

# For Military Contractors, STS Certification Can Matter

In industries where safety and standards are paramount, certifications play a role in demonstrating a company's devotion to workplace safety and regulatory conformance. For companies that work as military contractors, one certification that often comes up is for Safety Trained Supervisors. But how necessary is **STS certification** within the defense contracting sector, and what are the factors that influence its requirement? The STS certification, offered by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP), is for people who oversee safety in construction, manufacturing, and general industry settings.

Becoming STS certified validates a supervisor's knowledge of health and safety procedures, hazard identification, incident investigation, and risk management. While the certification is widely recognized, its requirement varies based on the nature of the contract, the employing organization, and the stipulations set forth by agencies and prime contractors. Military contracts, especially those involving construction, maintenance, or hazardous operations, often come with tight safety requirements. The U.S. Department of Defense wants supervisors to possess certain safety certifications, including the STS.

Requirements for STS certification are particularly true for contracts governed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards or those that follow the Army Corps of Engineers' Safety and Health Requirements Manual (EM 385-1-1), which emphasizes competent supervision. However, not all military contractors mandate STS certification for every supervisory position. Some organizations may prioritize other credentials, such as the Construction Health and Safety Technician (CHST) or Certified Safety Professional (CSP), according to the complexity and scope of work.

Ultimately, while STS certification is not universally required across all military contracting companies, it is more and more valued as a mark of safety competency. Supervisors holding this credential can bolster a company's competitive edge during the bidding process and help guarantee compliance with regulatory and contractual safety obligations. As safety standards in military contracting continue to evolve, the demand for certified supervisors like those with the STS may continue to rise, rendering it a worthwhile consideration to both employers and professionals in the field.