

Specification for Establishing a Company Program for Qualification and Certification of Welding Inspection Specialists



AWS B5.2:2026
An American National Standard

Approved by the
American National Standards Institute
May 12, 2026

Specification for Establishing a Company Program for Qualification and Certification of Welding Inspection Specialists

3rd Edition

Revises AWS B5.2:2018

Prepared by the
American Welding Society (AWS) Qualification and Certification Committee

Under the Direction of the
AWS Technical Activities Committee

Approved by the
AWS Board of Directors

Abstract

This specification provides guidelines for a company to qualify and certify Welding Inspection Specialists for the purpose of recognizing an individual's ability to perform in-house welding inspection in accordance with contract or industry-specific inspection standards. The program is described in a Written Practice and is controlled by the company. The qualification requires documentation of experience, training, and satisfactory completion of an examination. The examination tests knowledge of welding processes, procedure and performance qualification, destructive testing, nondestructive examination, terms, definitions, symbols, reports, records, safety, and responsibility as specifically applied by the contract or industry standards applicable to the company. Certification as a Welding Inspection Specialist, as described herein, does not, in and of itself, qualify an individual to perform third-party welding inspection.



ISBN Print: 978-1-64322-465-7
ISBN PDF: 978-1-64322-466-4
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Foreword

This foreword is not part of this standard but is included for informational purposes only.

This third edition of AWS B5.2 represents a complete revision of the standard, both in content and organization. The title of the standard has been revised to better reflect its scope. The first edition was published in 2001 and superseded QC2-93, *Recommended Practice for the Training, Qualification, and Certification of Welding Inspector Specialist and Welding Inspector Assistant*.

AWS B5.2 *Specification for Establishing a Company Program for Qualification and Certification of Welding Inspection Specialists* provides the framework for developing an in-house qualification and certification program for visual welding inspectors. To differentiate it from the central certification program of AWS supported by the AWS B5.1 and QC1 standards, B5.2 uses the nomenclature welding inspection ‘specialist’.

This specification for the qualification of welding inspection specialists was developed to provide a qualification basis defining minimum requirements for a welding inspection specialist to demonstrate competence through a combination of education, experience, and examination.

Changes are widespread enough that clear markup of the changes is difficult and, therefore, not shown. The words *should* and *recommended* have been changed throughout this edition to *shall* to better set this document as a Specification than a Guide, by establishing minimum requirements that must be met.

The following is a summary of clause-specific revisions contained in B5.2:2026:

Summary of Changes	
Clause/Table/Figure/Annex	Modification
Clause 1 General Requirements	Informative references were removed to allow the end user to supply their own references through the addition of Clause 6, Company-Specific References.
Clause 3 Terms and Definitions	Terms & Definitions were revised and new terms were added.
Clause 6 Company-Specific References	The addition of company-specific references allows the end user to define their supplemental reference material.
Annex A Body of Knowledge	Additional references were added, and revisions better reflect present-day industry best practices.

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.

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1. General Requirements

1.1 Scope. This specification provides guidelines for a company to establish an internal qualification and certification program to recognize individuals as Welding Inspection Specialists (WISs) capable of performing in-house visual welding inspection. The company is responsible for developing a Written Practice that describes the details of its in-house program for the examination, qualification, and certification of its inspectors.

1.1.1 Responsibility. The company shall establish a Written Practice detailing the education, experience, training, and examination requirements for Welding Inspection Specialists. The company is responsible for training, examining, and certifying individuals meeting the qualification requirements specified in the Written Practice.

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.

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, as the relevant requirements may have changed.

ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*