

Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators



AWS B5.17:2025-AMD1
An American National Standard

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Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators

6th Edition

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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.



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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.

This amendment to AWS B5.17 includes updated language to 6.7.2.

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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Amendment

The following amendment has been identified and are incorporated in this reprint.

AWS Standard: B5.17:2025-AMD1

Amendment Number: 1

Subject: Subclause 6.7.2

Revision: Update subclause 6.7.2

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~~ ASNT 9712 or internationally recognized equivalent certifications, provided a process for review and acceptance for this type of certification is described.

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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.