



# Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors



**American Welding Society**

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*second printing, September 2007*



**AWS QC1:2007**

# **Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors**

**Supersedes AWS QC1:2006**

Prepared by the  
American Welding Society (AWS) Subcommittee on Certified Welding Inspectors

Under the Direction of the  
AWS Certification Committee

Approved by the  
AWS Board of Directors

## **Abstract**

This standard defines the requirements and program for the American Welding Society to certify welding inspectors. The certification of visual welding inspectors requires documentation of experience, satisfactory completion of an examination, and proof of visual acuity. The examination tests the inspector's knowledge of welding processes, welding procedures, destructive tests, terms, definitions, symbols, reports, safety, and responsibilities.



**American Welding Society**

550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, FL 33126

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## Personnel

### AWS Certification Committee

R. K. Wiswesser, Chair	<i>Welder Training &amp; Testing Institute</i>
S. L. Raymond, 1st Vice Chair	<i>International Training Institute</i>
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R. L. Arn	<i>WeldTech International</i>
E. R. Bohnart	<i>Welding Education &amp; Consulting</i>
K. W. Coryell	<i>Consultant</i>
B. Craft	<i>Trinity Industries, Incorporated</i>
M. L. Deckard	<i>Parsons Brinckerhoff Transit and Rail Systems, Incorporated</i>
E. K. Eden	<i>United Association, Local 430</i>
G. J. Frederick	<i>Electric Power Research Institute</i>
J. E. Greer	<i>Moraine Valley Community College</i>
J. D. Hollison	<i>Performance Mechanical, Incorporated</i>
J. H. Hope	<i>Consultant</i>
J. P. Kane	<i>Pennoni Associates</i>
P. F. Martin	<i>United Association</i>
A. J. Moore	<i>Marion Testing &amp; Inspection</i>
R. N. Munroe	<i>Ironworkers Local 15</i>
T. Peshia	<i>Garbe Iron Works, Incorporated</i>

### AWS Subcommittee on Certified Welding Inspectors (CWI)

J. E. Greer, Chair	<i>Moraine Valley Community College</i>
R. K. Wiswesser, Vice Chair	<i>Welder Training &amp; Testing Institute</i>
P. Howe, Secretary	<i>American Welding Society</i>
M. L. Deckard	<i>Parsons Brinckerhoff Transit and Rail Systems, Incorporated</i>
P. R. Evans	<i>PCI Energy Services</i>
G. G. Hlifka	<i>The Lincoln Electric Company</i>
J. P. Kane	<i>Pennoni Associates</i>
R. M. Nielsen	<i>Consultant</i>
S. L. Raymond	<i>International Training Institute</i>

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## Foreword

This foreword is not part of AWS QC1:2007, *Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors*, but is included for informational purposes only.

The purpose of welding inspection is to determine if a weldment meets the acceptance criteria of a specific code, standard, or other document. The welding inspector must be thoroughly familiar with welding processes, welding procedures, welder qualifications, materials, the limitation of weld testing, be able to read drawings, prepare and keep records, prepare and make reports, and make responsible judgments. For welding inspectors to be effective, the activities performed should be consistent with the requirements, and technical and ethical principles.

AWS QC1, *Standard for Certification of AWS Welding Inspectors*, was first published in 1975. Subsequent editions were published in 1988, 1996, and 2006. This document, QC1:2007, *Standard for Certification of AWS Welding Inspectors*, replaces the 2006 edition. The first examinations for the certification of Welding Inspector were conducted in the spring and fall of 1976. Over 55,000 individuals have met the requirements of AWS QC1, worldwide, since the start of the program.

This edition contains revisions approved by the AWS Certification Committee on January 15, 2007. All amended or added text is identified by underlines. The following is a summary of the amendments:

- Statement on Use—a disclaimer paragraph was added to explain the use of endorsements.
- Definition of endorsement—the definition was revised to clarify the term.
- 6.2.2—the table in 6.2.2 was revised to include the requirements for endorsements.
- 6.2.5—amended to clarify the requirements for re-examinations.
- 16.3.1—amended to clarify that endorsements may be used for recertification.
- 16.7—amended to clarify the various options for recertification and the various scenarios that could result if one of the examination options is chosen.

