

American Welding Society®

Welder Performance Qualifier (WPQ1)

Endorsement Description

Scope of Endorsement

AWS QC1, Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors, provides for endorsements that may be added to the CWI and SCWI certifications. Endorsements are an indication of an additional knowledge, skill or ability documented in writing and added to an individual's certification credential(s).

This endorsement meets a portion of the requirements for SWI Alternative Qualification in AWS B5.1 and Alternative Certification for the SCWI in QC1.

Disclaimer

Candidates should be aware that the term Qualifier throughout the document is drawn from its use in B2.1/B2.1M: 2021 - Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification.

This does not imply that this endorsement is mandatory in order to conduct welder performance qualification tests unless specified in contract documents.

This endorsement is one of the qualification requirements for a Qualifier in accordance with AWS QC47**:**2016-AMD2 Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities.

Endorsement Candidate Eligibility Criteria

Any CWI or SCWI who wishes to receive a credential that documents their knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct welder performance qualification tests.

Candidates who hold an AWS CWI or SCWI wishing to take this examination to add as an endorsement to their AWS credentials shall be current in their AWS certification status.

Initial Certification or 9-year Recertification Eligibility

For new candidates to the CWI program, this examination is not an option for initial certification. For existing CWIs, successful completion of this endorsement can also satisfy the re-examination requirements for 9-year recertification, provided that the endorsement is taken during the immediate 9-year period.

Training Requirements

This endorsement has no mandatory training requirements. Candidates are encouraged to attend an AWS seminar or to perform self-study to become familiar with the Welder Performance Qualification subject matter.

Examination Requirements

Candidates seeking the WPQ1 endorsement shall pass an open-book examination. To study for the endorsement, candidates may use the reference books used for the exam questions listed in Section "References for taking the endorsement examination." Electronic versions of the reference books or relevant sections will be available on the computer at the test center during the exam. Candidates may also bring printed, bound copies of the reference books to the test center (photocopied books are not allowed).

Successful candidates must correctly answer 70% of the questions to receive this endorsement.

Test specifications

Test Specifications are a breakdown of exam content areas along with proportion of the exam devoted to each content area.

Domain	Subdomain	Percent of Questions on Exam
Domain 01 Pretest Activities	0101 Qualifier Pretest General Responsibilities	30%
	0102 Equipment and Materials Required for Testing	
	0103 Facility Requirements	
Domain 02 Conducting the Test	0201 General Requirements	40%
	0202 Welding Variables	
	0203 Fit-up and Welding of Test Coupon	
	0204 Testing Requirements	
	0205 Retests	
Domain 03 Post Test Activities	0301 Welder Performance Qualification Record (WPQR)	30%
	0302 Documentation	
	Total	100%

Examination Details

This endorsement exam consists of 50 scorable traditional multiple-choice questions and 5 unscorable traditional multiple-choice questions.

A Chinese language-assisted version of the exam is available. For a list of available international Agents and test locations, please click HERE.

IMPORTANT! The language assisted version of the exam **also** will consist of 50 scorable traditional multiple-choice questions and 5 unscorable traditional multiple-choice questions.

Pretesting

The unscorable questions are referred to as “pretest” questions that will not be scored and will not have an impact on the examination result. This is common practice within the high stakes testing industry. It allows AWS to evaluate new items for content validity and statistical performance for potential use in future examinations and examination versions to have equivalent level of difficulty and quality. These items are randomly placed within the examination and are not identifiable as pretest items.

Examination References

Most exam questions are directly answerable from the three reference documents provided. To answer these questions, candidates can either answer from memory and experience or use the electronic copy of the document provided on the testing computer or use their own bound printed copy of the following standards to navigate to the needed information.

1. *AWS Best Practices for Performing a Welder Qualification Test* (2019 Edition)
2. B2.1/B2.1M: 2021 *Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification*
3. AWS B5.4:2005 *Specification for the Qualification of Welder Test Facilities*

Some exam questions may be drawn from other standards that address welder performance qualification and that are included in the list of Informative references for self-education. For these questions, sufficient information to answer the question will be provided in the stem of the question; consulting a reference standard will not be necessary. Candidates are not permitted to bring printed copies from the Informative References for Self-Education list to the test location.

