



Editorial

The International Authorisation Board Towards one global education and qualification system for welding personnel

One of the most significant achievements of the European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting (EFWJ) has been the harmonization of education and qualification of welding personnel in Europe. For almost 10 years, we have this system in operation and more than 35.000 EWF diplomas have been used.

The International Institute of Welding (IIW), working on global harmonization of education and qualification, had for a start, adopted EWF's system for the Welding Engineer, Welding Technologist, Welding Specialist and Welding Practitioner for global use.

For some years both IIW and EWF diplomas were issued in parallel, based on almost the same guidelines and rules. IIW and EWF, realizing that the industry they serve world wide is interested in one global system, decided in July 1999 to merge the IIW and EWF systems. To expedite this effort, a combined IIW-EWF Planning and Implementation (PI) Group started its activities in mid September of 1999. The results obtained so far are satisfactory.

Getting the education and qualification of IIW and EWF together has not been a technical matter only, it has been to a large extent a matter of getting people together.

It has been the policy of EWF to make its system globally available. We decided in EWF that it was to prefer to use IIW as the vehicle to do that. As Europeans, we have created and protected our system. It has come only after many years of discussion, planning and work of our members. We are very proud of our accomplishments. However, my experience during implementation on a global level has shown me that our protectionism has made it difficult for non-European countries to participate. We may have missed the richness and commercial significance of a truly global system in years past.

Now the way is cleared for an easier entree of non-European countries to contribute and guide the eventual "flavour and colour" of a truly harmonized global system for education, training and qualification of welding personnel.

I would like to thank all those who contributed.

Hans van den Brug
Chairman PI Group

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Internationalization of EWF's education and qualification system

The IIW and the EWF have agreed to a single education and qualification system for Welding Personnel.

By use of a single syllabus for each type of training course and a central system of control of examinations, the same qualification may be awarded in any country.

In order to administer this scheme and to develop it still further, the IIW has established the International Authorization Board (IAB). This organization publishes Guidelines for training syllabuses and examinations and implements the Quality Assurance system controlling the scheme.

An Organization, recognized by the National member, is appointed as the Authorized National Body (ANB) for the supervision of the scheme in each country. Representatives from these ANBs form the operational management within the IAB, electing Lead Assessors who ensure conformity of each ANB to the agreed Rules.

The EWF has operated such a scheme for several years, offering courses and qualifications for Welding Engineers, Inspectors, Welders and others. These qualifications form the basis of those issued by the IAB and will be absorbed into the more widely accepted International Diplomas.



Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
China
Croatia
Czech Rep.
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Hungary
Italy
Japan
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovak Rep.
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
U.S.A.
Yugoslavia

International Education, Examination and Qualification Scheme for Welding Personnel

The work of harmonizing the education, examination and qualification of welding personnel in Europe, started in 1980 with an analysis of the existing levels of education in welding in the EU and EFTA countries. From the results, it was possible to define common harmonized levels of education, examination and qualification.

The EWF Committee for Education and Training has prepared Guidelines for courses, giving the contents in terms of themes and keywords with minimum teaching times assigned to them. Access to the harmonized courses is allowed only to those who possess an appropriate general education, defined for each country.

The harmonized courses, which are now offered in most European countries, combine both underpinning knowledge and application experience, thereby providing close links with industrial practice. After the main education, special courses for additional learning are offered in many special areas, thus providing a specific education still closer to the job function.

The IIW - International Institute of Welding, Commission XIV "Education and Training", has dedicated its activity to the interchange of know-how in training in welding. More recently, Commission XIV developed international guidelines for qualification of Engineers, Technologists and Specialists in welding, based on the existing equivalent EWF guidelines.

In 1995, IIW also created Commission VII "Authorization and Qualification", which as indicated in its name, has the task to develop procedures for the management of the IIW Qualification Scheme. This Commission used EWF Doc. 03-416-94 "Rules for the Implementation of EWF Guidelines for the education, examination and qualification of welding personnel within EC and EFTA areas" as a basis for the development of the IIW rules.

In this context, since 1995, two similar systems for education and qualification of welding personnel were being used. Although these systems were based on the same concepts and documents, it meant that there was a risk of divergence in the future, as EWF and IIW separately started introducing adjustments for improvements.

In 1998, EWF and IIW signed the first agreement for co-operation towards the development of a single international system for education and qualification of welding personnel. Under this agreement a significant step ahead was recently taken with the creation of IAB - International Authorization Board, aimed at the effective integration of the EWF and IIW systems and its implementation in all IIW countries.

This international system now comprises the following documents:

Education, Examination and Qualification Guidelines for:

- . International Welding Engineer
- . International Welding Technologist
- . International Welding Specialist
- . Rules for the implementation of IIW Guidelines for the Education, Examination and Qualification of Welding Personnel

The countries that have joined this system are:

. with ANB
Austria, Belgium, China, Croatia, Czech Rep., Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Rep., Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom;

. with application to have an ANB
USA*, Japan*, Australia*, Canada, Yugoslavia.

* to be audited until the end of 2000

"International Authorization Board"

Is the name of the organization for qualification and authorization in which the EWF and IIW systems are combined into one harmonized international system.