Comments and suggestions for the improvement of this standard are welcome. They should be sent to the Secretary, AWS Certification Committee, American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, FL 33126.

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# Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors

## 1. Scope

**1.1** This standard establishes the requirements for AWS certification of welding inspection personnel. It describes how personnel are certified, and the principles of conduct and practice by which certification may be maintained. Any oral or written claim of certification under the guidelines established herein shall be made only by those individual SCWIs, CWIs, and CAWIs who are, at the time of the claim, current and in compliance with all sections of this standard.

This standard meets or exceeds the requirements of AWS B5.1:2003, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*. This standard supersedes AWS QC1:2006.

**1.2** The three levels of certification are Senior Certified Welding Inspector (SCWI), Certified Welding Inspector (CWI), and Certified Associate Welding Inspector (CAWI).

**1.3** In the certification process, AWS conducts an examination to determine a person's general knowledge of welding inspection and related technical areas. No determination is made of an individual's capabilities in applying that knowledge within a specific work environment or under actual working conditions.

**1.4** It shall be the responsibility of the employer to determine that the SCWI/CWI/CAWI is capable of performing the duties involved in his/her particular welding inspection assignment.

**1.5** This standard is intended to supplement the requirements of an employer, code, or other documents and shall not be construed as a preemption of the employer's responsibility for the work or for the performance of the work.

**1.6 Safety Precautions.** This standard is not intended to address safety and health matters regarding certified welding inspectors. Safety and health requirements are provided in ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and*

*Allied Processes*, other safety and health standards, and federal, state, and local government regulations. This standard only covers the rules of certification.

**1.7 Verb Usage.** As used in this standard, the word *shall* denotes a requirement; the word *should* denotes a guideline, and the word *may* denotes an obligation to make a choice.

## 2. Levels of Certification and Endorsements

There are three levels of AWS certification of welding inspection personnel and specified endorsements. These levels are defined as follows:

**2.1 Senior Certified Welding Inspector (SCWI).** A person certified by AWS as meeting the qualification requirements of 5.3, 6.1, and 6.2 of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*, and 5.2 of this standard.

**2.2 Certified Welding Inspector (CWI).** A person certified by AWS as meeting the qualification requirements of 5.2, 6.1, and 6.2 of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*.

**2.3 Certified Associate Welding Inspector (CAWI).** A person certified by AWS as meeting the qualification requirements of 5.1, 6.1, and 6.2 of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*.

**2.4 Endorsements.** Endorsements may be added to the SCWI and CWI certifications as outlined in specific endorsement publications.

## 3. Definitions

The welding terms used in this standard are defined in AWS A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions*. Other terms used in this standard are defined as follows:

**applicant.** A person who applies to the AWS for certification.

**AWS.** The American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, Florida 33126.

**AWS National Registry.** The AWS database in which all individuals certified through AWS or an AWS accredited testing facilities are nationally recognized and acknowledged.

**certificate.** The document issued to the applicant on successful completion of the requirements for certification.

**certified.** Having met the AWS certification requirements.

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

**Certification Department.** The department that administers the certification activities of the American Welding Society.

**CEU.** Continuing Education Unit.

**code.** A standard consisting of a set of conditions and requirements relating to a particular subject and indicating appropriate procedures by which it can be determined that the requirements have been met. A standard suitable for adoption in whole or in part by a governmental authority as a part of a law or regulation or as specified by other mandatory documents.

**Committee.** The Certification Committee of the American Welding Society.

**endorsement.** Indication of an additional skill documented in writing and added to one's certification credential(s).

**nondestructive examination.** The act of determining the suitability of some material or component for its intended purpose using techniques that do not affect its serviceability.

**notarization.** To authenticate or attest that specific information is valid.

**qualification.** Demonstrated training, skill, knowledge and experience required for personnel to perform the duties of a specific job.

**qualified.** Having complied with specific requirements.

**PDH.** Professional Development Hour. A unit of approved professional or education activity involving class participation or performing as an instructor. PDHs are used to determine continuing education eligibility for recertification under this program.

