AWS B5.17:2025
An American National Standard

Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators

American Welding Society®

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An American National Standard

Approved by the
American National Standards Institute
March 11, 2025

Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators

5th Edition

Revises AWS B5.17:2014

Prepared by the
American Welding Society (AWS) Qualification and Certification Committee

Under the Direction of the
AWS Technical Activities Committee

Approved by
AWS Board of Directors

Abstract

This standard establishes the minimum requirements necessary to qualify as a Welding Fabricator. The qualification is determined based on an examination of the implementation of the fabricator's Quality Manual to verify compliance with the requirements defined in this specification. This document also defines the Welding Fabricator's functions and lists the minimum reference materials that the Welding Fabricator should possess.

American Welding Society®

ISBN Print: 978-1-64322-370-4
ISBN PDF: 978-1-64322-371-1

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Foreword

This specification was developed by the AWS Qualification and Certification Committee in response to an industry demand for a qualification document for welding fabricators. This specification establishes the qualification requirements from which a central certification agency or an employer may develop a certification program for welding fabricators.

This is the fifth edition of this specification. Previous editions of the document are as follows:

ANSI/AWS B5.17:2000 *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators*

ANSI/AWS B5.17:2004 *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators*

ANSI/AWS B5.17:2008 *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators*

ANSI/AWS B5.17:2014 *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators*

Several clauses have been updated to reflect current titles, document numbers, publication dates, etc. Corrective Action was modified to allow for action(s) to be performed by the Fabricator in accordance with their procedure.

Underlined text in the clauses and subclauses indicates a change from the 2014 edition.

The following is a summary of the most significant changes contained in B5.17:2025:

Summary of Changes	
Clause	**Modification**
Clause 3 Terms and Definitions	"Welding fabricator" is defined.
Clause 6 Quality Manual Requirements	Requirements of the Quality Manual and personnel requirements were revised; additional explanation is provided for revisions; the requirement to log contract documents was eliminated; evidence of review of material certifications or material test reports was clarified; NDE subcontractor qualification and review must be signed/documented; and corrective action was revised.

Comments and suggestions for the improvement of this standard are welcome. They should be sent to the Secretary, AWS Qualification and Certification Committee, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 St, # 130, Miami, FL 33166.This foreword is not part of this standard but is included for informational purposes only.

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AWS Specification for Qualification of Welding Fabricators

1. General Requirements

1.1 Scope. This specification establishes the minimum requirements for the Welding Quality Program for welding fabricators. This specification is intended to be used by welding fabricators regardless of the welding processes or materials used. This specification does not cover weldment design or nonwelding-related fabrication processes, such as bolting and coatings. This specification is intended to offer assistance to the customers of welding fabricators who purchase weldments in various industry sectors in assessing the firm's capability to satisfy project quality needs.

The welding fabricator may be accredited by AWS as an AWS Certified Welding Fabricator, provided the fabricator meets the requirements of AWS QC17, *Specification for AWS Accreditation of Certified Welding Fabricators*.

1.2 Units of Measurement. This standard does not require units of measure. Therefore, no equivalents or conversions are contained except when they are cited in examples.

1.3 Safety. Safety and health issues and concerns are beyond the scope of this standard and therefore are not addressed herein.

Safety and health information is available from the following sources:

American Welding Society:

(1) ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*

(2) AWS Safety and Health Fact Sheets

(3) Other safety and health information on the AWS website

Material or Equipment Manufacturers:

(1) Safety Data Sheets supplied by materials manufacturers

(2) Operating Manuals supplied by equipment manufacturers

Applicable Regulatory Agencies

Work performed in accordance with this standard may involve the use of materials that have been deemed hazardous and may involve operations or equipment that may cause injury or death. This standard does not purport to address all safety and health risks that may be encountered. The user of this standard should establish an appropriate safety program to address such risks as well as to meet applicable regulatory requirements. ANSI Z49.1 should be considered when developing the safety program.

1.4 Terminology Guidelines. As used in this specification, the word 'shall' denotes a requirement; the word 'should' denotes a guideline or recommendation; and the word 'may' denotes a choice. The word 'welding' includes brazing, and the word 'welder' includes welding operators, brazers, and brazing operators.

