

**AWS B5.17:2008**  
**An American National Standard**



# **Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators**



**American Welding Society**

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**An American National Standard**

**Approved by the**  
**American National Standards Institute**  
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# **Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators**

**3rd Edition**

**Supersedes AWS B5.17:2004**

Prepared by the  
American Welding Society (AWS) B5G Subcommittee on Fabricators

Under the Direction of the  
AWS Technical Activities Committee

Approved by the  
AWS Board of Directors

## **Abstract**

This standard establishes the minimum requirements necessary to qualify as a Welding Fabricator. The qualification is determined based on an examination of the implementation of the fabricator's quality manual to verify compliance to the requirements defined in this specification. This document also defines the Welding Fabricator's functions and lists the minimum reference materials that the Welding Fabricator should possess.



**American Welding Society**

550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, FL 33126

## Foreword

This foreword is not part of AWS B5.17:2008, *Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators*, but is included for informational purposes only.

This specification was developed by the AWS Personnel and Facilities Qualification Committee in response to an industry demand for a qualification document for welding fabricators. This specification establishes the qualification requirements from which a central certification agency or an employer may develop a certification program for welding fabricators.

This is the third edition of this specification. Editorial changes were made throughout the document. Significant changes were made to the Quality Manual Requirements (Clause 6). The scope and nature of the changes made could not be clearly communicated by underlining the revised clauses, so users of the previous edition are encouraged to compare the editions in order to identify revisions. The first edition followed the work of the AWS Task Group on Fabricators that created the document Welding Quality Assurance Guideline for Fabricators.

The Qualification and Certification Committee of the American Welding Society was formed in 1973. In 1996, it was divided into two committees. The Personnel and Facilities Qualification Committee is now responsible for creating American National Standards for welding personnel and welding facility qualification requirements. The AWS Certification Committee is now responsible for creating certification programs based on these and other recognized standards.

Comments and suggestions for the improvement of this standard are welcome. They should be sent to the Secretary, AWS Personnel and Facilities Qualification Committee, American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, FL 33126.

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# Specification for the Qualification of Welding Fabricators

## 1. Scope

**1.1** This specification establishes the minimum requirements for the Welding Quality Program for Welding Fabricators. This specification is intended to be used by welding fabricators regardless of the welding processes or materials used. This specification does not cover weldment design or nonwelding related fabrication processes, such as bolting and coatings. This specification is intended to offer assistance to the customers of Welding Fabricators who purchase weldments in various industry sectors in assessing the firm's capability to satisfy project quality needs.

The welding fabricator may be accredited by AWS as an AWS Certified Welding Fabricator, providing the fabricator meets the requirements of AWS QC17, *Standard for Accreditation of Welding Fabricators for AWS Certified Welding Fabricator Program*.

**1.2** This specification does not address safety issues associated with welding. It is the responsibility of the Welding Fabricators to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to determine the applicability of any regulatory limitations prior to welding. The requirements of ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*, plus the cautionary notes contained in the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) supplied by the material supplier should be part of each employer's safety program. Additional safety information is available in the *Safety and Health Fact Sheets* published by the American Welding Society (AWS).

**1.3** As used in this specification, the word 'shall' denotes a requirement; the word 'should' denotes a guideline or recommendation; and the word 'may' denotes a choice. The word 'welding' includes brazing, and the word 'welder' includes welding operators, brazers, and brazing operators.

**1.4** This standard does not require units of measure. Therefore, no equivalents or conversions are contained except when they are cited in examples.

## 2. Referenced Documents

The standards listed below are referenced within. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced standard shall apply. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply.

AWS Documents:<sup>1</sup>

ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*

AWS A2.4, *Standard Symbols for Welding, Brazing, and Nondestructive Examination*

AWS A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions*

AWS B1.11 *Guide for the Visual Examination of Welds*

AWS B2.1, *Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification*

*AWS Safety and Health Fact Sheets*

AWS QC1, *Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors*

AWS QC17, *Standard for Accreditation of Welding Fabricators for AWS Certified Welding Fabricator Program*

ASNT Documents:<sup>2</sup>

ASNT SNT-TC-1A, *Recommended Practice: Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing*

<sup>1</sup> AWS standards are published by the American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, FL 33126.

<sup>2</sup> ASNT documents are published by the American Society for Nondestructive Testing, Inc., 1711 Arlingate Lane, Columbus, OH 43228-0518.