



Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year Award

The **Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year Award** was established by the **American Welding Society (AWS)** to honor the legacy of Dalton Hamilton, a beloved Chairman of the Qualification and Certification (QC) Committee and a lifelong advocate for excellence in welding inspection.

Dalton Hamilton was a mentor, teacher, and dedicated quality professional whose career was marked by an unwavering commitment to technical competence, professionalism, and the use of standardized procedures in welding inspection. He passionately supported the formal training and certification of inspectors and worked tirelessly to promote the Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) program both in the U.S. and internationally.

Respected throughout the engineering, fabrication, and construction industries, Mr. Hamilton exemplified what it means to be a leader in the field of inspection.

This annual award, administered by the **AWS QC CWI of the Year Committee (QCYR)**, recognizes individuals whose **primary occupation is welding inspection** and who have demonstrated **exceptional service and dedication to the industry** through their work as visual weld inspectors.

1. Who Is This Award For?

The **Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year Award** is designed to recognize a current, practicing **Certified Welding Inspector (CWI)** or **Senior Certified Welding Inspector (SCWI)** who has demonstrated exceptional service, professionalism, and commitment to visual weld inspection.

2. Attributes of a Successful Candidate

2.1 Core Qualifications

Eligible candidates must:

- Perform **at least 30% visual welding inspection** as part of their regular duties.
- Spend **at least 60%** of their total work time inspecting and reporting on welded parts, metal products, structures, buildings, bridges, piping, vessels, and other welded products that may be:
 - new manufacture/fabrication in a facility;
 - new manufacture/fabrication installation/erection; and/or
 - existing parts, components and structures installed, erected, or remediated.

Note: writing/reviewing reports, reviewing prints and project construction documents are included in the activity of conducting weld visual inspection.

- Be able to:
 - Review & interpret contract requirements and construction drawings;
 - Deliver inspection services with professionalism and integrity;
 - Prioritize quality while professionally managing conflicts of interest;
 - Demonstrate activities that keep the candidate current with the profession;
 - Apply relevant project and industry code requirements; and
 - Consistently deliver complete, timely, and accurate reports that support scheduling and quality-first practices.

2.2 Additional Attributes

Candidates may stand out further by demonstrating:

- Experience auditing or overseeing inspection activities
- The ability to create weld inspection quality plans and interpret inspection and test plans for weld visual inspection
- Mentorship or training for new or advancing inspectors
- Improvements to inspection processes, including:
 - Clarifying inspection steps
 - Enhancing reporting methods
 - Optimizing inspection time without compromising quality
- Familiarity with multiple codes, standards, or industry sectors (preferred, but not required)

2.3 Who Is Not Eligible

This award is not intended for individuals whose primary role falls outside of visual weld inspection. This includes:

- Engineers without significant visual inspection duties;
- Educators/trainers not actively performing visual welding inspection for acceptance of project or product weldments $\geq 30\%$ of the time;
- Consultants or salespeople not performing weld inspection $\geq 30\%$ of their contract duty;
- NDT inspectors performing visual inspection only as part of the initial step in their NDT duties; and



- Company principals, shop managers, supervisors, or plant foremen occasionally perform inspection duties.

3. Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must:

- Be a current CWI or SCWI;
- Have held a valid CWI/SCWI credential for at least **5 continuous years**; and
- Have at least **3 years of full-time employment or contract work** performing $\geq 30\%$ visual weld inspection.

Eligible roles include:

- Independent contractors working on projects in successive multiple locations;
- Employees of an owner, construction manager, general contractor, inspection agency, erector, or installer performing inspection at erection or installation sites on various sites or a single project;
- An employee of a fabricator or manufacturer working in one or more of a company's facilities;
- Contracted professionals performing QC inspection services; and
- Contracted professionals performing QA or QC inspection services for the construction manager or owner.

4. Nomination Timeline

- **Deadline to apply:** November 1 (via the online application portal)
- **Contact for questions:** Brenda Boddiger, QCYR Subcommittee Secretary – bboddiger@aws.org
- **Committee Selection Deadline:** February 1
- **Final Approval by AWS Board of Directors:** May

Results are reported to AWS Q&C Committee following Board approval.

5. Selection Process

- Applications are reviewed by the **AWS QC CWI of the Year Committee (QCYR)**
- Interviews may be conducted with nominees and references to assess alignment with award attributes



- Final selection is based on a thorough review of each candidate's qualifications, experience, and submitted materials

6. Additional Rules

- The AWS Q&C Committee may withhold the award if no candidates meet the full criteria
- Nominations remain **valid for three years** from the date of submission
- Candidates may reapply annually or after their nomination expires

Note: AWS Districts and AWS Sections are invited to use the criteria described in this document in whole or part for section or district awards.

7. References

- This award program and QCYR subcommittee are governed by the **AWS Qualification and Certification Committee Rules of Operation.**