2. Normative References

The documents listed below are referenced within this publication and are mandatory to the extent specified herein. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced standard shall apply. For dated references, subsequent amendments or revisions of the publications may not apply since the relevant requirements may have changed.

American Welding Society (AWS) standards:

ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*

AWS A2.4, *Standard Symbols for Welding, Brazing, and Nondestructive Examination*

AWS A3.0M/A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions*

AWS B1.11M/B1.11, *Guide for the Visual Examination of Welds*

AWS B2.1/B2.1M, *Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification*

AWS B5.15, *Specification for the Qualification of Radiographic Interpreters*

AWS *Safety and Health Fact Sheets*

AWS QC1, *Specification for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors*

AWS QC17, *Specification for AWS Accreditation of Certified Welding Fabricators*

The American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) standards:

ASNT CP189, *ASNT Standard for Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel*

ASNT SNT-TC-1A, *Recommended Practice: Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing*

3. Terms and Definitions

AWS A3.0M/A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions*, provides the basis for terms and definitions used herein. However, the following terms and definitions are included below to accommodate usage specific to this document.

Certified Welding Inspector (CWI). A welding inspector certified by the AWS as meeting the requirements of AWS QC1, *Specification for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors*.

contract documents. Plans, specifications, and other documents necessary for the fabrication of a product, assembly, or structure.

corrective action. Disposition of nonconforming product (e.g., accept as-is, repair/rework, scrap) and the action taken to determine and eliminate the root cause of nonconformance(s) in order to prevent or reduce recurrence of the nonconformity.

nonconformance. A deficiency in items, materials, or process that does not conform to the Quality Manual, approved procedures, and applicable codes or specifications.

quality assurance (QA). All the planned and systematic activities that are implemented within the quality system, and demonstrated as needed, to provide adequate confidence that an entity will fulfill requirements for quality.

quality control (QC). Operational techniques and activities that are used to fulfill requirements for quality. The act of examination, testing, or measurement that verifies compliance to processes to specific criteria (i.e., detection and measurement of weld discontinuities or the supervision of individuals so involved).

quality control personnel. Individuals responsible for verifying compliance with the fabricator's quality control program.

quality management system. A management approach to quality improvement based on the participation of management in improving processes and products provided to the fabricator's customer.

Quality Manual. Document stating the quality policy and describing the quality management system of an organization.

quality record. A report, list, or other documentation showing the results of a measurement, event, or decision. It attests to either the achievement or failure to achieve the required quality.

supplier. Organization that provides a product or service to the customer (e.g., vendor, material supplier, nondestructive examination (NDE) test facility).

welding fabricator. A company that directly uses welding within their company's fabrication, manufacture, or construction of products, structures, or components.

welding inspection. The act of inspecting or examination of welds against established standards. Details for welding inspection can be found in AWS B1.11M/B1.11, *Guide for the Visual Examination of Welds*.

4. Qualification

A welding fabrication facility complying with the requirements of this specification shall be considered qualified as a welding fabricator. Compliance with the requirements is determined by an audit of all of the elements in Clause 6 and verification that the welding fabricator has the documents in their library as specified in Clause 7. An audit may be conducted internally, by a third party, or both.

5. Quality Management System

The welding fabricator shall operate a quality management system in accordance with Clauses 6 and 7 of this specification.

6. Quality Manual Requirements

The welding fabricator is required to prepare and maintain a Quality Manual. This Quality Manual is a comprehensive description of the fabricator's process controls and methods as outlined by this specification.

The Quality Manual shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following sections:

6.1 Cover Page. The cover page of the Quality Manual shall contain the company name, physical address(es), and revision status of the Quality Manual. Although the clauses within the Quality Manual may have several different revisions, the overall Quality Manual shall have a revision number, letter, or date.

