



## What is NIMS?

The National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) was formed in 1995 by the leading metalworking trade associations to develop and maintain a globally competitive American workforce. NIMS develops skills standards for the industry, certifies individual skills against the standards and accredits training programs that meet NIMS quality requirements.

NIMS operates under rigorous and highly disciplined processes as the only developer of American National Standards for the nation's metalworking industry accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

## What Are Industry Skill Standards?

Industry skill standards define competence for workers in the metalworking industry by describing the common duties and the knowledge, skills, abilities and related attributes needed to perform their tasks capably. These standards were developed by the industry and represent the industry's benchmarks of performance. Together, they define the skills and training framework for the metalworking industry.

## NIMS Stakeholders

NIMS has a stakeholder base of more than 6,000 metalworking companies representing the major trade associations in the industry, the [Association for Manufacturing Technology](#), the [National Tooling & Machining Association](#), the [Precision Machined Products Association](#), the [Precision Metalforming Association](#), and the [Tooling and Manufacturing Association](#). They are committed to the upgrading and maintenance of the standards.

## NIMS Skill Standards

NIMS has developed skills standards in 24 operational areas covering the breadth of metalworking operations including metalforming (Stamping, Press Brake, Roll Forming, Laser Cutting) and machining (Machining, Tool and Die Making, Mold Making, Screw Machining, Machine Building and Machine Maintenance, Service and Repair). The Standards range from entry (Level I) to a master level (Level III). All NIMS standards are industry-written and industry-validated, and are subject to regular, periodic reviews under the procedures accredited and audited by ANSI. A list of all skill standards is [found on the NIMS website](#).

## NIMS Credentials

NIMS certifies individual skills against the national standards. The NIMS credentialing program requires that the candidate meet both performance and theory requirements. Both the performance and knowledge examinations are industry-designed and industry-piloted. There are 52 distinct NIMS skill certifications.

Industry uses the credentials to recruit, hire, place and promote individual workers. Training programs use the credentials as performance measures of attainment, often incorporating the credentials as completion requirements. The credentials are often the basis for articulation among training programs.

## NIMS Program Accreditation

NIMS accredits training programs that meet its quality requirements. The NIMS accreditation requirements include an on-site audit and evaluation by a NIMS industry team that reviews and conducts on-site inspections of all aspects of the training programs, including administrative support, curriculum, plant, equipment and tooling, student and trainee progress, industry involvement, instructor qualifications and safety.

Officials governing NIMS accredited programs report annually on progress and are subject to accreditation renewal on a five-year cycle. [Click here for a list](#) of those programs to find one near you.

## **NIMS Competency-Based Apprenticeship System**

NIMS has launched a new Competency-Based Apprenticeship System for the nation's metalworking industry. The NIMS system represents a dramatic departure from the time-based system and integrates the NIMS national standards and skill certifications in defining and measuring required competencies.

Developed in partnership with the United States Department of Labor, the new system is the result of two years of work. Over 300 companies participated in the deliberations and design.

The new National Guideline Standards for NIMS Competency-based Apprenticeship have been approved by the Department of Labor. NIMS has trained Department of Labor apprenticeship staff at the national and state level in the new system.

### **How are the Standards Being Used?**

These standards are being used by employers and in high schools and post-secondary schools throughout the country. Since its inception more than 50,000 credentials have been earned and there are currently more than 150 accredited programs across the United States.

### **Where Do I Get More Information?**

For more information on NIMS or to find out how you can get involved, contact NIMS at:

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