

RAILSAFE

Education, Qualification and Certification

RAILSAFE -

..... a system for the education, training, qualification and certification of aluminothermic rail welders on a common European basis, designed to facilitate compliance with EN 14730-2

- **Structure of education, training, qualification and certification**

The system is voluntary and provides for theoretical education and practical training of aluminothermic welders, their examination, issue of a Diploma, valid for the life of the holder, and Certificates with limited time validity.

Qualification, resulting in the issue of a Diploma, requires theoretical education, practical training and theoretical and practical examination. This practical examination would normally be conducted out-of-track, e.g. in the training school. The theoretical education and examination for a Diploma is generic and the practical training and examination for a Diploma is process variant specific. After passing the examinations the welder will receive a generic Diploma valid for his/her whole life.

Certification requires qualification as above plus satisfactory track welding experience. Diploma holders are required to demonstrate a one year period of supervised, documented and satisfactory experience to receive a Certificate, which is process variant specific.

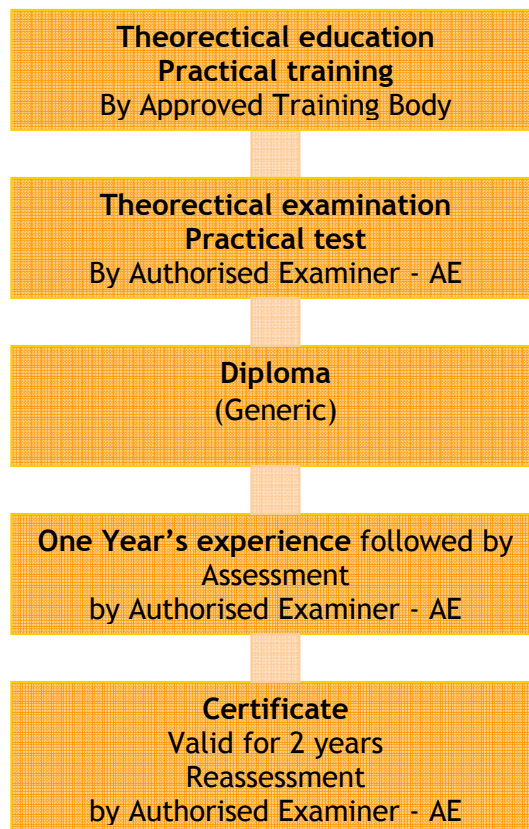
Certificates are valid for two years. In order to renew a Certificate for another two-year period, holders are required to demonstrate supervised, documented and satisfactory experience in the process variant for which the certificate was awarded during the period of validity of the certificate.

A Guideline, prepared by RAILS SAFE, is available through the European Welding Federation (EWF):

Minimum Requirements for the Education, Training, Examination, Qualification and Certification of a European Aluminothermic Welder (EAW),
RAILSAFE/GUIDE/PU/SLV/TB/060227 (to be downloaded from: www.ewf.be/railsafe)

- **Organisational structure**

To achieve uniformity across Europe, a European Rail Organisation (to be assigned or established by the European rail welding community) employs special rules for RAILS SAFE Authorised National Bodies (RANBs) in each country that wish to implement the rail welder training, qualification and certification scheme.



These rules require the RANB to establish a National Rail Welding Specialist Committee for this activity with representatives of the national rail industry sector.

The representation on this committee includes railway authorities, rail welding contractors, rail welding process suppliers that are active in the country concerned and rail welder training organisations.

This RANB is responsible for the implementation of the scheme at the national level. RANBs assess and approve Approved Training Bodies (ATBs) and they appoint Authorised Examiners (AEs).

The organisations to be RANBs are the national railway authorities, who could decide to subcontract their work to another organisation.

As long as the European Rail Organisation has not been established, the European Welding Federation has agreed to act as the European umbrella.

The Rules for the implementation of the RAILS SAFE system are available through the European Welding Federation (EWF):

Rules for the Implementation of RAILS SAFE Guidelines for the Education, Examination, Qualification and Certification of European Railway Track Welding and Related Personnel, RAILS SAFE/RULES/PU/TWI/TJJ (to be downloaded from: www.ewf.be/railsafe)

- **Background**

The RAILS SAFE system has been developed in a project, supported by the European Union Leonardo da Vinci Community Vocational Training Action Programme, aiming at continuing vocational training for life-long learning.

The project was carried out by 9 partners from 7 European countries, from 1 October 2004 till 30 September 2007.

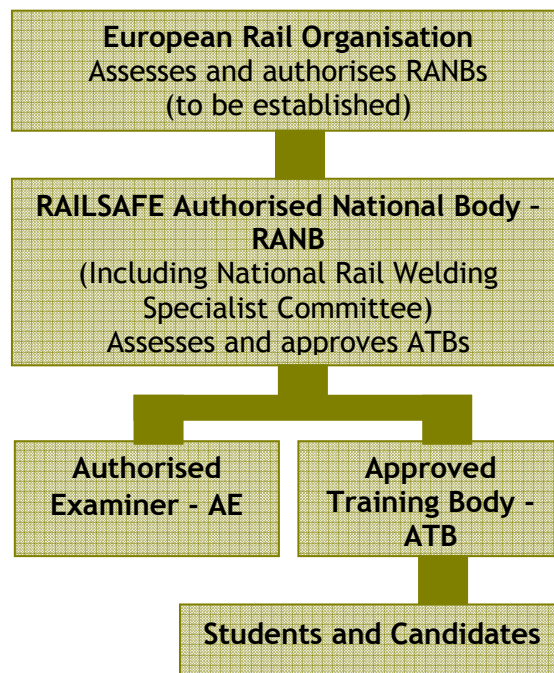
During workshops in 5 European countries, railway track experts have determined the industry requirements with regard to education and training of welders.

Apart from the Guideline and Rules, a data base for qualified and certified welders has been developed.

On a European seminar the outcomes of the project have been discussed, leading to amendments of the system.

The value of the system has been demonstrated in pilot training courses in 5 different countries.

The system supports and provides a method of achieving compliance with the CEN Standard EN 14730-2, Railway applications. Track. Aluminothermic welding of rails. Part 2: Qualification of aluminothermic welders, approval of contractors and acceptance of welds.



Enquiries about the RAILS SAFE system may be addressed to:

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