**specification.** A specification describes the essential technical requirements for material, fabrication, product, system, or service. It indicates the means to determine that all requirements have been met. A standard suitable for adoption in procurement documents.

**standard.** A generic term incorporating codes, specifications, recommended practices, classifications, methods, and guides that have been prepared by a sponsoring committee, and approved in accordance with established procedures.

## 4. Functions of Certified Personnel

**4.1** The SCWI shall be able to perform inspections, supervise one or more CWIs, CAWIs, and/or NDE personnel, prepare inspection procedures, review and interpret joining procedures, conduct audits of vendors and/or organizations providing materials or services to the project, and ensure that the work performed and the records maintained conform to the requirements of the applicable standards and other contract documents and perform all SWI duties listed in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*.

**4.2** The SCWI and CWI shall be able to perform inspections or to verify that the work inspected and records maintained, conform to the requirements of the applicable standards and perform all WI duties listed in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*.

**4.3** The SCWI and CWI shall be able to certify the qualification of welders to various codes and specifications. The requirements of the AWS QC7 *Certified Welder* program and the National Registry of AWS Certified Welders are outside the scope of this standard.

**4.4** The CAWI shall be able to perform inspections, under the direct supervision of a SCWI or CWI within visible and audible range, and as defined for the AWI as in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*. It is the SCWI or CWI, however, who has responsibility for certifying that welded assemblies conform to workmanship and acceptance criteria.

## 5. Education and Experience Requirements

**5.1** Applicants seeking AWS SCWI, CWI, or CAWI certification shall meet the applicable education and experience requirements as stated in 5.5 of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors* for the desired level of certification.

**5.1.1** In addition to the activities listed in 5.5 of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*, duration of membership on a technical, certification, qualification, or education committee active in the technical activities listed in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors* shall count towards the time requirements for experience.

**5.2** In addition to the requirements of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*, applicants for SCWI shall have been certified as a CWI for a minimum of six (6) years.

**5.3** All applicants shall submit with the application, written verification of documented employment. This verification or affidavit should be completed and signed by the applicant's most recent employment supervisor or the appropriate personnel department staff, if available, attesting to the applicant's employment activities of which he/she has personal knowledge or documentation. If acquiring this information is not possible, then the applicant will submit a detailed affidavit attesting to previous work experiences.

**5.4** Experience claimed by applicants for all levels of certification and/or recertification, shall be documented by one or more of the following:

**5.4.1** Completion of the employment verification section of the application for certification.

**5.4.2** A letter of employment on company letterhead from present and former employers indicating applicant's name, social security number (optional) job title(s), start date, company name, company address and telephone number, immediate supervisor's name, and the name and title of the person completing the letter.

**5.4.3** A letter on organizational letterhead from the applicant's associated or affiliated organizational representative containing information relevant to the organization in which they were employed, accompanied by official copies of work assignment sheets, books, or records.

**5.4.4** Two (2) letters of reference on company letterhead from separate clients attesting to the nature of work assignments during the period of performance required for certification for self-employed or contract applicants.

**5.4.4.1** If letters of reference cannot be practically obtained, applicants shall submit an affidavit describing what type of work activity they performed, and indicating the time frame of that activity for a sufficient number of clients to establish the length of activity required in 15.4 of this standard. Additional supporting documentation, such as lesson plans, letters, billing invoices, or check stubs also may be submitted.

**5.5** All applicants shall be responsible for using the most current applications as provided by the AWS Certification Department. Use of obsolete forms may delay the certification process.

## 6. Examination Requirements for SCWI and CWI

### 6.1 Senior Certified Welding Inspector

**6.1.1** Applicants seeking SCWI certification shall successfully meet the SWI requirements as contained in 6.2 and 7.2 of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*.

**6.1.2** Applicants shall pass the examination(s) as follows:

Examination	Minimum Number of Questions	Minimum Percentage of Correct Answers
SCWI Part A and Part B	200	72% (144 correct answers)

**6.1.3** Re-examinations shall be considered as any tests taken within one year (12 months) of the original test date. Candidates may take up to two (2) re-examinations within one year of the original test date.

