



User Guide to the  
Stackable Credentials Path

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Senior Certified Welding Inspector  
(SCWI)

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### American Welding Society



[www.AWS.org](http://www.AWS.org)

- Office Hours: Monday – Friday  
8:00 am - 7:00 pm EST
- Phone: 1-800-443-9353, Option 3
- Email: [customer care@aws.org](mailto:customer care@aws.org)

- General information on the certification process
- Qualifications for certification
- Registration/application process
- Application [status](#)
- [FAQs](#)

PROMETRIC



[www.Prometric.com](http://www.Prometric.com)

- [Phone: for US, US Territories and Canada 1-800-864-5257](#)
- International phone numbers: See website.

- General Information on computer-based testing
- Test center locations
- Test center regulations
- Acceptable forms of ID
- Scheduling/rescheduling your exam appointment.
- Admittance requirements
- Inclement weather or power failure on your scheduled exam date
- For previously unscheduled site closure
- [FAQs](#)

# SENIOR CERTIFIED WELDING INSPECTOR (SCWI) STACKABLE CREDENTIALS PATH INFOGRAPHIC



## SCWI STACKABLE CREDENTIALS PATH

Candidates can apply for any of the endorsements in any order they choose. Candidate must successfully complete all four endorsements to apply for an upgrade to the SCWI (Senior Certified Welding Inspector) certification. Please note that candidates must meet all requirements for approval as outlined in the program criteria. For more detailed information, refer to the user guide.



### Step 1

Pass all four endorsements



### Step 2

Apply for SCWI Certification  
via MYAWS portal.



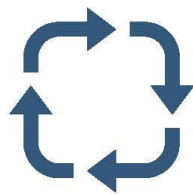
### Step 3

Application is approved by the  
AWS Coordinator.



### Step 4

SCWI Credentials



### Step 5

Renew at 3 and 6 years.



### Step 6

Recertify at 9 years

# SCWI STACKABLE CREDENTIALS PATH OVERVIEW

The Senior Certified Welding Inspector (SCWI) Stackable Credentials path is designed to recognize and support the continuous professional growth of welding inspectors by offering a structured pathway of achievements. They are task-based and competency-based focusing on continued education and improvement.

This system allows individuals to progressively advance their skills and qualifications, providing clear milestones toward becoming a Senior Certified Welding Inspector. The SCWI certification is achieved by completing four endorsement certificates, each representing a crucial step in this journey.

- **Welder Performance Qualifier Endorsement:** This endorsement assesses a candidate's knowledge, skill, and ability to conduct welder performance qualification tests.
- **Welding Procedure Qualifier Endorsement:** This endorsement assesses a candidate's knowledge, skill, and ability to conduct welding procedure qualification tests.
- **Welding Coordination and Quality Assurance Endorsement:** This endorsement covers the essential aspects of welding quality assurance and coordination, ensuring proficiency in these areas. It aligns with industry standards and best practices for welding quality management.
- **Nondestructive Examination Coordination Endorsement:** This endorsement assesses a candidate's capabilities in NDE qualification and certification programs, NDE methods, and NDE coordination.

The Stackable Credentials Path Guide is the official resource outlining the rules, policies, procedures, and progression requirements for the SCWI stackable credential pathway. All candidates should familiarize themselves with this guide. The content within this guide is subject to change.

## THE SCWI CREDENTIAL

The SCWI exam was developed by the American Welding Society (AWS) to provide an opportunity to the Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) who seeks to expand their career.

SCWI candidates typically will have supplemented their basic education or gained extensive problem-solving experience. This type of background provides them with a deeper and more specific understanding of advanced NDE topics, quality assurance systems, procedure qualifications, and personnel and project management knowledge, skills, and abilities.

# THE SCWI STACKABLE CREDENTIALS PATH

## Endorsement Exams

### Welding Performance Qualifier Endorsement

#### General Exam Information

- Exam delivery: Computer-based test (CBT) at Prometric test centers
- Exam content time: Open-book exam – 3 hours
- Total seat time: 3.4 hours
- Exam question type : Multiple-choice questions
- Total number of exam questions: 50 Scorable questions/5 Pretest questions
- Available Language Exams: English and Chinese

#### The Passing Score

Successful candidates must complete the exam with a **minimum** of 70% or greater.

For more information about the Welding Performance Qualifier Endorsement, please refer to the Endorsement Description located [HERE](#).

### Welding Procedure Qualifier Endorsement

#### General Exam Information

- Exam delivery: Computer-based test (CBT) at Prometric test centers
- Exam content time: Open-book exam – 3 hours
- Total seat time: 3.5 hours
- Exam question type : Multiple-choice questions
- Total number of exam questions: 50 Scorable questions/5 Pretest questions
- Available Language Exams: English and Chinese

#### The Passing Score

Successful candidates must complete the exam with a **minimum** of 66% or greater.

