

AWS D1.1 Structural Welding Code - Steel Endorsement Description

Introduction

The AWS D1.1 Structural Welding- Steel Endorsement Description provides candidates guidance in the endorsement examination process. AWS strongly advices those who apply for the endorsement examination to read the endorsement description, paying particular attention to the test specifications and content area to gain better understanding. The examination description is subject to change.

Any candidate who is seeking CWI certification can take this examination as their initial Part C Codebook examination. Candidates can access the CWI Examination User Guide by clicking HERE. The Examination User Guide contains important information on the rules, policies, procedures, and exam content for candidates seeking to take the CWI exams.

Endorsement Scope

The AWS D1.1 examination covers AWS D1.1- Structural Steel Code: **2020** and **2025** Edition. AWS QC1:2016-AMD1- *Specification for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors,* provides for endorsements that may be added to the CWI and SCWI certifications. Endorsements are indication of an additional knowledge, skill or ability documented in writing and added to an individual's certification credential(s).

Important D1.1 Exam – Code Edition Guidance

- **Effective August 1, 2025, candidates may use either the 2020 or 2025 edition of the D1.1 code when taking the exam.**
- **All exam questions are designed to be answerable using either edition, so candidates will not be disadvantaged based on the version they study from.**

Code Edition Recommendations by Exam Date:

Between August 1 and December 31, 2025 (Prometric): Candidates may study either the 2020 or 2025 edition.

Note: Starting October 1, AWS Seminars will begin using the 2025 edition for instruction, though the 2020 edition remains valid for the exam through December 31. After December 31, 2025 (Prometric): Candidates must study the 2025 edition.

Important:
It is recommended that candidates testing toward the end of 2025 use the 2025 edition of the D1.1 Codebook. This will help ensure a smoother transition in the event of a retest in 2026, when only the 2025 edition will be accepted.

Contact us if you have any questions.

Endorsement Candidate Eligibility Criteria

Any CWI or SCWI who wishes to obtain an endorsement that documents their knowledge, skills, and abilities in using D1.1 Structural Welding -Steel can take the examination.

Training Requirements

This endorsement has no mandatory training requirements. Candidates are encouraged to attend an AWS seminar or to self-study to improve their familiarization.

Examination Requirements

Candidates seeking the D1.1 endorsement shall pass the D1.1 examination.

Successful candidates must correctly answer 72% of the questions to pass the examination. Re-examination shall be in accordance with AWS QC1:2016-AMD1- *Specification for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors.*

Initial Certification or 9-year Recertification Eligibility

For candidates seeking initial certification at the CWI level, this examination satisfies the requirements of Clause 6.2.1 of AWS B5.1:2025 *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors.*

For existing CWIs and SCWIs, successful completion of this endorsement satisfies the examination requirements for recertification under Clauses 16.2.1 or 16.3.1, as applicable, of AWS QC1:2016-AMD1- *Specification for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors,* provided that the endorsement is taken during the immediate 9-year period.

Test Specification

The Test Specifications is a breakdown of the exam content areas or domains that appeared in the examination along with the proportion of the exam devoted to each content area.

Subject weights for each of these areas are in conformance with the Code Applications examination requirements as expressed in Clause 8 of AWS B5.1:2025 *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors.*

Content Areas	Minimum Percent of Questions on Exam
Qualification	25%
Fabrication	25%
Inspection	25%
Reports and Records	5%
Materials and Design	5%

Examination Details

The open-book examination consists of 50 multiple-choice scorable questions or items. An English exam is available for test takers from the United State, and Canada, and English-speaking countries. The English examination has 5 pretest items which are not scored.

Pretesting is a certification exam industry best practice. The purpose of pretest questions is to gather statistical performance data and candidate comments/critiques and they are not scored for or against a candidate. This is a process to ensure every item used in the scoring process is a quality item.

For international test takers, a language assisted version of the exam is available for candidates in eight languages: Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Korean, and Indonesian. For a list of available international Agents and test locations, please click HERE.

Examination Delivery

The examination is a computer-based test (CBT) delivered at a Prometric test center.

CBT Exam Timing Information

English Examination

The overall seat time allotted is 150 minutes (2.5 hours) for the English examination from check-in to check-out at the test center.

The time that can be used to answer questions is 135 minutes (2 hours and 15 minutes).

Section of English Testing	Time in Minutes
Candidate Confirmation Page	2
Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)	2
Introduction & Tutorials	10
Exam Question Answering	135
Finish Page	1
Total	**150**

Language Assisted Examination

The overall seat time allotted is 145 minutes (2 hours and 25 minutes) for the Language Assisted examination from check-in to check-out at the test center.

The time that can be used to answer questions is 120 minutes (2 hours) for the Language Assisted examination.

Section of Language Assisted Testing	Time in Minutes
Candidate Confirmation Page	2
Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)	2
Introduction & Tutorials	10
Exam Question Answering	120
Survey	10
Finish Page	1
Total	**145**

Examination Reference

Most exam questions are directly answerable from the provided reference. It is to the candidate's benefit that they use the codebook editions indicated as exam questions are based on the editions listed. A candidate who chooses to use a codebook edition that is not listed does so at his/her own risk. AWS bears no responsibility for a candidate's failure to obtain certification as a result of this choice.

- AWS D1.1- Structural Steel Code: **2020** and **2025** Edition

Candidates will be allowed to bring a printed copy codebook. The Codebook must be the original or permanently bound printed copy (as by stitching or glue), or securely fastened in its cover by fasteners that penetrate all pages. No loose sheets of paper are permitted.

PDF version of the codebooks are accessible on-screen for CWI Part C Codebook Exams. AWS recommends becoming proficient at navigating the digital codes through using bookmarks in the PDFs. Candidates not familiar with navigating conventional PDF documents are welcome to review the computer-based testing frequently asked questions (CBT FAQs) found HERE. Some features of conventional PDF navigation may be disabled by Prometric for psychometric reasons. The word search function is **not** enabled.

Endorsement Fee Structure

For candidates in the United States and Canada, exam fees are due at time of registration and are paid directly to AWS. For the AWS exam price list, click HERE.

For international (outside of the US and Canada) candidates, exam fees are due at time of registration and paid to the International Agent representing AWS. Agents can provide pricing information regarding international exams.

Endorsement Credential

Endorsements earned will be updated in the AWS certification profile. Status can be checked via the QR code on the back of the CWI wallet card or via the Quikcheck web link.

Renewal Requirements

If the exam was taken as initial Part C exam and the candidate has become a CWI eventually, the candidates is required to renew the CWI exam every 3 years, every 6 years, and needs to recertify every 9th year.

Once all renewal requirements have been met via the renewal application and all administrative fees have been paid in full, the CWI Certification will be renewed. For further information concerning the CWI Certification renewal, click HERE to review the QC1 *Specification for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors.*

The endorsement does not have any requirements for renewal. It will automatically be renewed at each CWI renewal or recertification. The endorsement will continue to be listed in an approved manner.

Professional Development Hours

Candidates who successfully complete pre-exam training to prepare for the D1.1 endorsement examination may gain PDHs in accordance with QC1 clause 16.5.