

Requirements for Companies Certified To Weld Fabricated Metal Products

In the metal fabrication industry there are a variety of manufacturing practices and procedures that must be adhered to in order to produce quality products that meet federal and provincial standards and codes. Companies that assure these methods are implemented provide an individual, business or government with safe products that meet their expectations while decreasing the liability incurred by engaging non-compliant companies.

This fact sheet is meant to educate you in the proper method of determining whether welding trades or sub-trades meet Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) Certification requirements when they supply welded products to your project. –

- Under section 5500 Miscellaneous Metals there are typically 3 materials that require CWB welding procedures: Aluminum, Stainless Steel & Mild Steel. –
- Each of these metals fall into a different division for welding certification:
 - **Aluminum – CSA W47.2 & CSA W59.2 and AWS D1.2/D1.2M**
 - **Stainless Steel – CSA W47.1 & AWS D1.6/D1.6M**
- All companies supplying welded material, when it is specified they must carry out welding in accordance with the preceding standards, will be listed at the Canadian Welding Bureau. This information can be easily accessed through their website at www.cwbgroup.org. A simple search will reveal to which standard and in which division the company is certified. **Certification occurs when the company has followed the steps outlined below. Use of a non-certified company may result in non-compliance with provincial and/or safety standards.** –
- Depending on which fabricated metal product falls under which division, there may be various welding procedures required to fabricate those products. –
- A company that is certified to weld aluminum, stainless steel or mild steel is required to have a CWB Qualified welding supervisor, CWB Accepted welding procedures and CWB qualified welders. They may also be required to retain a CWB Accepted welding engineer. –
- **For every welding procedure, a welding procedure data sheet must be created by the engineer and carry his seal.** This data sheet is submitted to CWB and is reviewed and stamped accepted.. **This procedure data sheet is only applicable to the submitting company.** It is not transferable to another company. Upon acceptance of the data sheet the company can then arrange for a welder qualification test.
- In order for a company to comply with an engineer's request to have welding be in accordance with division standards, in a bidding and contracting requirement specification, **a welder must be qualified in both the welding process and position necessary to fabricate that product.** That means the welder has passed a practical test witnessed by the CWB and is being supervised by the company's CWB qualified welding supervisor. **Welder qualifications cannot be transferred to other individuals in the company.** –
- Welder qualifications are logged by CWB and the company must also keep copies of these qualifications and a report stating which individual is certified for which process and position. –
- **At any time a customer may ask a company to send all relevant data sheets and individual welder qualifications for all procedures that may be required in a tender. The company's letter of validation can also be requested to verify the certification of the company. Your due diligence in advance will determine safety, longevity and liability in the future**