Welder Performance Qualifier Endorsement
– Program Description (WPQ1)
Scope of Endorsement (description)
AWS QC1, Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors, provides for endorsements that may be added to the CWI and SCWI certifications. Endorsements are indication of an additional knowledge, skill or ability documented in writing and added to an individual’s certification credential(s).

This endorsement meets a portion of the requirements for SWI Alternate Qualification in AWS B5.1 and Alternate Certification for the SCWI in QC1.

Disclaimer
Candidates should be aware that the term Qualifier throughout the document is drawn from its use in AWS B2.1/B2.1M Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification.

This does not imply that this endorsement is mandatory in order to conduct welder performance qualification tests unless specified in contract documents.

This endorsement is one of the qualification requirements for a Qualifier in accordance with AWS QC47 Specification for AWS Certification of Welders and Accreditation of Test Facilities.

Who should take the endorsement?
Any CWI or SCWI who wishes to receive a credential that documents their knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct welder performance qualification tests.

What are the requirements of taking the exam?
Candidates who hold an AWS CWI or SCWI wishing to take this examination to add as an endorsement to their AWS credentials shall be current in their AWS certification status.

Training Requirements
This endorsement has no mandatory training requirements. Candidates are encouraged to attend an AWS seminar or to perform self-study to become familiar with the Welder Performance Qualification subject matter.

Examination Requirements
Candidates seeking the Welder Performance Qualifier endorsement shall pass an open-book examination. To study for the endorsement, candidates may use the reference books used for the exam questions listed in Section “References for taking the endorsement examination.” Electronic versions of the reference books or relevant sections will be available on the computer at the test center during the exam. Candidates may also bring printed, bound copies of the reference books to the test center (photocopied books are not allowed).

Successful candidates must correctly answer 70% of the questions to receive this endorsement.
Test specifications

Test Specifications are a breakdown of exam content areas along with proportion of the exam devoted to each content area. This endorsement exam consists of a minimum of 50 questions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Subdomain</th>
<th>Percent of Questions on Exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domain 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pretest Activities</td>
<td>0101 Qualifier Pretest General Responsibilities</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0102 Equipment and Materials Required for Testing</td>
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<td>0103 Facility Requirements</td>
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<td>Domain 02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conducting the Test</td>
<td>0201 General Requirements</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>0202 Welding Variables</td>
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<td>0203 Fit-up and Welding of Test Coupon</td>
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<td>0204 Testing Requirements</td>
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<td>0205 Retests</td>
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<td>Domain 03</td>
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<td>Post Test Activities</td>
<td>0301 Welder Performance Qualification Record (WPQR)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0302 Documentation</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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Informative references for self-education

The following is a list of informative reference books (latest editions) to assist those wishing to learn and understand the best practices for performing welder qualification tests.

1. AWS Best Practices for Performing a Welder Qualification Test
3. AWS B5.4 Specification for the Qualification of Welder Test Facilities
4. AWS D1.1/D1.1M Structural Welding Code Steel
5. AWS D1.2/D1.2M Structural Welding Code Aluminum
6. AWS D1.4/D1.4M Structural Welding Code – Steel Reinforcing Bars
7. AASHTO/AWS D1.5M/D1.5 Bridge Welding Code
8. AWS D1.6/D1.6M Structural Welding Code – Stainless Steel
10. AWS B2.1 Standard Welding Procedure Specifications (SWPS)
11. ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IX: Welding, Brazing, and Fusing Qualifications
12. API 1104 Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities
13. ISO 9606-1 Qualification testing of welders – Fusion welding – Part 1: Steels
References for taking the endorsement examination

Most exam questions are directly answerable from the three provided reference documents. To answer these questions, candidates can either answer from memory and experience, or use the electronic copy of the document provided on the testing computer, or use their own bound printed copy of the following standards to navigate to the needed information.

3. AWS B5.4:2005 Specification for the Qualification of Welder Test Facilities

Some exam questions may be drawn from other standards that address welder performance qualification and that are included in the list of Informative references for self-education. For these questions, sufficient information to answer the question will be provided in the stem of the question; consulting a reference standard will not be necessary. Candidates are not permitted to bring printed copies from the Informative References for Self-Education list to the test location.

What question types appear on the endorsement examination?
The examination will consist primarily of multiple-choice items; some single correct answer items and alternative item types may appear as well.

How is the exam delivered?
The examination will be a computer-based test (CBT) delivered at a Prometric test center.

How much time does a candidate have to complete the CBT exam?
Candidates have a maximum of 180 minutes to complete the test.

How endorsement will be expressed?
Existing CWIs and SCWIs who meet the examination requirements will be awarded the endorsement in an approved manner.

Eligibility for initial certification or 9-year recertification
For new candidates to the CWI program, this examination is not an option for initial certification. For existing CWIs, successful completion of this endorsement can also satisfy the re-examination requirements for 9-year recertification, provided that the endorsement is taken during the immediate 9-year period.
Renewal requirements as an endorsement

This endorsement does not have any requirement for renewal. It will automatically be renewed at each CWI renewal or recertification. The endorsement will continue to be listed in an approved manner.

Professional Development Hours

N/A