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# Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities

**AWS QC47:2016-AMD3**  
**Amendment: January 22, 2026**

# **Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities**

**1st Edition**

**Revises AWS QC47:2016-AMD1**

Prepared by the  
American Welding Society (AWS) Subcommittee on Welding Test Facilities and Welders

Under the Direction of the  
AWS Qualification and Certification Committee

Approved by the  
AWS Board of Directors

## **Abstract**

This specification describes a program administrated by the American Welding Society (AWS) for accreditation of test facilities used to perform welder qualification and testing for the certification of welders. The AWS Certified Welder Program provides a means for the transference of welder qualifications from employer to employer without retesting. This specification defines the minimum requirements for welder participation in the program and the methods to be used by employers for adopting the program. This specification defines the minimum requirements for welder participation in the program and the methods to be used by employers for adopting the program.



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D. A. Diaz	<i>ETMS, LLC</i>
J. T. Graham	<i>Constellation Energy</i>
M. Ludmer	<i>California Welding Institute, LLC</i>
A. E. Smith	<i>International Training Institute</i>
R. K. Wiswesser	<i>Welder Training &amp; Testing Institute, Incorporated</i>

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## Foreword

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

The American Welding Society (AWS) Certified Welder Program was established to identify all elements necessary to implement an AWS National Registry of Certified Welders. Five key elements are identified:

- (1) Welder Performance Qualification Standards Criteria
- (2) AWS B2 Standard Welding Procedure Specifications
- (3) Accredited Performance Qualification Test Facilities
- (4) Accredited Custom Programs
- (5) AWS Welder Certification Requirements

The purpose of AWS QC47, *Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities*, is to establish that Welder Performance Qualification Test Facilities have the personnel, organization, experience, procedures, knowledge, equipment, capability, and commitment to conduct proper welder performance qualification testing. This specification describes the requirements and functions of the test facility and custom programs to achieve AWS QC47 accreditation and defines the responsibilities of the test facility and AWS. The purpose of the AWS National Registry of Certified Welders is to document the ability of welders to deposit sound welds and to impose controls on the documentation and maintenance of certification.

AWS QC47:2016, *Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities* combined AWS QC4, *Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program* and AWS QC7, *Standard for AWS Certified Welders*, and revisions include major changes in the format of the combined documents. This specification superseded AWS QC4 and AWS QC7 and all its supplements.

AWS QC47:2016-AMD2 contains the criteria for the AWS National Registry of Certified Welders and AWS Certified Welder Custom Programs. Public listing or disclosure is the option of the individual welder. In many cases, this specification shall allow the transfer of a welder qualification from employer to employer. This potential transfer of welder qualifications may result in financial savings for the welding industry. Underlined text in the clauses, subclauses, tables, figures, or forms indicates a change from AWS QC47:2016-AMD1.

AWS QC47:2016-AMD3 amended the requirements for logging and tracking qualification maintenance. Underlined text in 8.3.1 indicates a change from AWS QC47:2016-AMD2.

The evolution of AWS QC47, *Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities*, is shown below:

AWS QC4	<i>Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program</i>
AWS QC7	<i>Standard for AWS Certified Welders</i>
AWS QC47:2016	<i>Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities</i>
AWS QC47:2016-AMD1	<i>Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities</i>
AWS QC47:2016-AMD2	<i>Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities</i>
<u>AWS QC47:2016-AMD3</u>	<u><i>Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities</i></u>

Comments and suggestions for the improvement of this specification are welcome. They should be sent to the Managing Director, AWS Certification Department, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 St, # 130, Miami, FL 33166.

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# Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities

## 1. General Requirements

**1.1 Scope.** This specification describes the accreditation of AWS Accredited Test Facilities (ATF); the testing of welders; and the certification of welders desiring to be listed in the AWS National Registry of Certified Welders (NRCW). The Program establishes the controls and methods to maintain an AWS NRCW. This specification supersedes AWS QC4, *Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program*, and AWS QC7, *Standard for AWS Certified Welders* and all its supplements. The elements of this program establish requirements for:

- (1) Certified Welders
- (2) Accredited Test Facilities
- (3) Qualifiers

Users wishing to set up welder test facilities not leading to AWS accreditation are advised to consult AWS B5.4, *Specification for the Qualification of Welder Test Facilities*. Users wishing to obtain AWS accreditation as an AWS ATF and certify welders for entry into the AWS NRCW shall meet the requirements of this specification.

ATFs accredited to QC47 will have a scope of testing that covers the four basic arc welding processes in compliance with relevant American codes and standards (AWS, ASME, API, etc.). Additionally, ATFs applying for accreditation may choose to extend the scope of testing to include other processes and testing methods by documentation and/or demonstration of the ATF's capabilities in those processes or testing methods. Users of this specification who seek to extend the scope of testing are required to contact the AWS Accreditation Department for specific requirements.

**1.2 Program.** This specification shall be used by welders, qualifiers, Certified Welding Inspectors (CWI), Senior Certified Welding Inspectors (SCWI), employers, non-destructive examination (NDE) technicians, and AWS Accredited Test Facility personnel to recognize and implement their responsibilities in the program.

Certification under the AWS Certified Welder Program for inclusion in the NRCW shall be conducted using AWS B2 Standard Welding Procedure Specifications (SWPSs) or an alternative Welding Procedure Specification (WPS), as described in Annex A. Performance testing methods and visual acceptance criteria are derived from the governing standard chosen by the candidate or candidate's employer. It is the responsibility of the candidate or candidate's employer to select the SWPS and governing standard that is suitable for the work planned for production.

When no governing standard is specified, the performance testing method and acceptance criteria shall be selected from the current revisions of AWS B2.1, *Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification*.

Participants (ATFs and qualifiers) in this program conduct performance qualification tests that can result in certification in the AWS Certified Welder Program. Participants in this program may also conduct performance qualification tests that do not result in certification in the AWS Certified Welder Program.

**1.3 Other Requirements.** This specification shall be used for all welder performance testing conducted by the AWS Accredited Test Facility for welders that will be entered into the NRCW. In situations where the AWS ATF is requested to conduct welder performance testing in accordance with programs that have requirements different from this specification, the requirements of this specification may be waived. In all such circumstances, the ATF bears the responsibility for establishing that all variations comply with the published requirements of the governing standard and are included in the ATF's quality manual.