



# ISTQB® Agile Tester in a Nutshell

ISTQB® Marketing Working Group

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# WHAT IS THE ISTQB®?

- ISTQB®: International Software Testing Qualifications Board ([www.istqb.org](http://www.istqb.org)):
  - Non-profit association
  - Founded in 2002
  - Headquartered in Belgium
  - Has own constitution, rules and regulations
  - Composed of volunteer international Testing Experts
  - Responsible for the “ISTQB® Certified Tester” scheme worldwide
- ISTQB® is the world’s leading organization for Software Testing Certification

*Advancing  
the software testing profession*

“To continually improve and advance the software testing profession by:  
Defining and maintaining a Body of Knowledge which allows testers to be certified based on best practices, connecting the international software testing community, and encouraging research.”

- As part of its commitment to continuous improvement and the advancement of the software testing profession, in 2013 ISTQB® conducted an international online survey for test engineers and managers.
- The survey was open from June to September 2013 and several thousand responses were received from almost 70 countries; in particular, respondents were:
  - 2 855 test engineers
  - 779 test managers
- In the remainder of this presentation, references will be made to some key results of the survey
- The full report is available for free download from the [ISTQB® Web Site](#)



# BENEFITS FOR PROFESSIONALS

- International recognition of acquired competencies and skills
- Authorized to use the “Certified Tester” logo (specifying the level of certification)
- Whole of career path support, from Foundation to Expert level



# BENEFITS FOR PROFESSIONALS - SURVEY

- Would you recommend the ISTQB® Foundation Level (CTFL) certification to your colleagues?

*Test Engineers*



Both Test Engineers and Test Managers are highly satisfied with the ISTQB® CTFL certifications and happy to recommend these to their colleagues [91% - Test Engineers, 94% - Test Managers].

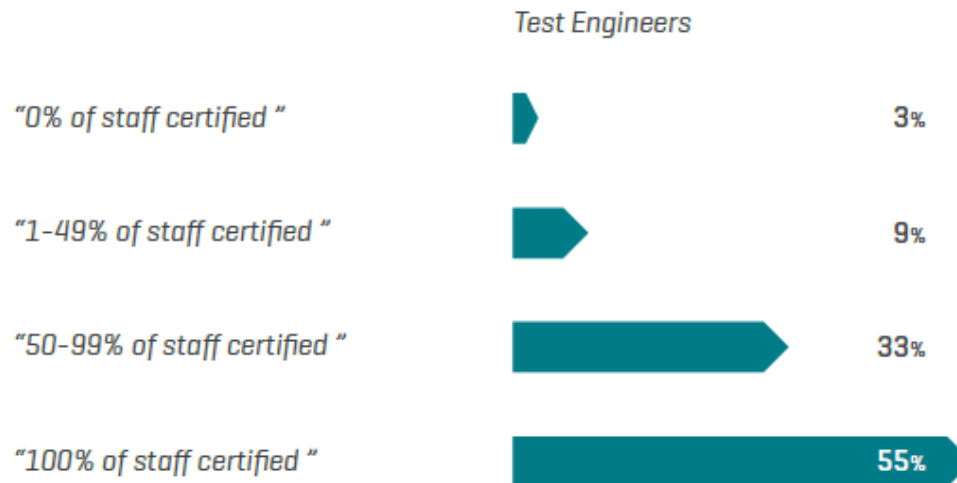
*Test Managers*



- ISTQB<sup>®</sup> certification can provide a competitive advantage for companies, promising a higher level of reliability of the applications being developed due to efficient and cost effective testing practices derived from the ISTQB<sup>®</sup> competencies
- Consulting companies with certified staff can offer higher-level services to customers, increasing revenues and brand value
- ISTQB<sup>®</sup> has defined a “Partner Program” for companies that engage a large number of certified testers



- As a Test Manager, what percentage of your testing staff would you like to see certified at the ISTQB<sup>®</sup> Foundation Level?



