

Information Bulletin No. IB23-015

March 24, 2023

**INTERPRETATION
Pressure Welders Regulation
Grade C Pressure Welder Certification**

This Information Bulletin replaces IB18-020 which has been withdrawn.

This Information Bulletin provides compliance guidance and interpretation of Sections 10, 11 and 12 of the *Pressure Welders Regulation* regarding Grade C Pressure Welder Certificates of Competency.

Introduction

The *Pressure Welders Regulation* (AR 169/2002) Sections 10, 11 and 12 establish the qualification, examination and certification requirements for Grade C Pressure Welder Certificates of Competency.

Section 10 addresses the basic requirements and qualifications for Grade C Pressure Welder examinations.

Section 11 addresses special provisions for welder apprentices seeking the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency.

Section 12 addresses Grade C equivalencies.

Each Section is interpreted separately below. Excerpts from the Pressure Welders Regulations are included for reference at the end of this document.

Interpretation Section 10 Grade C Certificate

Qualification

To qualify for a certificate of competency under Section 10 the candidate's employer, prospective employer or a testing organization shall make application on the candidate's behalf and shall provide evidence of experience satisfactory to a safety codes officer.

Test

The candidate shall pass the Standard Test specified in ABSA document AB-252 *Reference Syllabus for Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency Examination*.

Certificate Issued

Upon successfully passing the practical welding test, an initial Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency and performance qualification card will be issued to the candidate. The Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency will be valid for up to 24 months.

Additional Performance Qualifications

During the period the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency is valid, the holder is eligible to obtain additional performance qualifications. There is no limit on the number of additional performance qualifications. Additional performance qualifications shall expire on the same date as the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency. Additional performance qualifications may be issued under the following conditions.

1. Additional performance qualification tests may be administered by the welder's employer, if the employer is a manufacturer that has a pressure welder testing program authorized in accordance with Section 21 of the Pressure Welders Regulation. In this case the additional performance qualification shall be documented as specified in the employer's authorized welder testing program.

Or

2. Additional performance qualification tests may be administered by a safety codes officer if the welder does not work for a manufacturer as described above. In this case, the safety codes officer will issue a performance qualification card if the candidate passes the test.

Certificate Expiry

Holders of certificates of competency issued under Section 10 are expected to become Alberta journeyman welders during the period the certificate is valid. The Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency certificate will expire on the date indicated. However, it is recognized that circumstances may arise under which the holder was not able to become an Alberta journeyman welder by the time the certificate expires (for example, extended periods of other employment, or unemployment). Therefore, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis that may allow the certificate holder to be re-tested and a subsequent certificate issued.

Interpretation Section 11 Alberta Apprentice Welders

Qualification

To qualify for a certificate of competency under Section 11 the candidate shall be an apprentice welder in their 2nd or subsequent year and their employer shall make application on the candidate's behalf.

Test

The candidate shall pass a practical test witnessed by a safety codes officer. The practical test specification shall be determined by the employer based on the production welding requirements intended for the candidate. The test specification shall be accepted by the safety codes officer in advance of the testing.

Certificate Issued

Upon successfully passing the practical welding test, an initial Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency and performance qualification card will be issued to the candidate. The certificate of competency will be valid for up to 24 months.

Additional Performance Qualifications

During the period the initial Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency is valid, the holder is eligible to obtain additional performance qualifications. There is no limit on the number of additional performance qualifications. Additional performance qualifications shall expire on the same date as the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency. Additional performance qualifications may be issued under the following conditions.

1. Additional performance qualification tests may, subject to the limitations stated below, be administered by the apprentice welder's employer, if the employer is a manufacturer that has a pressure welder testing program authorized in accordance with Section 21 of the Pressure Welders Regulation. In this case the additional performance qualification shall be documented as specified in the employers authorized welder testing program.

Limitations

- a. No limitations if the initial test was a Standard Test as specified in ABSA document AB-252, otherwise
- b. The additional performance qualification test cannot include
 - i. A change in product form from plate to pipe,
 - ii. A change to all position, or
 - iii. A change to open root with no backing.

2. Additional performance qualification tests that are outside the limitations of condition 1 above may be administered by a safety codes officer. In this case, the safety codes officer will issue a performance qualification card if the candidate passes the test.

Certificate Expiry

The initial Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency expires on the date indicated on the initial certificate. Apprentice welders that have not achieved journeyman status may be issued a subsequent Grade C Certificate of Competency upon successfully passing a performance qualification test witnessed by a Safety Codes Officer.

Interpretations Section 12 Grade C Equivalent

There are two conditions for Grade C equivalent certificates: urgent need under Section 12(1)(a); and out-of-province transfer under section 12(1)(b).

Interpretation Section 12(1)(a) Urgent Need

Qualification

To qualify for a certificate of competency under Section 12(1)(a) the candidate shall have experience and qualifications equivalent to the holder of a Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency; the candidate's employer shall apply on the candidate's behalf and shall certify in writing that the welding to be performed by the candidate is of an urgent nature.

