on behalf of SME to accept their badge within 30 days of your original exam date. Upon accepting, you will be prompted to create a Credly account. Watch the videos below on how to accept your badge and download a copy of your certificate.

[How to accept and manage your digital badge](#)

[How to download your certificate](#)

## 10. Recertification

Keeping the credentials you worked hard for is just as important as earning them. To ensure you stay on top of the latest advances, and maintain a strong competitive edge, you must recertify every three years to maintain your CMfgE credential. Recertification requires that you participate in ongoing training and development activities. You will need to document 36 recertification credits during the three-year period from receiving your certification or last recertification.

You will receive an email notification with the option to recertify online 90, 60, and 30 days prior to your expiration date. If you are renewing multiple certifications, you will receive an email notification for each certification that is expiring. If you have met the credit requirement, please click on the “click here” link in each notification email to add the certification you are renewing to the shopping cart. The shopping cart will provide you your discount when you check out.

Visit the recertification page to read about the Recertification activities that are acceptable to use towards recertification and their credit value, instructions on how you submit your credits into your SME profile, and recertification pricing.

[Recertification](#)

## 11. Life Certification

If you are a current CMfgT and/or CMfgE certification holder, and your date of birth is on your SME account, you will become life certified following your 60th birthday. Once you are life certified, recertification activities are no longer required and future recertification fees are waived. Congratulations! You deserve this!

## Certification Appeals

For information on the appeals process please review the documents below:

[Certification Appeals](#)

[Recertification Appeals](#)

For more information about SME's other certification programs please visit:

<https://www.sme.org/training/certifications/>

For Certification FAQ's please visit:

<https://www.sme.org/training/certification-resources/>