For more information about the Welding Procedure Qualifier Endorsement, please refer to the Endorsement Description located [HERE](#).

### Welding Coordination and Quality Assurance Endorsement

#### General Exam Information

- Exam delivery: Computer-based test (CBT) at Prometric test centers
- Exam content time: Closed-book exam – 2.5 hours
- Total seat time: 2.56 hours
- Exam question type : Multiple-choice questions
- Total number of exam questions: 70 Scorable questions/5 Pretest questions
- Available Language Exams: English and Chinese

## The Passing Score

Successful candidates must complete the exam with a **minimum** of 70% or greater.

For more information about the Welding Coordination and Quality Assurance Endorsement, please refer to the Endorsement Description located [HERE](#).

## Nondestructive Examination Coordination Endorsement

### General Exam Information

- Exam delivery: Computer-based test (CBT) at Prometric test centers
- Exam content time: Closed-book exam – 2.15 hours
- Total seat time: 2.5 hours
- Exam question type : Multiple-choice questions
- Total number of exam questions: 50 Scorable questions
- Available Language Exams: English and Chinese

## The Passing Score

Successful candidates must complete the exam with a **minimum** of 72% or greater.

For more information about the Nondestructive Examination Coordination Endorsement, please refer to the Endorsement Description located [HERE](#).

## ELIGIBILITY

**IMPORTANT!** To become a Senior Certified Welding Inspector, candidates need to fulfill work experience prerequisites, as well as pass the four required endorsements.

### Education & Experience Requirements:

There are no educational requirements as these are implied requirements of the previous certification (CWI).

### Work Experience Requirements:

1. **Certified as a CWI for six years:** You must have held a CWI certification for at least six of the past eight years and have relevant professional experience during that time.
2. **15 Years' Work Experience in Relevant Fields:** You must have a minimum of 15 years work experience in at least **three** of the following areas:
  - Procedure development
  - Control and application of base metals
  - Experience as a welder or welding operator
  - Detection and measurement of weld discontinuities
  - Planning and application of repair welding
  - Preparation of written procedures
  - Qualification of welders or welding procedures

- Application of welding related codes and standards
- Operational techniques fulfilling quality control requirements
- Teaching welding or related subjects.

Upon completing all four stackable credentials and applying for SCWI certification, candidates must provide full documentation (such as Visual Acuity Record and Work Qualifying Experience) to verify that they meet all eligibility requirements.



A CWI with less than 6 years of CWI experience who completes the 4 endorsements will have to wait till they meet the experience requirements to apply for SCWI.

### No Waiver for the Four Exams

No waivers will be granted for any of the four exams, and other types of credentials will not be accepted.

## APPLYING FOR THE SCWI CERTIFICATION

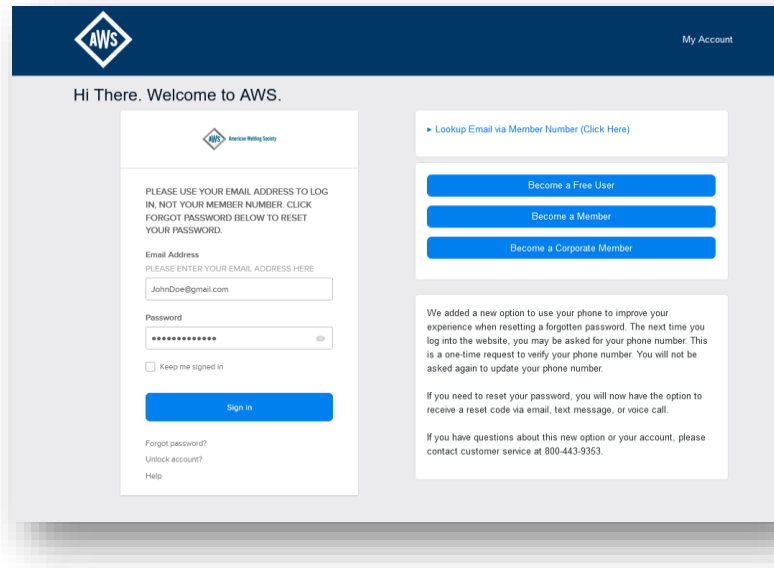
### Domestic (US and Canada)

Domestic candidates will apply directly with the American Welding Society via the [Certification Application Portal](#).