Test

The candidate shall pass a practical test witnessed by a safety codes officer. The practical test specification shall be determined by the employer based on the production welding requirements intended for the candidate. The test specification shall be accepted by the safety codes officer in advance of the testing.

Certificate Issued

Upon successfully passing the practical welding test, an initial Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency and performance qualification card will be issued to the candidate. The certificate of competency will be valid for up to 30 days.

Additional Performance Qualifications

During the 30 day period, the holder is eligible to obtain additional performance qualifications. Additional performance qualification tests may be administered by a safety codes officer.

Certificate Expiry

Certificates of Competency issued under Section 12(1)(a) may be renewed if the employer reapplies and can make a satisfactory justification of the continuing urgent nature of the welding.

Interpretation Section 12(1)(b) Out of Province Transfer

Qualification

To qualify for a certificate of competency under Section 12(1)(b) the candidate's employer shall make application and provide evidence they hold a Journeyman Red Seal Certificate of Competency or a trade certificate, a valid pressure welder certificate of competency, and a valid performance qualification card all issued by a Canadian jurisdiction outside Alberta.

Test

There is no test for this type of certificate. The test conducted by the Canadian jurisdiction outside Alberta is recognized as equivalent.

Certificate Issued

Upon verification of the validity of the out-of-province Journeyman Red Seal Certificate or a trade certificate, pressure welder's certificate and performance qualification card, an initial Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency and performance qualification card will be issued to the candidate. The welding parameters shall be in accordance with the out-of-province performance qualification card. The Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency will expire at the earlier of the date the out-of-province performance qualification card expires, or 24 months.

Additional Performance Qualifications

During the period the certificate is valid, the holder of the certificate is eligible to obtain additional performance qualifications. There is no limit on the number of additional performance qualifications. Additional performance qualifications shall expire on the same date as the Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency. Additional performance qualifications may be issued under the following conditions.

1. Additional performance qualification tests may, subject to the limitations stated below, be administered by the welder's employer, if the employer is a manufacturer that has a pressure welder testing program authorized in accordance with Section 21 of the Pressure Welders Regulation. In this case the additional performance qualification shall be documented as specified in the employers authorized welder testing program.

Limitations

- a. No limitations if the initial test was a Standard Test as specified in ABSA document AB-252, otherwise
- b. The additional performance qualification test cannot include
 - i. A change in product form from plate to pipe,
 - ii. A change to all position, or
 - iii. A change to open root with no backing.

Or

- 2. Additional performance qualification tests may be administered by a safety codes officer if the welder does not work for a manufacturer as described above. In this case, the safety codes officer will issue a performance qualification card if the candidate passes the test.

Certificate Expiry

Certificates of Competency issued under Section 12(1)(b) shall not be renewed. The holder is expected to obtain an Alberta journey welder certificate, and so will be eligible for Grade B certification.

<original signed by>

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Chief Inspector, ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority

Reference – Excerpts from the Pressure Welders Regulation

Grade C certificate examination

10(1) A Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency examination consists of a performance qualification test conducted by a safety codes officer.

(2) To qualify to take a Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency examination, a candidate's employer or prospective employer or a testing organization must satisfy a safety codes officer that the candidate has

(a) engaged in welding in Alberta for a period and of a type of welding acceptable to the Administrator, or

(b) engaged in welding outside Alberta for a period of 36 months and holds a pressure welder qualification issued by a jurisdiction outside Alberta.

(3) To take a Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency examination, a candidate's employer or prospective employer or a testing organization must apply on the candidate's behalf to a safety codes officer at least 7 days before the examination on a form satisfactory to the Administrator.

AR 169/2002 s10;97/2009;103/2014

Grade C certificate issued to apprentice

11 Pursuant to section 42 of the Act, a Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency may be issued to an apprentice in the welder branch of the designated trade of welder during the 2nd or any subsequent year of the apprentice's apprenticeship education program under the *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act* if

(a) the employer of the apprentice applies to the Administrator in a form satisfactory to the Administrator, and

(b) the apprentice passes a performance qualification test conducted by a safety codes officer.

AR 169/2002 s11;97/2009;157/2022

Grade C equivalents

12(1) Pursuant to section 42 of the Act, a Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency may be issued to a person coming into Alberta

(a) who has, in the opinion of the Administrator, experience and qualifications equivalent to the holder of a Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency if the person's employer

(i) applies to the Administrator on a form satisfactory to the Administrator, and

(ii) certifies in writing to the Administrator that the welding to be performed is of an urgent nature,

or

(b) who has, notwithstanding section 10,

(i) a Journeyman Welder's Red Seal Certificate of Competency from a Canadian jurisdiction outside Alberta or a trade certificate in the welder branch of the designated trade of welder under the *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act*,

(ii) a valid pressure welder certificate of competency from a Canadian jurisdiction outside Alberta that is acceptable to the Administrator, and

(iii) a valid performance qualification certification from a Canadian jurisdiction outside Alberta that is acceptable to the Administrator.

(2) Despite section 8, a Grade C Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency issued under subsection (1)(a) may not be issued for a term exceeding 30 working days.

AR 169/2002 s12;97/2009;103/2014;157/2022