### 6.2 Certified Welding Inspector

**6.2.1** Applicants seeking CWI certification shall successfully meet the WI requirements as contained in 6.2 and 7.1 of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*.

**6.2.2** Applicants shall pass the examination(s) as follows:

Examination	Minimum Number of Questions	Minimum Percentage of Correct Answers
Part A—Fundamentals	150	72%
Part B—Practical	46	72%
Part C—Code Book	46	72%
Code Book Endorsements	N/A	72%
Other Endorsements	N/A	As defined in the endorsement specifications

**6.2.3** Applicants who achieve a 72% overall composite score (simple average of three parts of the examination) and fail to meet the requirements of 6.2.2 may retake those parts failed subject to the requirements of 6.2.5.

**6.2.4** An applicant shall select and indicate on his/her certification application the Code to which they are to be tested. Applicants are responsible for verifying with the AWS Certification Department which Codes are available

and which editions of those Codes are applicable to the examination.

**6.2.5** Re-examinations shall be considered as retaking the same exam. Candidates may take one (1) re-examination within one year of the original test date without further training. Any additional retests taken will require documentation of 40 hours of further training received in welding inspection meeting the requirements of 16.5.1. The maximum number of retests taken in any three-year period is three (3).

## 7. Achieving Certified Associate Welding Inspector (CAWI) Certification

**7.1** CAWI certification is obtained when an applicant achieves the following on the CWI examination:

Examination	Minimum Number of Questions	Minimum Correct Percentage
Part A—Fundamentals	150	60%
Part B—Practical	46	60%
Part C—Code Book	46	60%

**7.2** CAWIs shall adhere to the requirements of 15.1 of this standard.

**7.3** Existing CAWIs who achieve the minimum scores in 7.1 of this standard shall be awarded a CAWI certification and will be subject to the requirements of 15.1 of this standard.

**7.4** All CAWI certifications issued in accordance with this standard shall have new certification numbers assigned to them.

**7.5** CAWIs who meet the requirements of Section 14 of this standard are eligible for upgrading to CWI status. Certification upgrade is not automatic. Applicants for upgrade must complete and submit all necessary documents to the AWS Certification Department for consideration.

## 8. Visual Acuity Requirements

**8.1** Applicants for certification as SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall satisfy the visual acuity requirements of 6.1 of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*.

**8.1.1** Eye examinations shall be administered by an Ophthalmologist, Optometrist, Medical Doctor, Regis-

tered Nurse, Certified Physician's Assistant, or by other ophthalmic medical personnel, and must include the state or province license number. Examinations shall be performed not more than 7 months prior to the date of the welding inspector examination or recertification.

**8.1.2** The completed eye examination results shall be received in the AWS Certification Department not later than 30 days after the applicant's completed examination date. Applicants who have not fulfilled all requirements by that date shall have all records, scores, and applications voided and may be in jeopardy of forfeiting application fees.

## 9. Reciprocity

**9.1** The Committee periodically approves reciprocity arrangements between the program defined in this standard and welding inspector certification programs in other countries. The terms and conditions of each reciprocity arrangement are unique and conditional upon the uniform administration of the reciprocal program. Changes to programs subsequent to granting reciprocity shall be cause for reevaluation by the Committee of issuance of certifications beyond the date of change. Contact the AWS Certification Department for a listing of current approved reciprocal agreements and their respective requirements.

## 10. Certification

**10.1 Documentation.** The American Welding Society shall issue to each SCWI, CWI, and CAWI applicant who complies with the applicable requirements of AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*, a serialized (unique number) certificate and a wallet card stating that the applicant has met the AWS certification requirements. Certification shall be valid for three years unless revoked for reasons defined in 11.6 and the authority of Section 12. The certificate shall indicate the date of certification. The wallet card shall indicate the expiration date of certification and any need for corrective lenses for near vision acuity. It shall also state results of color vision tests.

**10.1.1** SCWIs shall be issued a new certification number but may request that the original date of CWI certification be listed on the SCWI wallet card.