6.2 Management Support and Responsibilities (Statement of Authority and Responsibility). The following shall be documented within the Statement of Authority and Responsibility:

6.2.1 For the purpose of the Quality Manual, the welding fabricator must identify the AWS structural welding code(s) or AWS specification(s) that determine the rules for controlling the welding process, including weld acceptance at their facility. Examples include but are not limited to the following (X means any number):

(1) D1.X, Structural Welding Codes

(2) D3.X, Marine

(3) D8.X, Automotive

(4) D9.X, Sheet Metal

(5) D14.X, Machinery And Equipment

(6) D15.X, Railroad

(7) D17.X, Aerospace

The use of other codes or specifications not published by AWS may be considered as specified in AWS QC17, *Specification for AWS Accreditation of Certified Welding Fabricators*.

6.2.2 There shall be a statement included in the Quality Manual ensuring that responsible quality control personnel have the full support of management, and they report to the executive management within the organization. While QA/QC may have to communicate with production on matters related to quality, they shall not report to or be Production Management.

6.2.3 There shall be a statement in the Quality Manual stating that personnel assigned to quality have the authority to identify quality problems, verify implementation of solutions, and limit or control further processing and delivery of nonconforming items until proper disposition has occurred. This statement shall designate who is responsible for resolving disputes between quality control personnel and other functions.

6.2.4 The Quality Manual shall be signed and dated by the most senior or highest-ranking individual responsible for the operation of the facility.

6.3 Organization. The Quality Manual shall outline the organization structure for the welding fabricator being certified.

6.3.1 The Quality Manual shall include an organization chart showing the relationship among management functions (e.g., purchasing, quality control, receiving, production, weld inspection, and shipping).

6.3.2 The Quality Manual shall specify how the delegation of authority is assigned when persons listed in the Quality Manual are unavailable.

6.3.3 The welding fabricator shall define and document the qualification requirements for QC inspectors. QC personnel shall be assigned based on qualification(s), as evidenced by documentation showing experience, training, and education. Qualification standards and certifications granted by recognized industry organizations related to fabrication inspection can be used as a basis for qualification.

Production personnel may perform QC duties under the condition that they are trained and knowledgeable in proper inspection methods and acceptance criteria specified for the material or products they are inspecting.

6.4 Document Control. The Quality Manual shall outline document control criteria for the welding fabricator being certified.

6.4.1 Quality Manual. Each department or work area that affects quality shall have ready access to the Quality Manual. The Quality Manual shall specify the following:

(1) Personnel responsible for the preparation and revision of the Quality Manual;

(2) The approval process for revisions to the Quality Manual by executive management;

(3) A method to identify the revisions such as underlining, vertical bars, italicized text, or other such indicator to communicate to the reader, the revision(s) made. The entire manual may be revised as one revision or individual clauses; and

(4) A system to maintain traceability of the controlled copies when printed copies of the Quality Manual are distributed.

6.4.2 Contract Documents. The Quality Manual shall specify how contract documents are received, who is responsible for review, and how changes are handled as they occur throughout the fabricating process.

6.4.3 Drawings. The Quality Manual shall specify a system for drawings (including computer-generated) to be issued, distributed, and revised. Drawings shall be issued to personnel and facilities performing the work.

6.4.4 Quality Records, Forms, and Reports. The Quality Manual documentation shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Welder Performance Qualification Records (WPQRs)

(2) Welding Procedure Specifications (WPSs)

(3) Procedure Qualification Records (PQRs)

(4) Material Test Reports (MTRs) (when required by the contract, governing code or specification)

(5) NDE reports (when required by the contract, governing code, or specification)

(6) NDE personnel qualification records

(7) Weld identification reports (weld mapping) when required

(8) Record of final inspection (i.e., traveler, inspection record, check off list)

(9) Heat treatment records (when required by the contract, governing code, or specification)

(10) Receiving material inspection reports

(11) Nonconformance Reports (NCRs)

(12) Calibration records of equipment

(13) Internal quality audit report

(14) Welder continuity log

(15) Records of in-house and sub-contracted NDE Personnel

6.4.5 Record Retention. The Quality Manual shall describe the welding fabricator's system for the retention of quality-related documents and revisions as stated in 6.4.2, 6.4.3, and 6.4.4, whether in paper or electronic format. At a minimum, records shall be retained at least until the completion of the project or as defined in any contract documents. The retention system shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) The duration of retention

(2) Who is responsible for maintaining the documents

(3) Where the documents will be filed or stored

(4) A procedure for destroying or retaining obsolete documents

6.5 Material Control. The Quality Manual shall detail the system of material control. As a minimum, the material control system shall include the following:

