



Editorial

Certification to EN 729 - More good news!

In the Autumn/Winter 1999/2000 edition of this newsletter my colleague Henk Bodt wrote an editorial about the EWF EN 729 certification scheme. Since then, there have been significant developments which will bring even more benefits to manufacturers seeking to achieve certification.

In this issue you will find news about a new document published by the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA). The document is entitled: 'EA Guidelines on the use of EN 45011 and EN 45012 for certification to EN 729', and has the reference number EA-6/02. Firstly it should be noted that even though the word 'guideline' is used in the title, the criteria it describes are essentially mandatory for any certification body seeking accreditation from an EA member to offer certification to EN 729. The criteria in the document are based on those applied in the EWF EN 729 Manufacturer's Certification Scheme and are particularly strict in the areas of: qualifications and experience of assessors, and the assessment of welding co-ordination personnel in the manufacturing organization. The publication of this document means that any European manufacturer seeking accredited certification to EN 729 can be confident that the assessors and assessment procedures will conform to the uniform criteria. It will ensure maximum recognition of certification throughout Europe. It is expected in future that the EA document will be adopted by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) which will bring even to more recognition, bearing in mind that EN 729 is also published as ISO 3834.

The 'best practice' approach adopted in the EA criteria will also have the effect of driving manufacturers who are certified EN 729 along the road of continuous improvement in their welding operations, thereby bringing even more opportunities for improved productivity and cost-effectiveness.

For clients, specifiers and purchasers of welded plant and equipment, the new EA document provides the necessary confidence for them to specify EN 729 accredited certification as a requirement for their suppliers. Doing so relieves them of the burden of checking the suppliers' welding operations directly, and it means that repairs and delays are less likely to occur. In the current climate of outsourcing as a way of

reducing costs, specification of EN 729 by the main contractors on their sub-contractors is also highly beneficial.

Finally, clients and suppliers alike must take account of the added value which the EWF EN 729 certification scheme still provides. The expertise within the EWF network of Authorised National Bodies for Company Certification (ANBCCs) is unparalleled and it ensures that certification through EWF brings maximum status and recognition. It also ensures that opportunities for continuous improvement are optimised. Furthermore, the certified manufacturers' details are publicly displayed on the EWF web-site. This brings free advertising of the company's capability in terms of welding processes, materials and products.

More than any other manufacturing operation, welding needs a 'get-it-right-first-time' approach. Certification under the EWF EN 729 scheme is the best way to achieve it!

T. J. Jessop
Chairman of EWF Technical Committee

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EWF & EA

History of a successful co-operation

January 1997

EWF publishes a series of documents for certification of companies in accordance with EN 729. The main document is EWF-483-01 - "Rules for the implementation of EWF Guidelines for certification of Manufacturers in accordance with EN 729" (available from www.ewf.be).

November 1997

Set up of EA - European Co-operation for Accreditation - grouping all the recognised national accreditation bodies in Europe. Its main objective is to play a key part in eliminating technical barriers to trade, giving guidance on the interpretation and implementation of the EN 45000 series of standards for certification bodies. EA members also have a mechanism for recognition of each other's accreditation.

December 1997

EWF asks EA to decide on the accreditation standard for EN 729 certification on a stand-alone basis. EWF informs EA that it is willing to help.

April 1998

Set up of an EA Working Group for NDT and Welding (EA-C5-WG6) with the following tasks: .

- Improve Mutual Recognition of certificates for NDT Personnel
- Improve harmonization of Accreditation Procedures for NDT Laboratories
- Harmonize the Procedures of Accreditation and certification in the application of EN 729

May 1998

EWF joins the first meeting of this Working Group. The main outcomes in this matter were:

- Harmonization with the objective of mutual recognition of certificates according to EN 729 is desirable
- The basis for the accreditation of bodies which certify plants according to EN 729 can only be EN45011 for EN 729 alone, or EN 45012 if EN 729 is combined with ISO 9001 or ISO 9002.
- The EWF EN 729 documents could, in principle, be adopted as "EA-recommended EWF documents", after revision by EA

September 1998

EWF meets to establish the work programme. The main outcome of the meeting was:

- EWF will be the European body to draft the rules for EN 729 accreditation, based on existing EWF documents. The drafts will need endorsement by EA-C5-WG6 and EA General Assembly
- "EWF Drafting Group" to revise the documents was set up with members from both EA and EWF

April 1999

The "EWF drafting Group" presents the first draft of the Guidelines, resulting from 7 months of discussions and improvements.