**10.2 Verification.** The American Welding Society shall release certification test results only to the applicant SCWI/CWI/CAWI, or to a person or agency designated by the applicant SCWI/CWI/CAWI upon written request, and with notarized and witnessed release. The

exception to this requirement are members of American Welding Society staff and members and officers of the Certification Committee, who may request and receive access to all information relating to program participants in the necessary pursuit of their duties on behalf of the program. Extra copies of test results, in addition to those provided at the time of certification, may require payment of a nominal administrative fee. Requests for verification of status and certification number of SCWIs, CWIs, and CAWIs shall be provided to requestors without charge. Only the certification number, date certified, expiration date, and current status (current, revoked, etc.) shall be provided by American Welding Society staff members without the express written approval of the applicant, SCWI, CWI, or CAWI.

## 11. Code of Ethics, Rules of Conduct, and Practice

**Preamble.** In order to safeguard the health and well being of the public and to maintain integrity and high standards of skills, practice, and conduct in the occupation of welding inspection, the American Welding Society SCWIs, CWIs, and CAWIs shall be cognizant of the following principles and the scope to which they apply, with the understanding that any unauthorized practice is subject to the Committee's review and may result in suspension, reprimand, or revocation of certification.

**11.1 Integrity.** The SCWI, CWI, and CAWI shall act with complete integrity in professional matters and be forthright and candid to their employer, the regulator or employer's customer, and with the Committee or its representatives, on matters pertaining to this standard.

**11.2 Responsibility to the Public.** The SCWI, CWI, and CAWI shall act to preserve the health and well being of the public by performing duties required of welding inspection in a conscientious and impartial manner to the full extent of the inspector(s) moral and civic responsibility and qualification. Accordingly, the SCWI, CWI, and CAWI shall:

**11.2.1** Undertake and perform assignments only when qualified by training, experience, and capability.

**11.2.2** Present credentials upon request to persons authorized to examine them.

**11.2.3** Neither falsely represent current status nor seek to misrepresent the certification level (SCWI/CWI/CAWI) by modification of certification documents or false verbal or written testimony of current level or status.

**11.2.4** Be completely objective, thorough, and factual in any written report, statement, or testimony of the work

and include all relevant or pertinent testimony in such communiqués or testimonials.

**11.2.5** Sign only for work that the inspector has inspected, or for work over which the inspector has personal knowledge through direct supervision.

**11.2.6** Neither associate with nor knowingly participate in a fraudulent or dishonest venture or activity.

### 11.3 Public Statements

**11.3.1** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall issue no statements, criticisms or arguments on weld inspection matters connected with public policy which were inspired or paid for by an interested party, or parties, without first identifying the party, the speaker, and disclosing any possible financial interest.

**11.3.2** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall publicly express no opinion on welding inspection subjects unless it is founded upon knowledge of the facts in issue, upon a background of technical competence pertinent to the subject, and upon honest conviction of the accuracy and propriety of the statement.

### 11.4 Conflict of Interest

**11.4.1** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall avoid a conflict of interest with the employer or client and shall disclose any business association, or circumstance that might be so considered.

**11.4.2** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed to all interested parties or their authorized agents.

**11.4.3** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall not solicit or accept gratuities, directly or indirectly, from any party, or parties, dealing with the client or employer in connection with the SCWI's, CWI's, and CAWI's work.

**11.4.4** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall, while serving in the capacity of an elected, retained, or employed public official, neither inspect, review, nor approve work in the capacity of SCWI, CWI, or CAWI on projects also subject to the inspector's administrative jurisdiction as a public official, unless this practice is expressly dictated by a job description and/or specification and all affected parties to the action are in agreement.

### 11.5 Solicitation of Employment

**11.5.1** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall neither pay, solicit, nor offer, directly or indirectly, any bribe or commission for professional employment with the exception

of the usual commission required from licensed employment agencies.

**11.5.2** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall neither falsify, exaggerate, nor indulge in the misinterpretation of personal academic and professional qualifications, past assignments, accomplishments and responsibilities, or those of the inspector's associates. Misrepresentation of current SCWI/CWI/CAWI certification status at the time of, or subsequent to, submission of requested employment information, or in the solicitation of business contracts wherein current certification is either required or inherently beneficial (advertisements for training courses, consulting services, etc.) shall be a violation of this section.

