

## **1. WELDING EXAMINER CERTIFICATION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This document is designed to outline ABSA's certification procedures and requirements for the Welding Examiner and Welding Examiner In-Training Certificates of Competency. The certification requirements can be found on the ABSA website using [AB-94](#).

### **1.2 Elements**

#### **A. Scope of Certification**

The [Pressure Welders Regulation](#) states the scope of certification for the Welding Examiner Certificate of Competency. The holder is authorized to conduct performance qualification tests and issue performance qualification cards on behalf of a testing organization while employed by that testing organization.

The Regulation states that the scope of certification for the Welding Examiner In-Training Certificate of Competency authorizes the holder to conduct performance qualification tests on behalf of a testing organization while employed by that testing organization and while working under the direction of the holder of a Welding Examiner Certificate of Competency who is employed by the same testing organization.

#### **B. Job and Task Description**

Welding Examiner and Welding Examiner In-Training scope of practice may include the following:

- administer welder performance tests in accordance with their employer's quality management system
- verify if base materials, consumables, and gases used during examination conform to test specifications
- inspect the weldment at prescribed stages of examination to determine the acceptance of a weld
- conduct destructive testing or confirm non-destructive testing to verify the soundness of a weld
- record the test parameters and outcomes on the test report (typically a QW-484 type form)
- record the essential variable qualified ranges on the performance qualification card

- sign the performance qualification card (Welding Examiner In-Training is **not** authorized to sign a performance qualification card)
- supervise Welding Examiners In-Training

### **C. Required Competence**

Welding Examiners and Welding Examiners In-Training must be competent to conduct performance qualification tests in accordance with their employer's quality management system as well as possess the following as outlined in [AB-94](#):

- a thorough understanding of the Safety Codes Act, Regulations, and CSA B51 Boiler (Pressure Vessel and Pressure Piping Code National Board Inspection Code)
- a thorough understanding of all appropriate examination procedures

### **D. Prerequisites**

Prerequisites for certification include the following:

- pressure equipment experience related to fabrication, inspection, repair, welding, design, quality control, or operation, as well as suitable academic qualifications in recognized courses in welding, materials, ASME Codes, and NDE, as specified in [AB-94](#)

**Note** that other qualifications may be considered under provisions that allow the Administrator to accept equivalencies. Also, for Welding Examiners, there are certain exemptions from the four examination papers. These are outlined in [AB-94](#) and on the ABSA [website](#).

Welding Examiners In-Training are **only** required to write Paper Three.

### **E. Code of Conduct**

The [Pressure Welders Regulation](#) states the following with respect to codes of conduct for Welding Examiners and Welding Examiners In-Training:

“No person shall conduct a performance qualification test unless authorized to do so by this Regulation, and no person shall, pursuant to section 42 of the Act, issue a performance qualification card unless the person is authorized by the Administrator to do so on behalf of the Administrator.”

## 1.3 Certification Process Requirements

### A. Criteria for Initial Certification and Recertification

The certification requirements are as follows:

- apply for examination
- pay the examination fee
- satisfy certification prerequisites
- pass the required examination papers
- pass an eye exam

**Note** that the certificate expires three years after the day it was issued and may be renewed in accordance with Section 17 of the [Pressure Welders Regulation](#), which asks the holder of the certificate of competency to meet the current qualifications required for renewal or that the certificate was applied for before October 1, 2003, and issued without examination under the Regulation as it read before May 30, 2010. A certificate becomes void upon its expiry unless it is renewed.

The recertification requirements for Welding Examiners are as follows:

- submit a completed application form [\(AB-93\)](#)
- attach a current and satisfactory eye examination report [\(AB-95\)](#)
- pay the renewal fee indicated on the application form

**Note** that if a Welding Examiner Certificate of Competency (WE or WG) is not renewed before it expires, the Administrator may require the holder of the certificate to pass a written examination before renewing the expired certificate of competency. In the case of certification without examination, AB-72 must be submitted to the Administrator, which can be found using this [link](#).

Also **note** that the Welding Examiner In-Training certificate also has a three-year expiry date, but is **non-renewable**.

Information regarding certification and recertification can be found in [AB-94](#) 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. These requirements are assessed by an ABSA Examiner upon submission of forms [AB-92](#) and AB-95. A certificate is issued after a candidate passes the required papers for Welding Examiners or Welding Examiner In-Training certification. No additional fees are required before a certificate is issued.

Applicants may contest the outcome of an assessment in accordance with ABSA's policy on certification [appeals](#).

## **C. Surveillance Methods and Criteria**

It should be noted that Welding Examiners and Welding Examiners In-Training may be subject to informal surveillance as part of the ABSA audit of their employer's quality management system.

## **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

## **E. Criteria for Changing the Scope or Level of Certification**

Criteria for changing the scope or level of certification are detailed in [AB-94](#).

### **1.4 Development, Review, and Validation**

The [Safety Codes Council](#) and the [Pressure Equipment Sub-Council](#) are responsible for the development, review, and validation of the Welding Examiner Reference Syllabus ([AB-94](#)) in accordance with the Pressure Welders Regulation. ABSA manages document control for AB-94. In addition, ABSA has established a subject matter expert (SME) panel to develop, review, and validate the examination questions.

### **1.5 Ongoing Review**

The ongoing review of the certification process involves regular input from the SME panel. Less frequently, AB-94 and the Pressure Welders Regulation are reviewed by the Pressure Equipment Sub-Council.