

1. GRADE C PRESSURE WELDER CERTIFICATION

1.1 Introduction

This document is designed to outline ABSA's certification procedures and requirements for the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency. The certification requirements can be found in the [Pressure Welders Regulation](#) and in the Grade C Pressure Welder Reference Syllabus (AB-252), which can be found on the ABSA website using this [link](#).

1.2 Elements

A. Scope of Certification

The [Pressure Welders Regulation](#) (AR 169/2002) states the scope of practice for the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency. The holder is authorized to engage in pressure welding subject to the limitations prescribed in this Regulation and described on the performance qualification card.

B. Job and Task Description

A Grade C Pressure Welder scope of practice may include the following:

- welding performed on a boiler, pressure vessel, pressure piping system, or fitting only at the work site of the employer named on the certificate of competency

C. Required Competence

A Grade C Pressure Welder must be competent in the technical and safety requirements of pressure welding.

It is recommended that before undertaking the certification examination that the candidate familiarize themselves with, and practice welding in accordance with the test procedure outlined in the Grade C Pressure Welder Reference Syllabus (AB-252).

D. Prerequisites

The [Pressure Welders Regulation](#) states that in order to qualify to take a Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency examination, a candidate must fall under one of the following conditions:

- engaged in welding in Alberta for a period and type of welding acceptable to the Administrator
- engaged in welding outside Alberta for a period of 36 months and holds a pressure welder certification
- is an apprentice welder in the second or subsequent year of their apprenticeship within a Canadian jurisdiction
- is a journeyman welder from a Canadian jurisdiction
- has qualifications equivalent to a Grade B pressure welder if coming into Alberta for work of an urgent nature

Note that section 12(2) of the Pressure Welders Regulation also states that a Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency issued to a welder who has, in the opinion of the Administrator, experience and qualifications equivalent to the holder of a Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency, may **not** be issued for a term exceeding 30 working days.

Application for the Grade C Certificate of Competency pursuant to the Canadian labour mobility agreements can be made using form [AB-129b](#).

E. Code of Conduct

The [Safety Codes Act](#) (41(1)) states the following with respect to codes of conduct:

“No person shall, without a certificate of competency, control or operate any thing to which this Act applies or supervise, operate or undertake any process or activity to which this Act applies if this Act requires that the person hold a certificate of competency to do.”

Pressure Welders Regulation (2(1)) states the following: “No person shall weld a boiler, pressure vessel, pressure piping system or fitting by any method, unless the person holds a certificate of competency, including a performance qualification card, that specifically authorizes the person to weld the pressure vessel, boiler, pressure piping system or fitting and authorizes the method used by the person.”

1.3 Certification Process Requirements

A. Criteria for Initial Certification and Recertification

The certification requirements are as follows:

- employer or a testing organization must apply on the candidate's behalf ([AB-69](#))
- candidate's employer, prospective employer or testing organization must demonstrate to a safety codes officer that the candidate has the prerequisites
- pass a performance qualification test conducted by a safety codes officer
- employer or testing organization will be invoiced for the examination fee

Note that in reference to a special interpretation of the Pressure Welders Regulation ([IB23-015](#)), the holder (apprentice welder) is eligible to obtain any number of additional performance qualifications during the period that the initial Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency is valid. Additional performance qualifications shall expire on the same date as the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency. More information regarding this option can be found in IB23-015 and on the ABSA [website](#).

Also note that the holder of a Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency who is qualified to take a Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency examination will **not** be granted renewal of their certificate.

Information regarding certification and recertification can be found in the Pressure Welders Regulation and on the ABSA [website](#).

B. Assessment Methods for Initial Certification and Recertification

Applicants must meet the minimum requirements for initial certification, as outlined above in 8.3 A. A certificate is issued after a candidate passes the performance qualification test conducted by a safety codes officer. No additional fees are required before a certificate is issued.

A candidate failing to pass the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency examination conducted by the ABSA Safety Codes Officer shall **not** be permitted to take a re-test for a period as determined by the ABSA Safety Codes Officer in consultation with the candidate's employer, prospective employer, or testing organization

C. Surveillance Methods and Criteria

The work of a Grade C Pressure Welder is subject to inspection and examination in accordance with their employer's quality management system as well as by an ABSA Safety Codes Officer.

D. Criteria for Suspending and Withdrawing Certification

The Alberta [Safety Codes Act](#) (42(3)) states that an Administrator may suspend or cancel a certificate of competency if the Administrator, on reasonable and probable grounds, is of the opinion that the person

- no longer complies with the requirements of this Act for a certificate of competency or
- does not comply with this Act when acting pursuant to the certificate of competency

Pressure welding is generally subject to the provisions of Section IX of the ASME Code, paragraph QW-322.1(b), which establishes that a welder's qualifications shall be revoked any time there is a specific reason to question the welder's ability to complete welds that meet the specification. This revocation can be made by the welder's employer, an owner's inspector, or an ABSA Safety Codes Officer.

E. Criteria for Changing the Scope or Level of Certification

Criteria for changing the scope or level of certification are detailed in [AB-252](#) and in the [Pressure Welders Regulation](#).

1.4 Development, Review, and Validation

Industry/volunteer subject-matter experts are consulted as needed to review and validate the AB-252.

1.5 Ongoing Review

Ongoing review of the AB-252 is achieved informally through industry-stakeholder consultation and feedback.