**11.5.3** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall not claim that their credentials are suitable for anything outside of the field of welding inspection or for tasks outside of their endorsements.

**11.5.4** The SCWI, CWI, or CAWI shall not disclose proprietary information, (i.e., commercially valuable information not generally known) concerning business affairs or technical processes of a present or former client or employer, without their written consent, except as necessary to perform the duties of a SCWI, CWI, or CAWI.

*Note: While the SCWI, CWI, or CAWI may have established excellent credentials, certification alone may not legally qualify the Inspector to provide inspection services to the public. Contract documents, or building or jurisdiction laws may require inspection to be performed under the direction and responsibility of others, such as a Registered Professional Engineer.*

**11.6 Unauthorized Practice.** Any violation of any part of the standard of conduct prescribed by this standard if related to a SCWI's, CWI's, or CAWI's occupation, including any violation of the Code of Ethics contained in this standard, shall constitute an unauthorized practice subject to the imposition of sanctions.

## 12. Revocation

**12.1 Committee.** The Committee shall have the power to suspend, refuse renewal, or revoke the SCWI's, CWI's, or CAWI's certification for misrepresentation of facts regarding personal qualifications, status, assignments, etc., relating to SCWI's, CWI's, or CAWI's certifications whether such misrepresentation was made at the time of application or on subsequent applications (renewal, etc.). The Committee may place on probation or reprimand a certificate holder, if found guilty of any unauthorized practice (as outlined in 11.6 Unauthorized

Practice) in a proceeding conducted in conformance to *AWS Administrative Procedures for Alleged Violations of AWS Certification Programs* (available from the AWS Certification Department).

**12.2 Courts.** The Committee may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction for further enforcement of its administrative decisions and rulings.

## 13. Reinstatement

Reinstatement of a revoked certificate shall be allowed with no penalty or prejudice to the individual provided the reason for such revocation has been rectified to the Committee's satisfaction.

## 14. Upgrading of Certification

**14.1** Applicants whose scores on each part of the examination meet the requirements of 6.2.2 of this standard but did not meet the experience requirements of 5.2.2 of AWS B5.1 may request an upgrade to the CWI level once the experience requirements are met.

**14.1.1** The period of validity of CWI certification for individuals who have upgraded in accordance with 14.1 shall not exceed the original period of CAWI certification.

**14.2** The CWI shall not upgrade to the SCWI certification level without complying with the requirements of 5.1, 5.2, and 6.1 of this standard.

## 15. Renewals

**15.1** CAWIs are not eligible for renewal. A CAWI may only hold the CAWI certification for a three-year period. The CAWI must meet the requirements of 6.2.2 of this standard in or before the third year of their CAWI certification.

**15.1.1** The CAWI shall be responsible for maintaining a current address with the AWS Certification Department per 15.2.1.

**15.2** The SCWI and CWI shall be responsible for:

**15.2.1** Maintaining a current address with the AWS Certification Department. It is extremely important that notification of an address change to one department, for examples, changing a *Welding Journal* subscription address or an address to receive AWS membership benefits, does not automatically notify the AWS Certification Department. Please notify the Certification Department at AWS directly of all address changes. Failure to main-

tain a current address with the AWS Certification Department may jeopardize certification status.

**15.2.2** Maintaining certification by submitting an approved renewal application to the AWS Certification Department by the expiration date of the current certification and no earlier than 6 months prior to the expiration date of that certification. AWS may send a renewal notice, but if not received, it remains the responsibility of the SCWI or CWI to renew on time.

**15.3** Certification becomes effective on the first day of the month following the date of examination. On that same month and day, expiration occurs three years later. A 60 day administrative extension period is allowed. During this time certification will be considered as expired. If the paperwork is received on time and all renewal or recertification requirements have been met, certification will be reactivated. For example,

1. Certification granted, May 1, 2003
2. Certification expires, May 1, 2006
3. Administrative extension period, May 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006

After June 30, 2006, applicant must meet the requirements of 6.1.2 or 6.2.2, as applicable, to gain certification.

**15.3.1** For personnel serving on active duty with the U.S. armed services overseas, contact the AWS Certification Department for current policy on renewing or recertifying.