Test Managers appear to see a high value in having their staff trained and certified. Around 88% of Test Managers would like to see more than half of their testing staff being certified at the ISTQB<sup>®</sup> Foundation Level. On average, the desired number of certified staff is 75%.



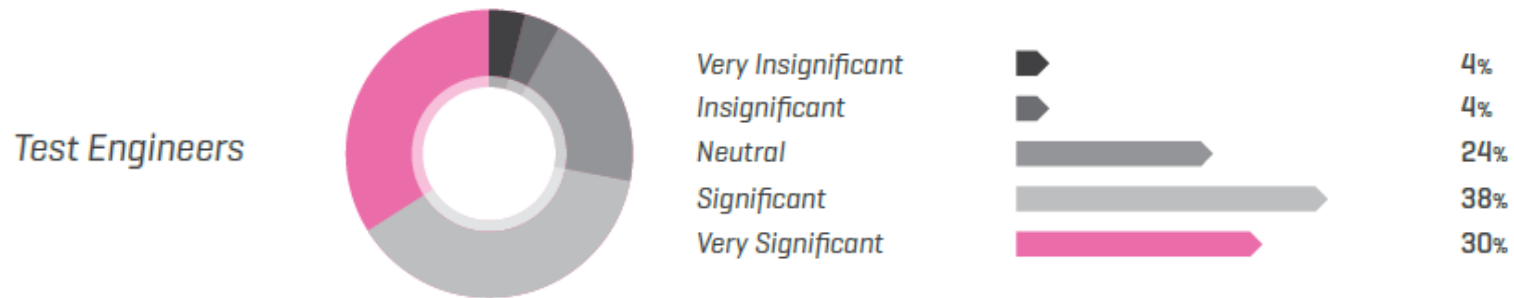
# BENEFITS FOR ATPs (Accredited Training Providers)

- Educational institutions and consulting companies may become an ISTQB® Accredited Trainer Provider according to processes and rules defined at the international level
- Accredited Training Providers ensure a high standing of training is delivered through having:
  - certified trainers
  - the content, quality and syllabus coverage of training materials checked by ISTQB® Boards
  - advance notice of changes to the ISTQB® Glossary and syllabi
- Accredited Training Providers are entitled to use relevant logos and are listed in the ISTQB® Website



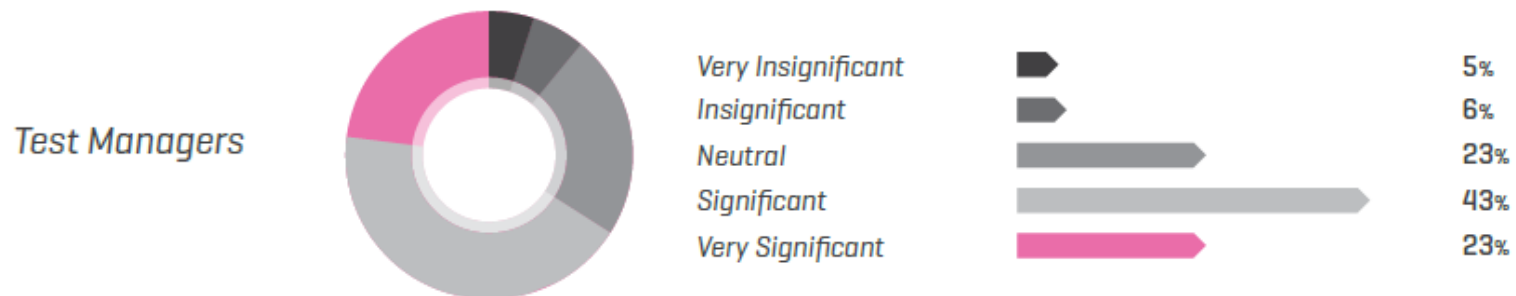
# BENEFITS FOR ATPs - SURVEY

- How significant do you think the training was in your certification success?



Almost 70% of the survey participants felt that formal training was a significant part of their certification success.

