

## Editorial

For six years now, the European Welding Federation has operated a harmonised Qualification Scheme for Welding Personnel resulting in the implementation of a variety of courses in the field of welding in most European countries. At this time, there are 11 EWF Guidelines for such courses and a total of more than 25.000 diplomas have been issued, throughout Europe.

The benefit of this harmonisation in the education and training of welding personnel is well known, and has been demonstrated by the expanding authorisation of EWF ANBs (Authorised National Bodies) and by a continuous increase in the diplomas awarded throughout Europe.

However, these diplomas are 'statements of knowledge attained' and do not identify competence. The diplomas mean that, at a particular point in the past history of the holder, a particular level of knowledge was attained. The diploma itself gives no indication of the person's current knowledge or competence.

EWF is aware of the importance of current competence in the field of welding and therefore it has created a formalised scheme for the Certification of Personnel, approved by the General Assembly in November 1997. The list of documents which describe this Scheme is shown at the back of this Newsletter.

The Certification Scheme provides a statement of current competence which helps the certificated person and his/her employer to satisfy EN719 Welding Co-ordinator - Tasks and responsibilities. Schemes implemented by ANBs which follow the EWF requirements may also be accredited to EN45013 by the national member of European Accreditation for Certification (EAC). It is believed that this 'chain' (EWF certificate, accredited to EN45013 by an EAC member, to meet the personnel competence requirements of EN719) is both unique and powerful. Companies and individuals are encouraged to take full advantage of this new Scheme.

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**. NEW EWF PERSONNEL  
CERTIFICATION SCHEME  
. THE LATEST EWF NEWS**

## Benefits of EWF Personnel Certification Scheme

Safety and profit depend on technical control of welding operations. Key- staff in all welding related activities 'need to have an appropriate level of competence in welding technology and its application. In addition to employing competent and tested welders, manufacturers should ensure that engineers, designers and technicians who deal with welding matters have proven relevant competence. This is increasingly becoming a contract requirement: a trend which is expected to accelerate as new European Directives and Standards for welding come into force. EN719 'Welding Co-ordination - Tasks and Responsibilities' requires people with welding or welding related responsibilities to be able to demonstrate that they are competent to carry out those responsibilities.

The EWF Certification Scheme provides a simple means by which job capability can be assessed and recognised. It defines the profile of education, knowledge, experience and responsibility required for a range of conventional welding tasks, and

provides a professional assessment procedure. Because Certification is concerned with current competence rather than historical attainment, periodic renewal is required. The scheme provides a convincing way of supporting companies seeking to achieve compliance with EN719.

It must be remembered that the only body which can issue an authority to work to an individual is the employer: EWF is only in a position to assist and support this process in a way which is convincing to the employer's customers particularly in relation to EN 719. Employers may also require some third party certification of their welding operations and one route to achieve this is the EN 729 scheme. This includes an assessment of the company's Welding Co-ordinators to EN 719. Although it does not require the welding co-ordinators to hold any particular qualification or certification, possession by the Welding Co-ordinators of a relevant EWF certificate will assist in the process of company certification. The position of the scheme in relation to other EWF activities is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1 - EWF Schemes supporting Companies and Individuals**

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
<p><i>EN 729 CERTIFICATION OF COMPANY</i> (Includes assessing Welding Co-ordinators to EN 719)</p>	<p><i>EWF EN729 SCHEME</i> (VOLUNTARY)</p> <p>↑ Supports</p>
<p><i>ISSUE AUTHORITY TO WORK</i> (Possibly in accordance with EN 719 for Welding Co-ordinators)</p>	<p><i>EMPLOYER</i> (<b>NOT</b> EWF)</p> <p>↑ Supports</p>
<p><i>DEMONSTRATE A WELDING CO-ORDINATOR'S KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE (CURRENT COMPETENCE)</i></p>	<p><i>EWF CERTIFICATE</i> (VOLUNTARY) <b>NEW</b></p> <p>Accreditable to EN 45013</p> <p>↑ Supports</p>
<p><i>DEMONSTRATE A WELDING CO-ORDINATOR'S KNOWLEDGE (HISTORICAL)</i></p>	<p><i>EWF DIPLOMA</i> (VOLUNTARY)</p> <p><b>NOT</b> Accreditable to EN 45013</p>

**Figure 2 - Steps to Certification**



Further details of each step are given below

**Figure 3 - Certification Titles**

Certification Title	Welding Knowledge Qualification Required
Certified European Welding Engineer	European Welding Engineer
Certified European Welding Technologist	European Welding Technologist
Certified European Welding Specialist	European Welding Specialist
Certified European Welding Practitioner	European Welding Practitioner

## **Principles of the Certification Scheme**

Four levels of certification are available, based on the first four EWF Diplomas: European Welding Engineer, Technologist, Specialist and Practitioner. The first three of these qualifications are deemed to satisfy the technical knowledge requirements of EN 719.

Figure 2 shows the route to achieve Engineer level certification and the routes for the other levels are similar. The certification titles are shown in Figure 3.

### **1. Welding knowledge**

To meet the objectives of the Scheme it is essential for candidates to demonstrate that they have attained

the welding knowledge appropriate to the level of certification sought. The EWF qualification at the appropriate level is therefore a mandatory requirement, as shown in figure 3.

