

SPOTLIGHT ON THE 'RWC'

THE BUCK STOPS WITH YOU. NOVEMBER 2016



Over the last decade, the trend towards EN/ISO standardisation and the emphasis on quality-control normatives has driven fabricators – and the welding industry supply-chain – to raise standards of production, inspection, traceability and accountability.

The introduction of EN 1090 for CE-marking of structural fabrications, in 2014, was a clarion call for a key sector of the industry which had previously been light on regulation. However, many small and medium-sized UK structural fabricators were still unaware of their new obligations under this normative, over 2 years after its launch.

One of the key tenets of EN 1090 is the recognition of a formal title and duties for the person tasked with overall responsibility for the welding activities within the fabrication company. The 'Responsible Welding Coordinator' is a term which was formalised in ISO 14731, has been widely used in Germany (and other EU states) since 2006, and is already familiar to a number of multi-national engineering companies who have chosen to adopt the ISO 3834 standard for welding process quality-control.

As companies with active fabrication and welding operations, across all industry

sectors, seek to win contracts and remove intangible costs from their business by professionalising their welding activities, it is becoming more common to see a Responsible Welding Coordinator (or 'RWC') appointed, to achieve ISO 3834 or EN 1090 certification by implementing the protocols and procedures referred to in these standards.

Ideally the RWC is a time-served welder turned foreman or supervisor, but often the role is bestowed on a staff member who has less experience with welding, and/or quality-control, record-keeping, etc. In all these cases, navigating the requirements of the standards and refining the relevant sections for implementation into your business can be a challenge, and the significance of getting it right in order for the whole company to achieve approval by a Notifying Body (eg TUV, BCSA, etc) can be an unwelcome pressure. RWCs must demonstrate their competence in the role during a 2-hour 'technical interview'.

It is therefore important to be prepared, and the best way to gain the necessary knowledge and understanding of the RWC's responsibilities and best-practice procedures is to study a course that teaches the requirements and provides the essential

tools, templates, etc. There are several courses available in the industry, ranging from informal 2-day 'introduction to' workshops offered by consultants, to the year-long diploma-level qualifications available from EWF, TWI, etc. To make sure you get best value from your investment in training, choose a course that is accredited by a recognised Awarding Body.

Weldability Sif's training division deliver the Level 4 Responsible Welding Coordinator Course awarded by EAL (the Awarding Body of SEMTA, the sector skills council for engineering), which provides a DVD for distance-learning preparation, followed by a 1 week classroom- and workshop-based syllabus, with written and verbal assessments. Priced at just £1,500 +VAT, this course covers all of the required duties of the RWC up to execution-class II, including : Welding Technology, Consumables & Materials; Welding Metallurgy (Ferrous and Non-Ferrous); Weld Design, Imperfections and Inspection Techniques (Visual, NDT and Destructive Testing); Welding Procedure Qualifications; Welder/Operator Qualifications; Welding Quality Management Systems; Document-Control, Traceability and Legislation Requirements. Successful delegates receive Certification, an RWC Toolkit and a Template Pack, in addition to all course materials.

If your business is working towards EN 1090 or ISO 3834 approval – or due a surveillance audit for ongoing approval; or if you are personally seeking career-development into this rewarding role, visit www.learn-to-weld.com to book your place on the next RWC course.

sif tips



Technical advice in the original SifTips style was started in 1932. 'Sifbronzing' is an almost universally recognised way of describing the low temperature bronze welding of sheet steel, cast iron and other metals. This explains why Sifbronze, the company which first developed and promoted the technique, is generally considered to be a supplier of high quality welding rods, wires, fluxes and equipment.

'Will the Welder' was a SifTips magazine that was produced in the early 1930s. The aim was to provide users with ideas and tips on how to get the most out of their welding equipment.

Sif is renowned for its UK manufacturing heritage as well as its complete range of quality welding consumables for MIG/GMAW, TIG/GTAW, Arc/SMAW, Oxy/Fuel Welding and Brazing which have been used globally for almost a century.

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