(1) A purchasing document that describes the item and ensures that the correct materials are ordered;

(2) A system that ensures that the correct material has been received and released for production and that nonconforming or unverified material or items are prevented from use;

(3) Identification process for materials or parts, and maintenance of identity and traceability throughout the manufacturing process, when required by contract;

(4) A review of material certifications or material test reports when required, to verify that the material meets the requirements established by specifications. Evidence of review will be signified by signature and date; and

(5) Means to ensure that filler materials purchased conform to AWS A5.XX (X means any number) or other filler metals tested and approved for the specific application—if AWS filler metals are not used, then procedure qualification testing is required.

6.6 Welding. The Quality Manual shall describe the elements of control necessary for the welding process.

6.6.1 Welding Procedure Specifications and Procedures Qualifications Records. The Quality Manual shall include a documented system of welding procedure specifications, including the following minimum requirements:

(1) Welding procedures shall be qualified and approved in accordance with the applicable AWS Welding Code(s), Specification(s), or other applicable codes or standards. The Quality Manual shall specify which code(s) or specification(s) the welding procedure and procedure qualification will be certified to;

(2) When the governing AWS welding code(s) mandate(s) that welding procedures be qualified by test, the welding fabricator shall include PQRs that support the applicable WPSs. Some codes permit the use of prequalified WPSs or Standard Welding Procedure Specifications (SWPSs) published by AWS. In these cases, PQRs are not required;

(3) All WPS and PQR documentation shall be reviewed and accepted to ensure code compliance based upon the fabricator's designee as specified in the fabricator's Quality Manual. It is recommended that the fabricator's designee be one of the following:

(a) AWS Certified Welding Engineer

(b) AWS Senior Certified Welding Inspector

(c) AWS Certified Welding Inspector

(d) Individual competent with the selected code of construction

(4) The Quality Manual shall specify how the WPSs and PQRs are controlled by revision and by whom;

(5) The applicable WPSs shall be available to welders or welding operators and be used during testing and production welding; and

(6) The person(s) responsible for selecting and assigning welding procedures shall be identified and designated in the Quality Manual and shall ensure that welding procedures are listed on applicable project documents.

6.6.2 Welder Performance Qualification. The Quality Manual shall contain provisions requiring all welders and welding operators to be qualified in accordance with the governing AWS welding code(s), or AWS B2.1/B2.1M, specification(s), or other applicable standards. The Quality Manual shall identify the following:

(1) Which code(s) the welder and welding operator will be qualified and certified to; a CWI or fabricator's designee shall review the welder and welding operator's qualification record for compliance to said code(s);

(2) How welders and welding operators are identified by a number, letter, or symbol;

(3) Who is responsible for verifying that only qualified welders and welding operators are assigned to specific jobs; and

(4) Who is responsible for verifying the continuity of welders' and welding operators' qualifications in accordance with the code or specification.

6.6.3 Filler Metal. The Quality Manual shall describe the control of filler materials using the criteria as follows:

(1) The applicable filler material shall appear on the WPS.

(2) Controls shall be in place that define how welders obtain filler material and who is responsible for ensuring that the proper filler material is used.

(3) Storage practices shall be established to prevent intermixing of filler metal types, sizes, and heat numbers (if applicable). Storage practices shall also be established to prevent contamination of the various filler metal types used by the fabricator, including any elevated temperature holding requirements of the filler metal manufacturer and the applicable code or filler metal specification.

(4) Length of time that issued filler metals may be exposed to the atmosphere before returning to the rod oven or crib shall be documented. Redrying (baking) requirements (or other disposition) for filler metals that have exceeded the maximum allowable exposure time shall also be documented.

(5) Filler metal issuance and return log sheets shall be included (if applicable).

(6) Scrapping or disposition of unusable or damaged filler metals shall be documented.