Each of these qualifications requires certain 'access' requirements to be met. The access criteria therefore automatically provide assurance that the qualified person attained a minimum level of technical education.

### **2. Experience and capability**

Once the prescribed technical education and welding knowledge aspects have been satisfied, as indicated above, the next requirement is for the applicant to demonstrate

recent satisfactory experience and current capability. To achieve this the applicant must:

1. Have obtained a minimum of two years' experience which demonstrates successful application of welding technology at the appropriate level.
2. Provide evidence of work experience in relevant technical areas, at the appropriate level. Other activities may be acceptable. It is the applicant's responsibility to give an accurate account of his/her scope of responsibilities and activities in the submission to the Authorised National Body.

The list of documents is shown in a table on the back of the Newsletter.

### **3. Maintaining and developing knowledge**

Applicants and existing certified persons are required to demonstrate that they are maintaining and updating their knowledge relevant to the areas in which they practice, for example, by implementing a personal scheme for professional development. This is an important feature of certification because a person's capability is dependent on the knowledge base from which he/she operates. Technology does not stand still and therefore the individual's knowledge base must be continuously developed and refined during his/her working career in order to remain competent.

In order to satisfy this requirement applicants and certified persons will be required to describe their method of keeping up to date. This is usually accomplished in partnership with the employer. Evidence of participation in relevant activities; for example, training courses, seminars, committee work, etc; will be required.

### **4. Application for Certification**

When a candidate believes he/she has satisfied all the above requirements for certification, ie education, welding knowledge, experience and updating,

an official Application Form must be completed and submitted. On this form the applicant must provide the name of an appropriately qualified person (preferably European Welding Engineer) who may be invited to comment on the relevance and the level of certification sought. Endorsement by the applicant's employer or recent client in the case of self-employed applicants is also required.

The application is assessed by the Authorised National Body in the applicant's country and in some cases a Professional Interview may be required.

### **5. Renewal of Certification**

The EWF diplomas issued are, like a degree, valid for life. There is no check on whether the individual has kept up to date with the technology or whether he/she has continued to be involved in it. However, to certify a person's competence it is necessary to make sure, from time to time, that the person is still competent and, therefore, a 'surveillance' is absolutely necessary in a Certification Scheme. 'Surveillance' means that all certificates have a limited life (three years) at the end of which a renewal procedure has to be followed in order to renew and retain certification status.

At the renewal point, the holder is required to apply for re-certification using the official form. This requests information on the activities of the holder during the previous three years both in terms of job experience and in keeping up to date with relevant changes in technology.

In order to fulfill the requirements for re-certification, the holder will be required to demonstrate reasonably continuous involvement in welding technology during the previous three years at the appropriate level. In this context, 'reasonably continuous' means that any lapse of involvement during the three year period has not exceeded a total of 12 months duration. If lapses exceeding this requirement are present, a reassessment will be required by the Authorized National Body, and this may involve an interview.

# ETCETERA

## EWf Documents for the Personnel Certification Scheme

### Doc. EWF 511-01

"Certification Scheme for European Welding Engineers, European Welding Technologists, European Welding Specialists and European Welding Practitioners"

### Doc. EWF 512-01

"Initial Application"

### Doc. EWF 513-01

"Renewal Application"

### Doc. EWF 514-01

"Rules of Professional Conduct"

## THE LATEST EWF NEWS

### New Guidelines and Revisions

Apart from the documents of the Personnel Certification Scheme, the following Guidelines and revisions of Guidelines were approved by the General Assembly last November:

European Adhesive Engineer (Doc. EWF 517-01)

European Adhesive Specialist (Doc. EWF 516-01)

European Adhesive Bonder (Doc. EWF 515-01)

#### Revisions:

**EWE** - European Welding Engineer (Doc. EWF 409-06)

**EWT** - European Welding Technologist (Doc. EWF 410-06)

**EWS** - European Welding Specialist (Doc. EWF 411-06)

### The First ANBCCs (Authorized National Bodies for Company Certification)

After the approval of the EWF Manufacturers Certification Scheme, as advertised in the last Newsletter, the first two ANBCCs have now been authorized in the United Kingdom and in Italy.

In the near future, it is already predictable that a few more new ANBCCs will be authorized, namely in Austria.

### EWf Scheme Opens to Countries Outside Europe

The EWF Training and Qualifications Scheme has been running for a number of years and has proved to be both efficient and of high quality. The demand for personnel with EWF diplomas is increasing everyday, thus the General Assembly of EWF has decided to enlarge the scope of the Scheme to countries outside Europe. The profile of the organisations that may become Members and Observers of EWF, as defined in Article 6 of the EWF Constitution, is the following:

- . To be legally established in accordance with the laws and practice of their countries of origin
- . To be non-profit distributing organizations
- . To be financially stable
- . To be engaged in activities relating to the technical field of the association as defined in Article 3, including for instance Research and Development, standardisation, education and training, quality assurance and the exchange of information.
- . To be so organised as to be able to take into consideration the national interests of those industrial segments which make use of welding, in the field or application as defined in Article 3.
- . To have sufficient resources and funds for accomplishing all the essential activities for the conduct of a national welding organisation.
- . To ensure the resources and funds for sharing in the work of the EWF and implementing the decisions reached by the General Assembly.

There can be only one organisation per Country in EWF (as defined in Article 6 of the Constitution). To apply for EWF membership, please contact the EWF Secretariat:

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