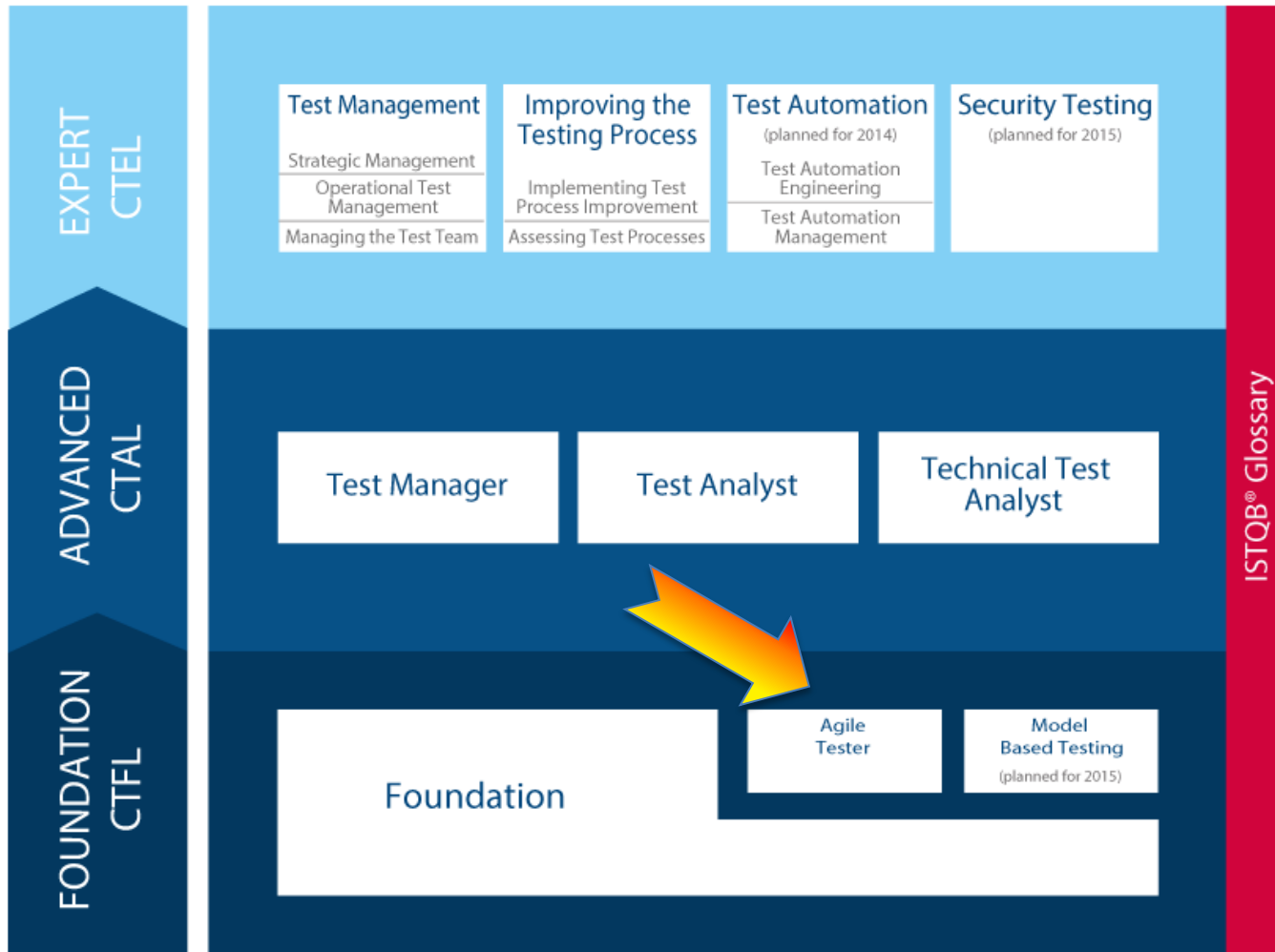
The ISTQB® provides strong support for training providers and accredited training will continue to be an integral part of certification success.



