



American Welding Society

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Visit our website <http://www.aws.org>



**We're interested...
How do we get more information?**

To get a package that contains the standards that govern the program, an application, the audit checklists, and a fee schedule, call the AWS Certification Department at our toll-free number: (800) 443-9353, ext. 476. Or, you can download it directly from the AWS Website at www.aws.org.

AWS Accredited Test Facility

About the American Welding Society

The American Welding Society, founded in 1919, is a multifaceted, not-for-profit organization whose major goal is advancing the science, technology and application of welding and related joining disciplines.

Membership

The Society's 48,500 members consist of educators, engineers, researchers, welders, technicians, inspectors, welding foremen, company officers and supervisors. Interests include automatic, semiautomatic, and manual welding, as well as brazing, soldering, ceramics, robotics, thermal spraying, and lasers. Activities include initiatives in research, safety and health, education, training, business, certification, and government liaison.

What is an AWS Accredited Test Facility

The nationwide system of AWS Accredited Test Facilities is a vital part in the operation of the AWS Certified Welder Program. AWS Accredited Test Facilities are a group of highly dedicated facilities that have proved that they have the necessary resources to test welders to a nationally recognized and accepted program.

What is the AWS Certified Welder Program?

The AWS Certified Welder Program is designed to provide portable welding credentials for code welders. Welders can test to a number of code-specific Supplements that pattern themselves after the qualification requirements of those specific codes. Supplements are available for the structural steel, chemical plant and refinery piping, sheet metal, and petroleum piping industries. A special feature allows welders to certify to non-code or company-specific welding procedures, allowing for the most flexibility in a rapidly changing regulatory climate.

How does the program actually work?

Welders will approach your facility and arrange for the actual welding performance qualification. They will pay a fee that you set and take the test. Upon successful completion of the test, you will forward a copy of the qualification test record and \$30 to AWS and we will issue a plastic certification card to the welder. AWS will enter that welder's name in the National Registry of Certified Welders and make that information available to any and all who require it. AWS Certified Welders will maintain their certification by periodically sending in a form that attests to their continued use of the welding process to which they were originally certified.

What does our facility have to do?

Basically, you have to prove to a third party that your facility has the personnel, organization, procedures, and resources to conduct proper welder qualification testing for the AWS Certified Welder Program. The way this is done is by a series of reviews of both your quality procedures and your facility itself. Your facility will demonstrate that it has the necessary procedures and physical resources to ensure the delivery of a quality product – an AWS Welder Certification – to your customers. At that time, your facility will join the growing ranks of facilities that are advancing the welding industry.

How much does all of this cost?

The administration of the AWS Accredited Test Facility program is designed to make participation in the program as affordable as possible. In a survey of other technical certification programs, the AWS Accredited Test Facility program is one of the least costly. Although we cannot quote an exact price due to geographical factors, participation in the program should average less than one thousand dollars a year. It is in the interest of AWS to strive to keep the costs of participating in the program low, showing our commitment to the welding industry.

Why should we become an AWS Accredited Test Facility?

Accreditation is recognition that your facility meets the high goals set by a nationally recognized organization that is committed to quality in all aspects of the welding industry. Your facility will play a key role in improving the acceptability of welder qualifications in your area. Demand for AWS Certified Welders will increase dramatically in the years ahead as more and more contractors realize the shortcomings and liabilities of self "certifications." By acting early, you will position yourself as the primary resource in your location for welder certification. And, although we are not involved in your business decision as to what you will charge for a welder certification, other AWS Accredited Test Facilities have realized a positive cash flow from the program.

What do we get as an AWS Accredited Test Facility?

- AWS Accredited Test Facility certificate and plaque.
- Your facility will be listed on our ATF list, which is distributed to the public.
- Your facility will be listed on the AWS Website, available to everyone who logs on to our site.
- Your facility will be advertised periodically in the award-winning *AWS Welding Journal* magazine.