

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**QUALIFIED PRODUCT POLICY
FOR
FIELD WELDERS****1.0 General:**

As prescribed in section 709.4.3.5 of the Standard Specifications, all welders performing structural field welding must be listed on Qualified Product List (QPL) 41. This policy outlines the procedure for inclusion on this QPL.

2.0 Initial:

All field personnel welding structural steel, steel reinforcement, steel pile splices and other types of field structural welds shall be qualified to perform the type of welding in accordance with the qualification procedure of ANSI/AASHTO/AWS D 1.5 Bridge Welding Code as follows: A welder or tacker (hereafter known as "welder") may be qualified by preparing test specimens in the 2G position (horizontal groove) for limited thickness groove welding and in the 2F position (horizontal fillet) for fillet welding."

The above testing is the minimum and will qualify the welder for general welding at the job site. By choice of the welder, he/she may qualify for additional positions and unlimited material thickness as part of the above testing. Specialized welding and welding positions at the job site may require additional welder qualification testing if required by the Resident Engineer.

The test specimens shall be prepared in the presence of and tested and evaluated by an independent laboratory person qualified as a Welding Inspector. An ASNT Level II or III technician shall perform all radiographic nondestructive testing of the weld specimens. The independent laboratory shall furnish a welder qualification test report on company letterhead stationery stating the welding process, welding position, material thickness range, name of the welder, and the welder's identification number, along with a statement that the welder is duly qualified as a field welder in accordance with the South Carolina Department of Transportation requirements. The report shall show the name of the independent laboratory technician(s) making the evaluation and be signed by the independent laboratory manager.

Qualification from another state may be accepted, provided that the other state requires the same testing for qualification.

3.0 Expiration and Renewal:

Qualification shall be valid for two years from the date of issuance. The welder may request renewal every two years provided that the welder has been engaged in welding procedures during the preceding 2-year period. The welder may be renewed up to 90 days after expiration. After this period, initial qualification, including independent testing, will be required.

3.1 Accompanying the request for renewal, the following must be included:

- A letter from the welder's supervisor stating that the welder has been engaged in welding. This letter must include these elements:
 - Statement that welder has completed welding projects during the past certification period.
 - The supervisor's signature and contact information.
 - Specific examples of projects completed including what was welded and customer information.

(Note: If the welder seeking renewal is also owner of the welding enterprise, he or she may write and sign the required letter.)

4.0 Submission Information:

Requests for qualification, along with the required independent laboratory test report, and requests for renewal should be submitted to:

Caleb Gunter, PE
Structural Steel Engineer
SCDOT Office of Materials and Research
1406 Shop Road
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 737-6694
Fax: (803) 737-6649
Email: guntercb@scdot.org