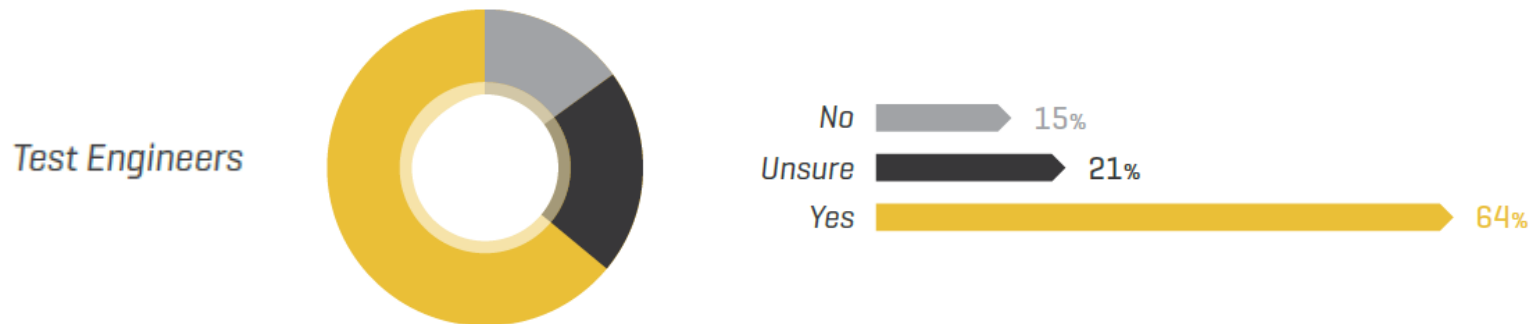
- ISTQB® has defined three levels of syllabi:
  - Foundation
  - Advanced (Test Manager, Test Analyst, Technical Test Analyst)
  - Expert (Improving the Testing Process, Test Management, Test Automation, Security Testing, etc.)
- Syllabi are publicly available for download from the ISTQB® Website (<http://www.istqb.org/downloads.html>)
- Syllabi are written by testing experts and continuously reviewed and improved
- Terms used in the ISTQB® syllabi are defined in the ISTQB® Glossary (<http://www.istqb.org/downloads/viewcategory/20.html>)
- Syllabi and Glossary are translated in many languages by the ISTQB® Member Boards; please refer to their Websites to download free-of-charge the documents translated into local languages

- In order to satisfy the increasing demand for vertical testing competences, ISTQB® has introduced the concept of “Extension”
- An “Extension” is a training and certification module focused on a specific topic, for instance:
  - Domain-specific testing practices
  - Specific Testing Techniques
  - Specific Testing Methods
- The ISTQB® Foundation Level Certification is a pre-requisite
- The first extension is focused on “Agile Tester”, released in June 2014

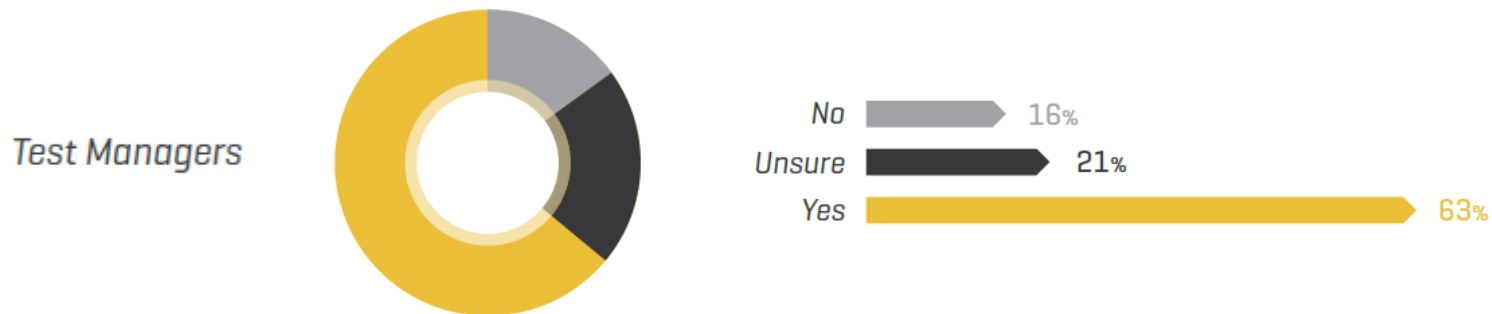
# ISTQB® AGILE TESTER POSITIONING



- Would you be interested in Agile Tester certification?