Welding institutes and societies, members of IIW and EWF, have decided to collaborate in combining the EWF and IIW systems for education, qualification and authorization into one system.

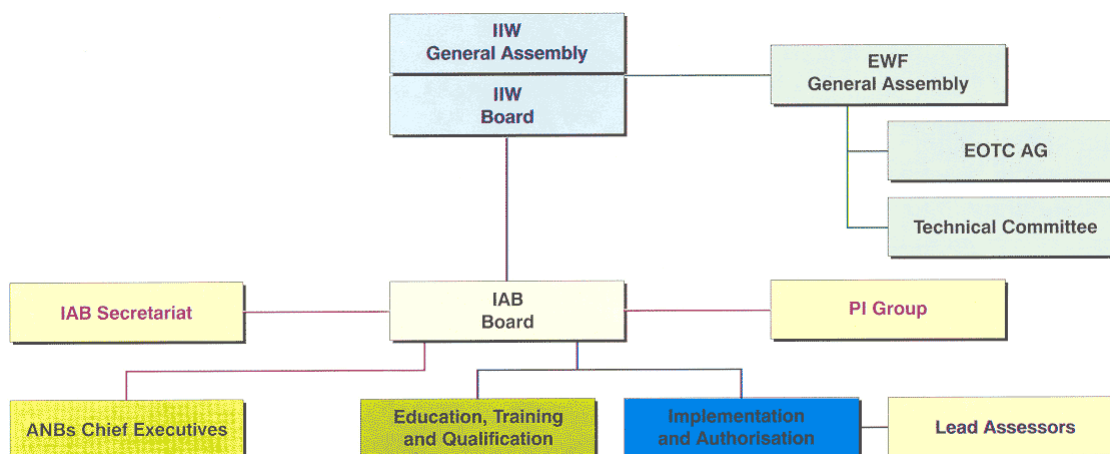
Combination of the two systems into one is achieved by having:

- . A single set of Guidelines for education, examination and qualification;
- . A single set of Rules for Implementation of Guidelines and Authorization of ANBs;
- . A single set of Operating Procedures;
- . One organization (IAB).

Objectives of IAB:

- . to operate one harmonized global system for issuing diplomas based on approved curriculum guidelines for personnel in welding and related fields, and
- . to authorize national bodies to implement the system, fulfilling the requirements of industry.

Organizational structure of IAB and links with EWF and IIW



The IAB Board

consists of:

- . Chairman (non-voting member, must become a member of IIW Board),
- . One representative each from Asia/Australia/Africa, Europe and Americas (voting members),
- . Chairmen of Group A and Group B (voting members),
- . Chief Executive of the Secretariat (non-voting member) and
- . temporarily the Chairman of the Planning and Implementation Group (non-voting member).

The PI Group

reports to the Chairman of the Board and has as basic responsibilities:

- . To assure goals are set for each level of the organization,
- . To track and facilitate the implementation and achievement of those goals.

The IAB Secretariat

supports the Board, the Lead Assessors, the Chairmen of the Groups, the ANBs Chief Executives Group and the Planning and Implementation Group in running the system.

The Secretariat will be managed by the Chief Executive, who reports to the Chairman of the Board.

The tasks of the **ANBs Chief Executives Group** are:

- . To improve the administration of the scheme within each country,
- . To develop marketing schemes to recruit ATBs and diploma holders,
- . To share final examination administration procedures,
- . To share ATB assessment discoveries,
- . To provide feedback from the field to the rules and guidelines groups,
- . To exchange best-practice ideas.

Group A

Education, Training and Qualification

Tasks:

to prepare and revise curriculum Guidelines

Group B

Implementation and Authorization

Tasks:

to prepare and revise the rules for implementing the Guide- lines, to supervise assessments of ANBs and to authorize national bodies to implement the system.

ETCETERA

ANBCC (Authorized National Body for Certification of Companies according to EN 729)

A new ANBCC has been approved in the Slovak Republic.

There are now 5 ANBCCs in Europe: Croatia, Italy, Poland, Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom.

The ANBs (Authorised National Body) network is now covering 21 countries.

From these, five are offering the EWF Personnel Certification Scheme: in Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, Slovenia and United Kingdom.

EWF DIPLOMAS

The number of EWF diplomas issued worldwide up to the end of 1999 was 38.771. During 1999 alone, 5.756 EWF diplomas were issued, distributed as shown in the following table:

EWE - European Welding Engineer	14.784
EWT - European Welding Technologist	3.436
EWS - European Welding Specialist	16.972
EWP - European Welding Practitioner	451
EW - European Welder	469
EWIP - European Welding Inspection Personnel	2.616
Others	43
TOTAL	38.771

"Welding Multimedia Software"

Weldiction Project

The proposal of EWF for the development of a Multimedia Dictionary for the welding field was approved by the European Commission.

The project started at the end of December 1999 and has an 18 month duration.

The dictionary will be available in the languages of the partners coming from France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Spain and U.K.

VISIT EWF ON-LINE

The EWF web homepage is now available at a different web address: www.ewf.be

EUROJOIN 4 - Dubrovnik - Cavtat, May 24.26,2000

4th European Conference on Welding, Joining and Cutting

Development of welding and allied processes at the beginning of the new millennium

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