May 2000

The Guidelines proposed by the "EWF Drafting Group" are accepted by EA and published as EA Guidelines with reference: EA-6/02 (available for download from www.european-accreditation.org)

The collaboration between EA and EWF uniquely brought together expertise in accreditation criteria and expertise in manufacture by welding. This ensured that the special requirements of welding technology were properly accounted for, resulting in a technically sound set of accreditation criteria which can be applied uniformly by accreditation bodies through Europe.

EWF EN 729 scheme

The development of European and International Standards is having a profound effect on manufacturing and fabricating companies.

Many companies have achieved certification to ISO 9001 or 9002 with respect to their quality management systems. But where significant use is made of a special process like welding, such certification may be inadequate.

EN 729 (which is also published as ISO 3834) can overcome this shortfall and boost the manufacturing company's ability to sell its products in both domestic and overseas markets. It can also facilitate compliance with European Standards and Directives.

Benefits for fabricating companies

- Clear, high profile, independent verification of compliance by the world's leading authority on welding.
- Facilitates compliance with European Standards and Directives.
- Confirmation of welding and fabricating capability and staff competence.
- Improved client confidence leading to a reduction in external audits.
- Entry of the company's details on well-published national and European registers.
- Quality management and fabrication capability assessments carried out by specialist assessors.
- Increased national and international business potential.
- Certification packages to suit individual company requirements.
- EN 729 certification can be achieved alone or alongside ISO 9001/2 certification.

Registration of capability

EWF maintains a register of fabricators that have gained certification under the welding manufacturer certification scheme, information contained in the registers about companies and their capability is made freely available to enquirers world-wide. This provides an important sales benefit to certified companies.



Manufacturer Certification List

Company Name	Contact Person	Address and Tel No.	ISO 9001/2	EN 729	Product	Processes	Material	
Chapman Mechanical (Aberdeen) Ltd		Unit 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000						
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ETCETERA

EWF in EOTC

The value of EWF's work has been recognized by EOTC for almost 5 years by means of the authorization of the Agreement Group for Welding, Joining, Cutting and Surfacing.

EOTC has gone through some changes and its full name is now:

European Organization for Conformity Assessment.

EOTC has also recently developed a study to show the importance of Agreement Groups, using the examples of EWF and LOVAG. The study concluded that EWF is an example of good practice in the area of Mutual Recognition Agreements and a successful Agreement Group. The study identified the areas where EOTC should invest to make Agreement Groups more successful.

Find out more and read the study by visiting the website
<http://www.eotc.be>



EUROJOIN 4

4th European Conference on Welding, Joining and Cutting
Dubrovnik - Cavtat, Croatia
24-26 May 2001

For information on programme and registrations, visit the website: <http://www.eurojoin4.fsb.hr>

Leonardo projects

Weldiction

The Welding Multimedia Dictionary in 7 European languages. Information soon on our website!

Partners:

- . France (Institut de Soudure)
- . Germany (DVS PersZert)
- . Hungary (MHÉ)
- . Poland (Instytut Spawalnictwa)
- . Portugal (ISO and SAF)
- . Spain (CESOL)
- . United Kingdom (TWI)

Weld-on

The final analysis of the questionnaire regarding the evaluation of the EWF courses and the life-long training patterns of welding professionals, results available in our website: <http://www.ewf.be>

- . other activities
- . co-operation projects



The number of EWF diplomas awarded until the end of 1999 was 40.020.

The numbers of year 2000 will be available soon. We expect to be close to 50.000 diplomas issued worldwide!

VISIT EWF ONLINE
The EWF web homepage address is:
<http://www.ewf.be>