**15.4** The SCWI and CWI requesting renewal of certification shall attest to having no period of continuous inactivity greater than two years in activities as described in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors* during the previous three years of certification.

**15.4.1** The SCWI and CWI not meeting the requirements of 15.4 may renew by taking the CWI Part B Practical exam and meet the scoring requirements in 6.2.2 of this standard.

**15.5** SCWI and CWI certification renewals are limited to two consecutive three-year periods. Before the end of the third three-year period, SCWIs and CWIs are required to recertify by complying with Section 16 of this standard.

**15.6** CWIs who are renewing or are at their 9-year recertification but seek SCWI certification must complete two applications. One application shall be for 9-year CWI recertification (by either Part B exam or continuing education) and the other application shall be to take the SCWI exam. CWIs who recertify in accordance with 16.3.1 of this standard and desire to sit for the SCWI examinations will have to take both the CWI Part B Prac-

tical and the SCWI examinations. Applicants for SCWI certification who successfully meet the requirements for CWI renewal or recertification in advance but fail to meet the requirements of 6.1.2 of this standard shall not lose their CWI status.

## 16. 9-Year Recertification For SCWI and CWI

**16.1** An approved 9-year recertification application must be in the AWS Certification Department by the expiration date of the current certification and no earlier than 6 months prior to the expiration date of the current certification.

**16.2** Before the end of the ninth year from the date of initial certification, and each nine years thereafter, SCWIs seeking recertification shall satisfy either 16.2.1 or 16.2.2.

**16.2.1** SCWI recertification by examination by satisfying the requirements of 6.1 of this standard, or by taking a Committee-approved endorsement, or

**16.2.2** SCWI recertification by experience and continuing education. The SCWI shall attest to having no period of continuous inactivity greater than two years in activities as described in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*, during the previous three years of certification, and shall present evidence of activities meeting the requirements of 16.4 and 16.5 of this standard.

**16.3** Before the end of the ninth year from the date of initial certification, and each nine years thereafter, CWIs seeking recertification shall satisfy either 16.3.1 or 16.3.2.

**16.3.1** CWI recertification by taking the Part B Practical examination or by taking a Committee-approved endorsement, and meeting the requirements of 6.2.2 of this standard.

**16.3.2** CWI recertification by experience and continuing education. The CWI shall attest to having no period of continuous inactivity greater than two years in activities as described in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*, during the previous three years of certification, and shall present evidence of activities meeting the requirements of 16.4 and 16.5 of this standard.

**16.4** The following rules apply to meeting the training or teaching requirements in 16.2.2 and 16.3.2 of this standard.

**16.4.1** A minimum of eighty (80) PDHs must be earned (training received or instruction delivered) during

the nine-year certification period and twenty (20) of those 80 PDHs must be earned in the final three-year period.

**16.4.2** The course content must be one or more of the subject areas defined in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*.

**16.4.3** A maximum of eighty (80) PDHs are allowed for any one course.

**16.4.4** Credit for a particular course may only be granted once in a nine-year period. (Example: a single 40-hour course taught any number of times can only be used to fulfill 40 hours of the 80 hours required for recertification without examination.)

**16.4.5** Trainers who want to substitute teaching hours for the required PDHs shall submit documentation of the hours of training performed. Such documentation shall include a complete syllabus of subjects taught, a copy of the certificates of attendance or completion issued, the number of students attending, the dates of the training provided, and documentation that the training was a formal offering and not personal coaching, tutoring, or individual instruction delivered to meet job requirements.

**16.5 Professional Development Hours (PDH) Credit Towards 9-Year Recertification.** PDHs will be credited based upon each contact hour of activity. A contact hour shall consist of not less than 50 minutes of instruction. For applicable courses where Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are awarded, each CEU shall be considered as 10 PDHs. The following list shall define the credit (in PDHs) awarded for each activity.

**16.5.1** PDHs may be earned by participating in classroom, correspondence, or distance learning in one or more areas indicated in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*. There is no maximum of PDHs that may be accepted for recertification under this provision but all PDHs claimed must be accompanied by a course description and certificate of completion indicating the number of contact hours.