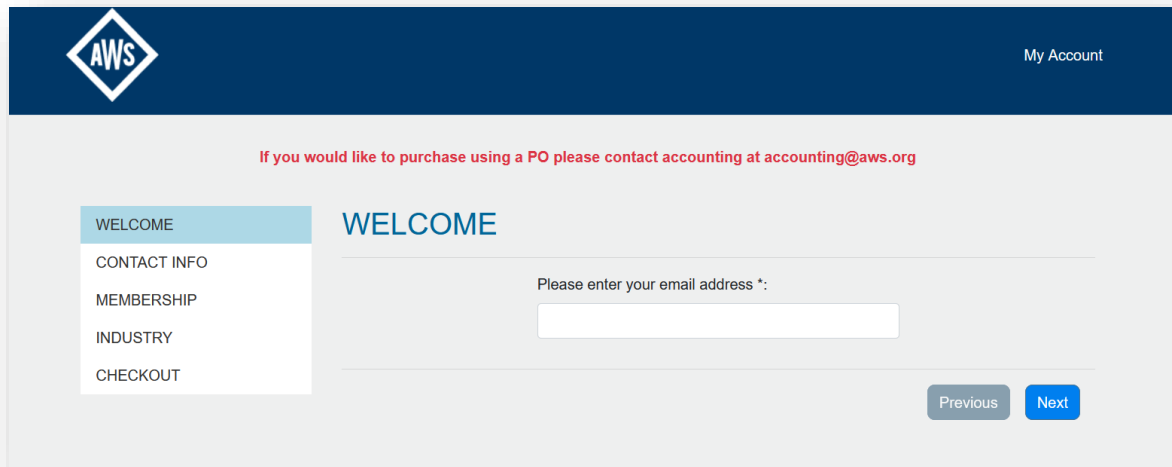
### Application Instructions

- It is not necessary to complete the application in one sitting. You will be able to save your work by clicking on the "Save" button at the top or bottom of each screen. You can navigate among pages by using the "Save & Continue" and the "Save & Go Back" buttons. You can also log out at any time by clicking the "Save & Logout" button. The "Save" button simply allows you to save your work but continue working on the current page.
- For each individual file upload, the maximum file size is 5 MB.
- The first and last names on the application must match what is listed on the government-issued ID presented as proof of identity at all exam sites and test centers.
- New users will be asked to create a username and password to log into the AWS Certification Application Portal.
- The Certification Application Portal will guide applicants step-by-step to complete the exam application.

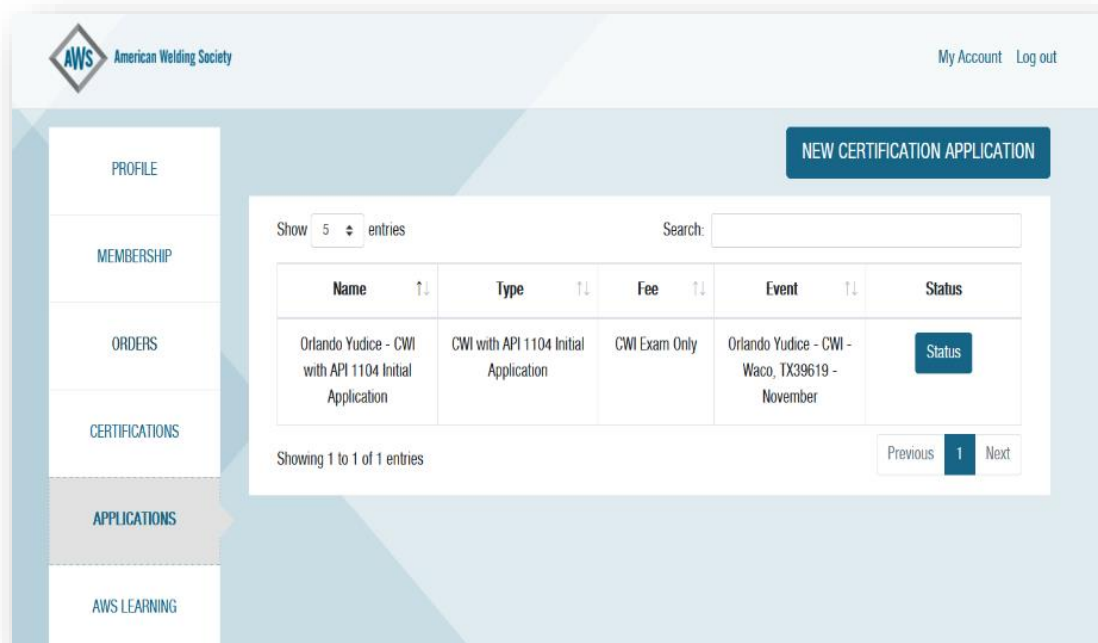




- Candidates can update and change their profile and contact information by accessing the Member profile via the [Certification Application Portal](#).



- Candidates can view the online status of an application, order, or membership via the [Certification Application Portal](#).
- The SCWI Certification will be awarded approximately 4-6 weeks after the application submission.