6.7 Inspection. The Quality Manual shall describe the method for welding inspection that includes the following:

(1) Type of inspection to be performed and documented (i.e., dimensional, welding inspection, and final inspection);

(2) Frequency of inspections necessary to ensure the required quality of welds; and

(3) Acceptance criteria used for welding inspection**.**

6.7.1 Welding Inspector Qualifications. The Quality Manual shall designate those qualified to visually inspect weldments to the requirements of the applicable specifications. The company may directly employ inspectors, or they may be utilized on a contract basis. Inspectors shall be knowledgeable about the code(s) applicable to the fabrication work being performed. If an AWS Certified Welding Inspector is not used, then the weld inspector shall be qualified and certified in accordance with the employer's written practice, based, with no variances, on the current edition of American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) SNT-TC-1A (VT). The certification process shall include the educational, training, experience, and testing provisions described in SNT-TC-1A (VT), or the current edition of ASNT CP189.

6.7.2 NDE Inspector Qualifications. The Quality Manual shall designate those qualified to perform NDE (e.g., MT, PT, RT, UT) to the requirements of the applicable specifications. Personnel performing NDE shall be certified in accordance with the employer's written practice, with no variances except as described in 6.7.3.1, on the current edition of ASNT SNT-TC-1A or the current edition of ASNT CP189. The employer's written practice may allow the acceptance of

ASNT ACCP Level II certifications provided a process for review and acceptance for this type of certification is described.

6.7.2.1 Limited certifications not described within ASNT SNT-TC-1A may be established for certain NDE processes (e.g., limiting an MT certification to yoke method only) provided the educational, training, experience, and testing provisions are clearly defined within the employer's written practice.

6.7.2.2 The Quality Manual should require that radiographic interpreters be certified in accordance with AWS B5.15, *Specification for the Qualification of Radiographic Interpreters*. Alternatively, radiographic interpreters may be certified per 6.7.3.

6.7.3 Vision Examinations. Personnel performing weld inspection and NDE inspection shall have passed the vision examinations described in 6.7.3.1 and 6.7.3.2. The frequency of these examinations shall be 12 months or less, if necessary, to demonstrate adequacy.

6.7.3.1 Near Vision Acuity. The examination should ensure natural or corrected near-distance acuity in at least one eye such that the applicant can correctly read a minimum of Jaeger Number 2 (or equivalent) at the distance indicated on the chart but not less than 12" on a standard Jaeger chart.

6.7.3.2 Color Contrast Perception. The examination should demonstrate the ability to distinguish and differentiate contrast among colors and shades of gray used in the method as determined by the employer. Color perception shall be verified for MT/PT/VT, and the detection of shades of gray should be verified when employing RT.

6.7.4 NDE Procedures. Nondestructive examination (NDE) shall be performed in accordance with the welding fabricator's written NDE procedures. The Quality Manual shall list the following:

(1) The NDE procedures shall be approved by a Level III in the NDE method(s) on which the procedures are based. Level III shall be qualified and certified in accordance with the employer's written practice based on ASNT SNT-TC-1A. The certification process shall include the educational, training, experience, and testing provisions described in SNT-TC-1A. Alternatively, an ASNT NDT Level III, either by direct or contract employment, may approve NDE procedures for methods in which they are certified if allowed by the employer's written practice as stated above; and

(2) A system shall be in place showing how the NDE procedures are issued, revised, and distributed to all necessary personnel at the facility.

6.7.5 Subcontractor. NDE may be subcontracted. However, the welding fabricator shall review the subcontractor's personnel qualifications to ensure they meet the requirements of 6.7.2 and 6.7.4. The Quality Manual shall specify who is responsible for the subcontractor's qualification review and approval. The subcontractor's qualification review and approval shall be signed and documented.

6.8 Nonconformance. The Quality Manual shall describe the nonconformance system and shall include the following:

6.8.1 Personnel with the authority to identify nonconformance, assign disposition, and verify corrective measures shall be listed.

6.8.2 Nonconformance shall be documented and shall list the following:

(1) Discrepancy—a brief description of the requirement not met and the nonconformance

(2) Possible dispositions:

(a) rework

(b) repair

(c) scrap

(d) use as is

(3) Correction—what action will be taken to resolve the discrepancy

(4) Verification of the correction(s) taken—verifying that the nonconformance has been resolved. Product that has been repaired or reworked shall be reinspected using the same criteria as the original inspection and any subsequent NDT requested by the Owner.

