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# Specification for AWS Certification of Radiographic Interpreters



**AWS QC15:2008**  
**Amendment: March 18, 2016**

# **Specification for AWS Certification of Radiographic Interpreters**

**1st Edition**

**Supersedes AWS QC15:2008**

Prepared by the  
American Welding Society (AWS) Subcommittee on Certified Radiographic Interpreters

Under the Direction of the  
AWS Certification Committee

Approved by the  
AWS Board of Directors

## **Abstract**

The AWS program for the certification of radiographic interpreters has been developed to define the minimum standards for a radiographic interpreter and to provide a means of recognition for those who demonstrate through examination that they have the necessary skill, knowledge, and experience in the field of radiographic interpretation of welds. AWS QC15:2008 describes the requirements and procedures for the certification of radiographic interpreters based on the qualification requirements of AWS B5.15:2003, *Specification for the Qualification of Radiographic Interpreters*. The certification of radiographic interpreters requires documentation of experience, satisfactory completion of an examination, and proof of visual acuity.



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## Foreword

This foreword is not part of AWS QC15:2008, *Specification for AWS Certification of Radiographic Interpreters*, but is included for informational purposes only.

The purpose of radiographic interpretation is to properly assess indications produced on radiographic media during the process of evaluating weldments or adjacent base metal. The radiographic interpreter must be thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the process of radiography as well as the welding and casting process. This includes, but may not be limited to, welding processes, materials limitation of various testing methods, drawings, procedures, specifications, behavior of different types of radioactivity (particles and photons), film construction, behavior of energy-sensitive imaging systems, mathematics, radiographic film selection, handling, and storage. For radiographic interpreters to be effective, they must not only be technically competent, but also consistent and ethically principled in their dealing with clients and employers.

The AWS program for the certification of radiographic interpreters has been developed to define the minimum standards for a radiographic interpreter and to provide a means of recognition for those who demonstrate through examination that they have a level of skill, knowledge, and experience in the field of radiographic interpretation of welds.

A vertical line in the margin indicates a revision from the 2008 edition.

Comments and suggestions for the improvement of this standard are welcome. They should be sent to the Secretary, AWS Certification Committee, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36th St, #130, Miami, FL 33166.

## Amendment

The following amendment has been identified and is incorporated in this reprint.

**AWS Standard:** QC15:2008  
**Amendment Number:** 1  
**Subject:** Subclause 7.2.3 (Certification and Recertification)

7.2.3 At least every 9 years, the CRI must successfully complete the Part B Examination described in Clause 6.

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## Errata

The following Errata have been identified and are incorporated in this reprint.

**AWS Standard:** QC15:2008, Specification for AWS Certification of Radiographic Interpreters

Page i, Title: replace “Specification for the Certification of Radiographic Inspectors” with “Specification for AWS Certification of Radiographic Interpreters”

Page ix, Foreword: replace “Specification for the Certification of Radiographic Inspectors” with “Specification for AWS Certification of Radiographic Interpreters”

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# Specification for AWS Certification of Radiographic Interpreters

## 1. Scope

**1.1** This specification establishes the requirements and procedures for the certification of radiographic interpreters by the American Welding Society (AWS). It describes how personnel are certified, and outlines the principles of conduct and practices by which certification may be maintained. This standard meets or exceeds the requirements of AWS B5.15:2003, *Specification for the Qualification of Radiographic Interpreters*.

**1.2** In the certification process, AWS conducts an examination to determine a person's general knowledge of radiographic interpretation and related technical areas. No determination is made of an individual's capabilities in applying that knowledge within a specific work environment or under actual working conditions. Certification is the documentation that the specified qualification requirements have been satisfied, and should not be construed as a guarantee of the future performance of an individual in a particular job environment.

**1.3** The employer is responsible for providing training and/or orientation of the radiographic interpreter to ensure that a person has all of the qualifications as stated herein.

**1.4** It shall be the responsibility of the employer to determine if the radiographic interpreter is physically and mentally capable of performing the duties involved in the work assignment.

**1.5** This standard is intended to supplement the requirements of an employer, code, standard, or other documents and shall not be construed as a preemption of the employer's rights and responsibility for the quality of work provided under contract to others.

**1.6** Certification as a radiographic interpreter does not confer to the individual any authority or imply any competence in the exposure of radiographic media. The handling of radiographic isotopes and similar hazardous material is not covered under this standard. This standard does not address safety issues relevant to the exposure of radiographic media.

**1.7 Levels of Certification.** There shall be one level of certification for radiographic interpreters termed Certified Radiographic Interpreter (CRI).

## 2. Normative References

The standards listed below contain provisions, which, through reference in this text, constitute mandatory provisions of this AWS standard. 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 A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions, Including Terms for Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, and Thermal Spraying*

AWS B5.15:2003, *Specification for the Qualification of Radiographic Interpreters*