



# **Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program**



**American Welding Society**

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**Keywords**— Test Facility  
Accreditation  
Laboratory Certification

**AWS QC 4-89**

# **Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program**

Prepared by  
AWS Qualification and Certification Committee

Under the Direction of  
AWS Education and Certification Council

Approved by  
AWS Board of Directors  
October 31, 1989

## **Abstract**

This Standard describes a program directed by the American Welding Society for a third-party accreditation of test facilities used to perform welding qualification—welding and testing.



**American Welding Society**

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

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## Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of the *Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program* AWS QC 4-89, but is included only for information).

**Purpose.** The purpose of the third-party accreditation of Test Facilities for welder qualification is to confirm that a Test Facility has the personnel, organization, experience, procedures, knowledge, equipment, capability, and commitment to conduct proper welder qualification testing for the AWS Certified Welder Program. This Standard describes the requirements and functions of the Test Facility to achieve this purpose and to complete reliable reports; and, to define relationships between the Test Facility and the other parties involved.

**Relationships.** A Test Facility shall be accredited to conduct welder qualification tests for the AWS Certified Welder Program. A person wishing to take tests to become an AWS certified welder shall prepare an application in accordance with AWS QC 3. The applicant is responsible to contact the Test Facility to arrange a specific date and time for the completion of the qualification test assembly. All acceptable test results and records will be returned to AWS by the Test Facility after the welder qualification test is completed.

**Dedication.** The Q&C Committee dedicates the publication of this Standard to Dalton E. Hamilton and Charla S. Cardoni. At the time of his death in May, 1988, Dalton Hamilton was the Chairman of the Q&C Committee. His efforts, clear thinking, ability to find consensus and tireless work contributed significantly to the Q&C Committee. At the time of her death in December, 1988, Charla Cardoni was the Special Assistant to the AWS Executive Director. From 1982 to September, 1988, she was the Director of the AWS Q&C Department. Her business management training and experience brought a sense of direction and order that contributed significantly to the AWS certification programs.

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# AWS Q C4-89

## Standard for

### Accreditation of Test Facilities

### for AWS Certified Welder Program

#### 1. Scope

**1.1 Requirements.** This Standard establishes minimum requirements for Test Facilities, their personnel, and equipment to qualify for accreditation to test and qualify welders in the AWS Certified Welder Program. This facility accreditation program is open to all Test Facilities that are qualified, whether or not they are members of AWS. The Test Facilities may be part of an independent laboratory, manufacturing plant, educational institution, or other party.

**1.2 Procedure.** This Standard establishes the procedure by which Test Facilities may seek, obtain, and maintain accreditation from an AWS designated third-party assessment agency to participate in the AWS Certified Welder Program.

**1.3 Safety Precautions.** Safety precautions shall conform to the latest edition of ANSI/ASC Z49.1-88, *Safety in Welding and Cutting*, published by the American Welding Society.

NOTE: This Standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices. The user should determine the applicability of any regulatory limitations prior to use.

#### 2. Definitions

Terms used in this Standard are defined in ANSI/AWS A 3.0-88, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions*, and as follows:

**acceptance criteria.** Specified limits placed on characteristics of an item, process or service as defined in codes, standards or other contract documents.

**accreditation.** Certification as being able to meet a prescribed standard.

**accredited facility.** A facility that applies to the AWS designated third party agency and received accreditation.

**AWS.** American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, Florida 33126.

**certification.** The act of determining, verifying, and attesting in writing to the qualification of personnel in accordance with specified requirements.

**facility representative.** An individual(s) designated by the Test Facility who can make legally binding commitments and statements on behalf of the Test Facility.

**inspection.** Examination or measurement to verify whether an item or activity conforms to specified requirements.

**inspector.** A person who performs inspection activities to verify conformance to specified requirements.

**NDE.** A designation in this Standard for nondestructive examination of welds using one of the approved non-destructive testing methods.

**Q&C Committee.** The Qualification and Certification Committee of the American Welding Society.

**Q&C Department.** The Qualification and Certification Department of the American Welding Society Miami, Florida.

**test supervisor.** An AWS Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) designated by the Accredited Test Facility.