6.8.3 Nonconforming items shall be prominently identified as nonconforming, and procedures shall be implemented to prevent the use of the items until a final disposition is determined.

6.9 Corrective Action. The Quality Manual shall have a Corrective Action procedure for resolution of process and product-related nonconformities. Within the procedure, there shall be a definition as to the threshold for when the corrective action process begins.

6.9.1 Documentation Required. Corrective Action(s) shall be recorded and shall contain provisions for the following:

(1) Identifying nonconformance (Note: Identification can be from various sources. i.e., process rework or scrap; external customer inputs; Owner inputs; internal/external audits; etc.);

(2) Creating a simple solution to address the cause of the problem and assign responsibility for tracking the corrective action;

(3) Implementing the solution and documenting the results of action(s) taken; and

(4) Evaluating the effectiveness and indicate completion.

6.10 Measuring and Testing Equipment. The Quality Manual shall state what measuring and testing equipment will be used to control fabrication quality and who is responsible for its calibration. It will describe the method of performing and controlling calibration, including:

6.10.1 Calibration. The method of calibration of equipment shall be specified in the Quality Manual and designed to ensure that measurements made are traceable (where the concept is applicable) to national standards. Where the concept of traceability to national standards is not applicable, the method shall provide satisfactory evidence of calibration or accuracy of test results. Calibration intervals shall be specified within the Quality Manual.

6.10.2 Welding machines shall be verified as specified by the manufacturer. The frequency of verification shall be at least annually. The following shall be checked:

(1) Condition and accuracy of volt meters, amp meters, and gas flow meters (if equipped)

(2) Condition of cables

(3) Condition of hoses (if equipped)

(4) Condition of wire feeders (if equipped)

During verification, load banks and volt/amp meters used to verify compliance with WPS parameters (on a welding machine or auxiliary meters) shall be calibrated annually. If wire feed speed is used in lieu of amperage for current control, the wire feed speed tachometer shall also require annual calibration.

6.10.3 Calibration Identification. The Quality Manual shall address the establishment and maintenance of a log, label, or tag indicating the date of last calibration and due date of the next calibration, and shall be maintained for each piece of equipment. The identification system for equipment shall be included in the log, label, or tag. The label or tag may be attached to the equipment.

6.10.4 Calibration Records. The Quality Manual shall specify how records are maintained on each item of equipment used to control quality. The record shall include the following:

(1) Type of equipment

(2) Serial number

(3) Calibration frequency

(4) Calibration tolerance

(5) Date calibrated

(6) Next calibration due date

(7) Standard used

6.11 Internal Quality Audits. At a minimum, there shall be an audit of the quality program on an annual basis. The Quality Manual shall specify the following:

(1) Auditor (the person must have the freedom and authority to identify quality audit problems);

(2) Qualification requirements of auditors (the auditor must have knowledge of the quality system being audited); and

(3) Audit documentation requirements

Executive management shall review the audit results and implement corrective actions.

6.12 Sample Forms. Documents described within the quality manual shall be displayed as samples (typical forms) within the quality manual.

7. Library

As a minimum, the latest edition of the following publications shall be readily available at the welding fabricator's facility:

(1) AWS A2.4, *Standard Symbols for Welding, Brazing, and Nondestructive Examination*;

(2) AWS A3.0M/A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions*;

(3) ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*;

(4) The AWS code or specification governing the qualification of welding procedures and welders;

(5) The AWS code or specification governing the fabrication and acceptance of the weldment(s);

(6) The standard governing the qualification and certification of NDE inspectors; and

(7) The standard governing the qualification and certification of weld inspectors.

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Annex A (Informative)

Requesting an Official Interpretation on an AWS Standard

This annex is not part of this standard but is included for informational purposes only.

A1. Introduction

The following procedures are here to assist standard users in submitting successful requests for official interpretations to AWS standards. Requests from the general public submitted to AWS staff or committee members that do not follow these rules may be returned to the sender unanswered. AWS reserves the right to decline answering specific requests; if AWS declines a request, AWS will provide the reason to the individual why the request was declined.

