

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP – FACT SHEET XI (06/06)

OUTLINE OF TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS IN WELDING

The chart shows how all the common welding qualifications, national and international, are being integrated – from basic welding skill up to welding engineer level.

It is proposed that qualifications which include welding skill as a major part are all co-ordinated through the National Welder Training Standard (NWTS). This is published as several Codes of Practice (CP documents). CP1 Part 1 is published but the remainder are currently in draft form.

The NWTS Codes of Practice satisfy, where appropriate, the relevant parts of the IIW International Welder Guideline and therefore facilitate the award of an IIW International Welder Diploma. The NWTS CPs also satisfy the underpinning knowledge and skill requirements for Levels 2 and 3 Craft Welding N/SVQs based on the SEMTA occupational standards.

The IIW International Welding Practitioner, although not currently available in the UK, could be made available if there was a sufficient demand. The higher level International Welding courses (Specialist, Technologist and Engineer) are all available in the UK. These qualifications are in demand as they are referred to, either directly or indirectly, in a number of European and International Standards. It should be noted that the IIW qualifications have now superseded the EWF European qualifications. The International Welding qualifications have also been adopted as a route to Professional Membership of The Welding Institute and Registration with the Engineering Council (UK). This can be seen on the chart. However, other routes to Professional Membership and Engineering Council registration remain available. For further information, please see Membership Fact Sheets I to V.

Higher level NVQs in welding engineering may become available. Level 4 occupational standards are in place (via ECITB) and level 3 standards are under development (via SEMTA).

The chart is not comprehensive: it includes only 'mainstream' welding qualifications. Many other welding qualifications exist and are widely used, e.g. CSWIP, International Welding Inspector, etc. As with the mainstream qualifications, attempts are being made to integrate these, but the arrangements are too complicated to attempt to show in the chart. Information can be provided on request.



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