Approximately 85% of the respondents are definitely or possibly interested in Agile testing certification. With the planned release in early 2014 of the Agile tester certification extension to the Foundation Level, ISTQB® is well-positioned to respond to the expected demand.



- Agile testers should:
  - Collaborate in an agile team, being familiar with agile principles and practices
  - Adapt existing testing experience, knowledge, and best practices
  - Support the agile team in planning test related activities
  - Apply relevant test methods and techniques
  - Assist in test automation
  - Help business stakeholders define understandable and testable user stories and acceptance criteria
  - Work and share information with other team members
- An ISTQB® Agile Tester should work effectively within an agile team and environment

# ISTQB® FOUNDATION LEVEL AGILE TESTER

ISTQB® FOUNDATION LEVEL AGILE TESTER		
Agile Software Development	Fundamental Agile Testing Principles, Practices and Processes	Agile Testing Methods, Techniques and Tools
The Fundamentals of Agile Software Development	The Differences between Testing in Traditional and Agile Approaches	Agile Testing Methods
Aspects of Agile Approaches	Status of Testing in Agile Projects	Assessing Quality Risks and Estimating Test Effort
	Role and Skills of a Tester in an Agile Team	Techniques in Agile Projects
		Tools in Agile Projects



- The fundamentals of agile software development
  - Recall the basic concept of agile based on the Agile Manifesto
  - Understand the advantages of the whole-team approach
  - Understand the benefits of early and frequent feedback
- Aspects of agile approaches
  - Recall agile software development approaches
  - Write user stories in collaboration with development, business representative and product owner
  - Understand how retrospectives can be used as a mechanism for process improvement in agile projects
  - Understand the use and purpose of continuous integration
  - Know the differences between iteration and release planning, and how a tester adds value to each of activity

- Differences between testing in traditional and agile approaches
  - Describe the differences between testing activities in agile projects and non-agile projects
  - Describe how coding and testing activities are integrated in agile
  - Describe the role of independent testing in agile projects
- Status of testing in agile projects
  - Describe the basic set of work products used to communicate the status of testing in an agile project, including test progress and product quality
  - Describe the process of evolving tests across multiple iterations and explain why test automation is important to manage regression risk in agile projects
- Role and skills of a tester in an agile team
  - Understand the skills of a tester in an agile team
  - Understand the role of a tester within an agile team

- Agile testing methods
  - Recall the concepts of test driven development, acceptance test driven development and behavior driven development
  - Recall the concepts of the test pyramid
  - Summarize the testing quadrants and their relationships with testing levels and testing types
  - For a given agile project, practice the role of a tester in Scrum team
- Assessing quality risks and estimating test effort
  - Assess product quality risks within an agile project
  - Estimate testing effort based on iteration content and product quality risks

- Techniques in agile projects
  - Interpret relevant information to support testing activities
  - Explain to business stakeholders how to define testable acceptance criteria
  - Given a user story, write acceptance test driven development test cases
  - Write test cases, for both functional and non-functional aspects, using black box test design techniques based on given user stories
  - Execute exploratory testing to support the testing of an agile project
- Tools in agile projects
  - Recall different tools available to testers according to their purpose and to the activities in agile projects

# IS THE AGILE EXTENSION FOR YOU?

- The target professionals are:
  - Testers experienced with traditional SDLCs
  - Entry-level testers with an interest in agile testing
  - Experienced developers with a lot to a little knowledge of testing who work in agile projects
- Roles include testers, test analysts, test engineers, test consultants, test managers, user acceptance testers, software developers
- The ISTQB<sup>®</sup> Foundation certificate is a pre-requisite



## **ISTQB® CONTACTS**

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