AWS EXAMINATIONS CODEBOOK POLICY

For certain AWS examinations, candidates are permitted to bring a **printed copy of the applicable codebook** for use during an open-book examination.

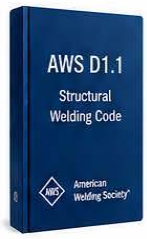
When a printed codebook is permitted, it must be an original printed publication or a permanently bound printed copy. The codebook must remain intact and secure throughout the examination.

Loose pages, folders, or individual printed sheets are not permitted.

ACCEPTABLE – PERMANENTLY BOUND COPIES

A printed copy is considered acceptable only if it is bound in one of the following ways:

ORIGINAL PUBLISHER-BOUND EDITION



Bound by the publisher.

STITCHED (SEWN)



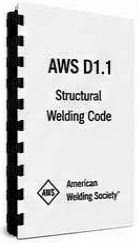
Pages are sewn together.

GLUED (PERFECT BIND)



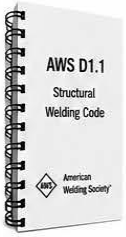
Pages are permanently glued to the spine.

COMB BOUND



Pages are secured with a comb binding.

SPIRAL BOUND



Pages are secured with a spiral binding.

THREE-RING BINDER



Pages are secured in a standard three-ring binder. **(Must be bound)**

STAPLED OR RIVETED



Fasteners penetrate through all pages and the cover.

All pages must remain securely attached to the binding or cover.
The codebook must not contain loose, removable, or unsecured pages.

NOT ACCEPTABLE

LOOSE PAGES



Individual sheets of paper are not allowed.

Pages are loose and not attached.

FOLDERS



Pages in folders or without binding are not allowed.

Pages can fall out or be removed.

REMOVABLE OR UNSECURED PAGES



Any pages that are not permanently attached are not allowed.

Loose pages can be removed or replaced.

BINDER CLIPS (NOT PERMANENT)



Binder clips do not secure pages.

Pages can be removed or added.

DAMAGED OR UNSECURED BINDING



Binding must remain intact and secure throughout the examination. Damaged binding is not allowed.

Informative References for Self-Education

The following is a list of informative reference books (latest editions) to assist those wishing to learn and understand the best practices for performing welder qualification tests.

1. AWS D1.1/D1.1M *Structural Welding Code – Steel*
2. AWS D1.2/D1.2M *Structural Welding Code – Aluminum*
3. AWS D1.4/D1.4M Structural Welding Code – Steel Reinforcing Bars
4. AASHTO/AWS D1.5M/D1.5 Bridge Welding Code
5. AWS D1.6/D1.6M *Structural Welding Code – Stainless Steel*
6. AWS D9.1/9.1M *Sheet Metal Welding Code*
7. AWS B2.1 *Standard Welding Procedure Specifications (SWPS)*
8. ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IX: *Welding, Brazing, and Fusing Qualifications*
9. API 1104 *Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities*
10. ISO 9606-1 *Qualification testing of welders – Fusion welding – Part 1: Steels*
11. ISO 14732 Welding Personnel – *Qualification Testing of Welding Operators and Weld Setters for Mechanized and Automatic Welding of Metallic Materials*

Exam Delivery

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

CBT Exam Timing Information

The overall seat time allotted is 204 minutes (3.4 hours) from check-in to check-out at the test center. The time that can be used to answer questions is 180 minutes (3 hours).

Section of Testing	Time in Minutes
Candidate Confirmation Page	1
Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)	2
Introduction & Tutorials	20
Exam Question Answering	180
Finish Page	1
Total Duration	204

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.

Endorsement Credential

Existing CWIs and SCWIs who meet the examination requirements will be awarded the endorsement in an approved manner.

Renewal requirements as an endorsement

This endorsement does not have any requirement 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

PDHs are not currently approved for this endorsement and will be added soon. Check back often for the updated information.