

Information Bulletin No. IB11-002 Revision 1

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DIRECTIVE Grade C Pressure Welder Certification

This bulletin provides guidance related to the issuance of the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency and supersedes IB06-002.

Initial Certificate

An initial Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency will be valid for up to 24 months following the date it is issued. This provides sufficient time for the welder either to prepare for the Grade B Pressure Welder examination or to register with Alberta Advanced Education as a welding apprentice. For a Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency issued in response to urgent circumstances, the term shall not exceed 10 working days.

Additional Performance Qualifications

For a Grade C Pressure Welder employed by a manufacturer with a Pressure Welder Testing Program, the process for obtaining additional performance qualification, within the limitations of the initial performance qualification test (see note 2 in next paragraph), shall encompass:

- Completion of the performance qualification test, as witnessed by the manufacturer's welding examiner, and
- Issuance of an ABSA form AB-76A, by the welding examiner to the successful candidate, with the same expiry date as the initial certificate.

Note 1:

- There is no limit on the number of ABSA form AB-76A's a Grade C Pressure Welder may hold at the same time.
- ABSA Form AB-76A is deemed equivalent to a performance qualification card for the purpose of documenting additional performance qualifications of Grade C Pressure Welders.

Note 2:

If the initial test is **not** one of the following two tests -

- Pipe coupon, NPS 2-1/2, schedule 160, 6G position, open root, no backing,
or

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- Pipe coupon, NPS 6, schedule 80, 2G and 5G positions, open root, no backing,
the manufacturer with a welder testing program **cannot** issue additional performance qualifications that include any of the following:
 - a change in product form from plate to pipe,
 - a change to all-position, **or**
 - a change to open root with no backing.

For a Grade C Pressure Welder employed by an organization without a Pressure Welder Testing Program **or** if the additional performance qualification is outside the limitations of the initial performance qualification test (see note 2), the process for obtaining additional performance qualification will encompass:

- Completion of the performance qualification test, as witnessed by a Safety Codes Officer, and
- Issuance of an additional Grade C Certificate of Competency to successful candidates.

Subsequent Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency

A subsequent Grade C certificate will not be issued to a welder who is not in the Alberta Welding Apprenticeship program or who is not a journeyman welder. It is the responsibility of the Grade C welder to contact Alberta Advanced Education with respect to the Alberta Welding Apprenticeship Program.

Subsequent Grade C certificates may be issued to an Alberta welding apprentice, upon successfully passing a performance qualification test witnessed by a Safety Codes Officer, until the apprentice becomes an Alberta Journeyman Welder.

An Alberta journeyman welder is expected to attain a Grade B Certificate of Competency in order to weld pressure equipment. Normally, a subsequent Grade C certificate will not be issued to a journeyman welder except under special circumstances. Special circumstances may include a situation where the employer still urgently requires the welder but the welder requires further training or additional time to develop the skills necessary to pass the Grade B examination. The application process for a subsequent Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency for a journeyman welder involves:

- Written justification by the employer on behalf of the candidate for acceptance by the Administrator,
- Completion of a performance qualification test witnessed by a Safety Codes Officer, upon acceptance by the Administrator, and

- Issuance of a new Certificate of Competency by the Safety Codes Officer for maximum 24 months from the test date, after successful completion of the performance qualification test.

An Alberta journeyman welder or red seal inter-provincial journeyman welder who was issued a Grade C certificate with an expiry date less than two years from the date of test, may be allowed to obtain another subsequent Grade C Certificate of Competency upon successfully passing a performance qualification test.

Background

The [Pressure Welders Regulation](#) (AR 169/2002) makes provisions for and establishes the requirements for Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency. This bulletin provides a uniform policy for issuance of the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency.

The Grade C certificate of competency is a temporary certification intended to provide qualified pressure welders in order to meet the needs of Alberta industry, while maintaining the level of pressure equipment safety in Alberta. This certification is also intended to allow welders holding an Alberta Journeyman Welder Certificate of Proficiency or an Inter-provincial Red Seal Journeyman Welder Certificate of Proficiency to train and achieve the Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency.

The Grade C Certificate of Competency is issued under specific and restricted conditions that are reviewed and updated as required on an ongoing basis.

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