



Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program



American Welding Society



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Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program

Prepared by
AWS Qualification and Certification Committee

Under the Direction of
AWS Education and Certification Council

Approved by
AWS Board of Directors
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Abstract

This Standard describes a program directed by the American Welding Society for a third-party accreditation of test facilities used to perform welding qualification—welding and testing.



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Standard for

Accreditation of Test Facilities

for AWS Certified Welder Program

1. Scope

1.1 Requirements. This Standard establishes minimum requirements for Test Facilities, their personnel, and equipment to qualify for accreditation to test and qualify welders in the AWS Certified Welder Program. This facility accreditation program is open to all Test Facilities that are qualified, whether or not they are members of AWS. The Test Facilities may be part of an independent laboratory, manufacturing plant, educational institution, or other party.

1.2 Procedure. This Standard establishes the procedure by which Test Facilities may seek, obtain, and maintain accreditation from an AWS designated third-party assessment agency to participate in the AWS Certified Welder Program.

1.3 Safety Precautions. Safety precautions shall conform to the latest edition of ANSI/ASC Z49.1-88, *Safety in Welding and Cutting*, published by the American Welding Society.

NOTE: This Standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices. The user should determine the applicability of any regulatory limitations prior to use.

2. Definitions

Terms used in this Standard are defined in ANSI/AWS A 3.0-88, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions*, and as follows:

acceptance criteria. Specified limits placed on characteristics of an item, process or service as defined in codes, standards or other contract documents.

accreditation. Certification as being able to meet a prescribed standard.

accredited facility. A facility that applies to the AWS designated third party agency and received accreditation.

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certification. The act of determining, verifying, and attesting in writing to the qualification of personnel in accordance with specified requirements.

facility representative. An individual(s) designated by the Test Facility who can make legally binding commitments and statements on behalf of the Test Facility.

inspection. Examination or measurement to verify whether an item or activity conforms to specified requirements.

inspector. A person who performs inspection activities to verify conformance to specified requirements.

NDE. A designation in this Standard for nondestructive examination of welds using one of the approved non-destructive testing methods.

Q&C Committee. The Qualification and Certification Committee of the American Welding Society.

Q&C Department. The Qualification and Certification Department of the American Welding Society Miami, Florida.

test supervisor. An AWS Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) designated by the Accredited Test Facility.