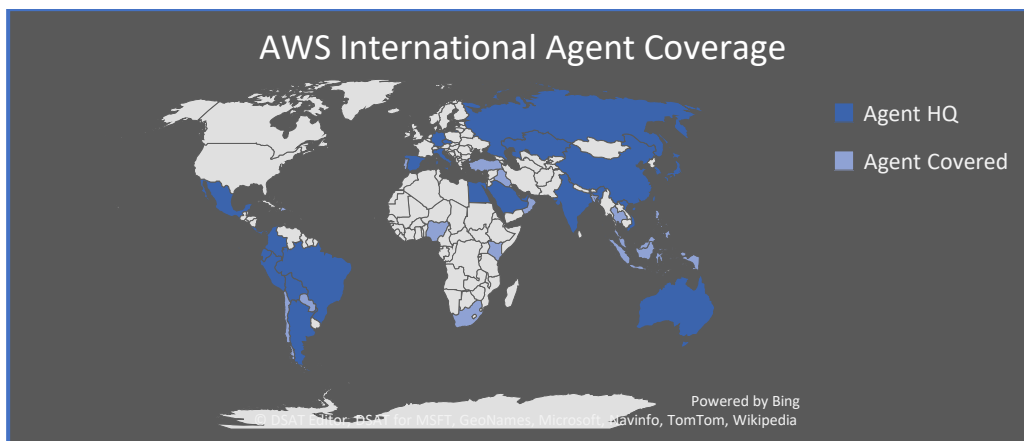


### International (outside of the US and Canada)

International applicants can apply through an AWS international Agent of their choice:  
For a list of available international Agents, please click [HERE](#).

### AWS Agent – Application Instructions

1. Applicants registering through an AWS Agent must review the [AWS Agent](#) contact information on the AWS webpage to select an Agent of their choice.



2. Applicants must download and print the SCWI Application form, complete it thoroughly, and submit it along with all required supporting documents to the designated Agent. It is important to ensure all information is accurate and complete to avoid delays in processing.

3. The SCWI Certification will be awarded approximately 4-6 weeks after the application submission. An email notification will be sent to the Agent and candidate.

## SCWI Certification Fees

For domestic candidates, fees are due at the time of registration and must be paid directly to AWS. Payments can be made using MasterCard, VISA, or American Express.

For international candidates, exam fees are due at time of registration and paid to the International Agent representing AWS. Agents can provide pricing information regarding international SCWI credentials.

**IMPORTANT!** Please note that there will be no bundled pricing between the stackable credentials and the SCWI upgrade application—each exam has its own separate fee.

## Receiving the SCWI Credential

Four to six weeks after the SCWI Stackable Credential application is approved, AWS shall issue all new Senior Certified Welding Inspectors with a serialized (unique) SCWI number, Official certificate, wallet card, and stamp. The original CWI Certification number will be displayed at the back of the card to reflect the year an individual became a CWI.

Certifications can be viewed through the [Certification Application Portal](#) and the [AWS QuikChek](#) webpage. To replace a Certificate, Wallet Card, and/or Stamp, complete and submit the order form located [HERE](#).

## Renewals and Recertifications

### Renewing the SCWI Credential

Certification becomes effective once the SCWI application is approved and confirmed. The SCWI certification cycle will keep the first day of the month and the year of the CWI credential.

On that same month and day, expiration occurs three years later. The SCWI Certification is valid for three (3) years from the date of issue. SCWIs who can demonstrate continued work experience in the welding industry may renew their credential for a further three (3) years by applying via the [Certification Application Portal](#). SCWI renewals are limited to two (2) consecutive three-year periods after which recertification is required.

*Note:* AWS may send reminder notices, but it remains the responsibility of the SCWI to renew their certification credential or recertify on time.

SCWIs who fail to renew by the expiration date will be listed as having an expired credential. Renewals submitted after the administrative sixty (60) day grace period but within one year of expiration may be accepted for renewal; however, administrative late fees may be applied.

For complete details on the renewal process and all options refer to [AWS QC1:2016-AMD1 Clause 15](#).

## Nine-Year Recertification

After eight (8) years and one (1) month, SCWIs who wish to recertify may submit a 9-year recertification application via the [Certification Application Portal](#).

A SCWI can recertify through any of the following non-exam and



### Non-Exam Options:

- [9-year recertification course](#)
- 80 Professional Development Hours



Please note that PDHs **will not** be awarded for the SCWI Stackable Credentials path.

- Exam Options:
- Previous Certified Radiographic Interpreter (CRI) Certification
- Endorsement exam to a code not previously taken.

*Note:* an additional CWI endorsement achieved within 9 years prior to recertification may be eligible.