A2. Limitations

The activities of AWS technical committees regarding interpretations are limited strictly to the interpretation of provisions of standards prepared by the committees. Neither AWS staff nor the committees are in a position to offer interpretive or consulting services on (1) specific engineering problems, (2) requirements of standards applied to fabrications outside the scope of the document, or (3) points not specifically covered by the standard. In such cases, the inquirer should seek assistance from a competent engineer experienced in the particular field of interest.

A3. General Procedure for all Requests

A3.1 Submission. All requests shall be sent to the Managing Director, AWS Certification Department. For efficient handling, it is preferred that all requests should be submitted electronically through certification@aws.org. Alternatively, requests may be mailed to:

Managing Director
Certification Department
American Welding Society
8669 NW 36 St, # 130
Miami, FL 33166

A3.2 Contact Information. All inquiries shall contain the name, address, email, phone number, and employer of the inquirer.

A3.3 Scope. Each inquiry shall address one single provision of the standard unless the issue in question involves two or more interrelated provisions. The provision(s) shall be identified in the scope of the request along with the edition of the standard (e.g., D1.1:2006) that contains the provision(s) the inquirer is addressing.

A3.4 Question(s). All requests shall be stated in the form of a question that can be answered ‘yes’ or ‘no’. The request shall be concise, yet complete enough to enable the committee to understand the point of the issue in question. When the point is not clearly defined, the request will be returned for clarification. Sketches should be used whenever appropriate, and all paragraphs, figures, and tables (or annexes) that bear on the issue in question shall be cited.

A3.5 Proposed Answer(s). The inquirer shall provide proposed answer(s) to their own question(s).

A3.6 Background. Additional information on the topic may be provided but is not necessary. The question(s) and proposed answer(s) above shall stand on their own without the need for additional background information.

A4. AWS Policy on Interpretations

The American Welding Society (AWS) Board of Directors has adopted a policy whereby all official interpretations of AWS standards are handled in a formal manner. Under this policy, all official interpretations are approved by the technical committee that is responsible for the standard. Communication concerning an official interpretation is directed through the AWS staff member who works with that technical committee. The policy requires that all requests for an official interpretation be submitted in writing. Such requests will be handled as expeditiously as possible, but due to the procedures that must be followed, some requests for an official interpretation may take considerable time to complete.

A5. AWS Response to Requests

Upon approval by the committee, the interpretation is an official interpretation of the Society, and AWS shall transmit the response to the inquirer, publish it in the *Welding Journal*, and post it on the AWS website.

A6. Telephone Inquiries

Telephone inquiries to AWS Headquarters concerning AWS standards should be limited to questions of a general nature or to matters directly related to the use of the standard. The *AWS Board Policy Manual* requires that all AWS staff members respond to a telephone request for an official interpretation of any AWS standard with the information that such an interpretation can be obtained only through a written request. Headquarters staff cannot provide consulting services. However, the staff can refer a caller to any of those consultants whose names are on file at AWS Headquarters.

Annex B (Informative)

List of AWS Documents on Qualification and Certification

This annex is not part of this standard but is included for informational purposes only.

Qualification Designation	Title
B5.1	*Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*
B5.2	*Specification for the Training, Qualification, and Company Certification of Welding Inspector Specialists and Welding Inspector Assistants*
B5.4	*Specification for the Qualification of Welder Test Facilities*
B5.5	*Specification for the Qualification of Welding Educators*
B5.9	*Specification for the Qualification of Welding Supervisors*
B5.14	*Specification for the Qualification of Welding Sales Representatives*
B5.15	*Specification for the Qualification of Radiographic Interpreters*
B5.16	*Specification for the Qualification of Welding Engineers*
B5.17	*Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators*

Certification Designation	Title
QC1	*Specification for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors*
QC5	*AWS Standard for Certification of Welding Educators*
QC9	*Administrative Procedures for Alleged Violations of AWS Certification Programs*
QC13	*Specification for the Certification of Welding Supervisors*
QC14	*Specification for the Certification of Welding Sales Representatives*
QC15	*Specification for AWS Certification of Radiographic Interpreters*
QC17	*Specification for AWS Accreditation of Certified Welding Fabricators*
QC19	*Specification for AWS Certification of Robotic Arc Welding Personnel*
QC20	*Specification for AWS Certification of Resistance Welding Technicians*
QC47	*Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities*

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