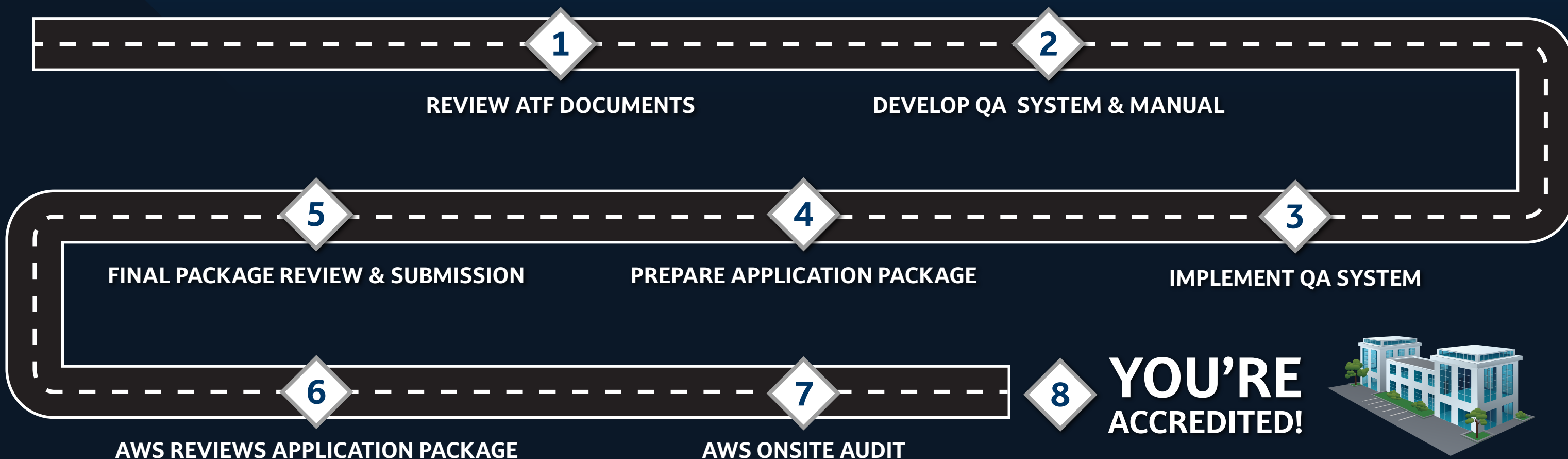




THE PATH TO ACCREDITATION

Congratulations on your decision to becoming an AWS Accredited Test Facility

Manufacturers, fabricators, and other welding industry enterprises realize the shortcomings of self-qualifying their workforce and are looking to outsource their welder qualification and testing. AWS Accredited Test Facilities (ATFs) meet or exceed minimum facility, personnel, and equipment requirements to test and qualify welders for Certified Welder credential/s. To date, there are just over 200 ATFs worldwide, testing and qualifying welders for AWS Certification and making the world a safer place to live. This means that there are abundant opportunities to become a profitable AWS Accredited Test Facility.



1. Review QC47:2016, Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities.
2. Develop Quality Assurance System and write Quality Manual in accordance with QC47.
3. Implement Quality Assurance System in the testing facility as detailed in the Quality Manual.
4. Review the Quality Assurance System using the checklists provided by AWS, fill in the page or section number for the QAM index column, and make sure any identified issues are addressed prior to submitting the application package to AWS.

5. Complete the following and prepare to submit to AWS.
 - ♦ Audit Application
 - ♦ Supporting Documents
 - ♦ Audit Checklists
 - ♦ Payment information
 - ♦ Quality Manual
6. AWS Accreditation Staff conducts a preliminary review of the submitted documents.
7. AWS auditor is assigned, reviews application package and visits facility to verify the Quality Assurance System has been implemented. Issues discovered during the on-site are addressed through a nonconformance process.
8. **CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE NOW AN AWS ACCREDITED TEST FACILITY!**

For more information and guidance on becoming an Accredited Testing Facility, please contact accreditation@aws.org.