**16.5.2** PDHs may be earned by attending local section meetings of a professional society (AWS or other) where technical presentations that cover one or more of the areas indicated in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors* are given. A maximum of 20 PDHs may be accepted for recertification and must be accompanied by a section meeting announcement and certificate of completion indicating the number of contact hours for the activity signed by the section chair.

**16.5.3** PDHs may be earned for preparation and presentation of a technical session at an AWS local or national conference addressing subjects contained in

AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*. A single award of 10 PDHs will be accepted for recertification upon presentation of copies of materials used to support the presentation and certificate of participation from the Host society. A maximum of 20 PDHs can be awarded under this provision during the 9-year period.

**16.5.4** PDHs may be earned for participation on an AWS standing committee, sub-committee, or task group. A single award of 20 PDHs will be accepted for recertification upon presentation of a letter from the committee chairman indicating the documents/standards worked on. For participation on volunteer committees of other organizations, supporting materials such as ballots, minutes, and a description of how the committee work is related to AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors* is required. A maximum of 20 PDHs can be awarded under this provision during the 9-year period.

**16.5.5** PDHs may be earned for a paper, article, or book published in a nationally recognized publication that addresses a subject contained in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors*. Each publication will result in an award of 10 PDHs with no maximum of PDHs awarded over the 9-year period. All claims for PDHs under this provision must be accompanied by a copy of the published work.

**16.5.6** PDHs may be earned for a patent issued that has an association with the field of welding, inspection, or testing. Each patent will result in an award of 10 PDHs with a maximum of 20 PDHs over the 9-year period. Patents eligible for this credit must have been issued within the most recent 9-year period. All claims for PDHs under this provision must be accompanied by a photocopy of the issued patent.

**16.5.7** PDHs may be earned for initial certification as an AWS Radiographic Interpreter or ASNT ACCP Level II or Level III inspector in any non-destructive method listed in AWS B5.1, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Inspectors* (except Visual Testing (VT)). Each initial NDE certification will result in an award of 20 PDHs with no maximum of PDHs over the 9-year period. All claims for PDHs under this provision must be accompanied by evidence of the date of original certification.

**16.5.8** PDHs may be earned for initial certification to endorsements offered under the AWS QC1 program. The award of PDHs will be determined based upon the decision of the Committee. Contact the AWS Certification Department for a listing of endorsements and their respective PDH values.

**16.6** SCWIs failing to meet the alternative requirements for recertification using experience and continuing education shall be required to recertify by examination in accordance with 6.1 of this standard. SCWIs who fail to meet the examination requirements of 6.1 shall no longer be certified at any level. Such persons shall be notified of their status in writing.

**16.7** CWIs failing to meet the alternative requirements for recertification using experience and continuing education shall be required to recertify by taking the Part B Practical examination or by taking an endorsement approved by the Committee for recertification, and meet the minimum scores in 6.2.2 to maintain certification at

the CWI level. CWIs failing to meet the requirements of 6.2.2 may take re-examinations (Part B or endorsement) in accordance with 6.2.5 to recertify. CWIs failing to meet the requirements of 6.2.2 but who do meet the requirements of 7.1 shall receive new certification at the CAWI level and will be subject to the requirements of 15.1 of this standard. Individuals failing to meet the requirements of 6.2.2 or 7.1 shall no longer be certified at any level after their certification expires. Such individuals will be notified of their status in writing.

**16.8** SCWIs and CWIs who successfully recertify shall be subject to the requirements of Section 15 of this standard.

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**List of AWS Documents**

<b>AWS Designation</b>	<b>Title</b>
QC1:2007	<i>Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors</i>
QC4-89	<i>Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program</i>
QC5-91	<i>AWS Standard for Certification of Welding Educators</i>
QC7-98	<i>Standard for AWS Certified Welders</i>
QC13:2006	<i>Specification for the Certification of Welding Supervisors</i>
QC15:2007	<i>Specification for the Certification of Radiographic Interpreters</i>
QC17:2002	<i>Standard for Accreditation of Welding Fabricators for AWS Certified Welding Fabricator Program</i>
QC19:2002	<i>Standard for AWS Certification of Robotic Arc Welding Personnel</i>

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