# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 14732

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# Welding personnel — Qualification testing of welding operators and weld setters for mechanized and automatic welding of metallic materials

Personnel en soudage — Épreuve de qualification des opérateurs soudeurs et des régleurs en soudage pour le soudage mécanisé et le Teh ST soudage automatique des matériaux métalliques

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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

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# **Foreword**

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. www.iso.org/directives

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received. www.iso.org/patents

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 44, Welding and allied processes, Subcommittee SC 11, Qualification requirements for welding and allied processes personnel.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 14732:1998), of which it constitutes a technical revision.

Requests for official interpretations of any aspect of this International Standard should be directed to the Secretariat of ISO/TC 44/SC 11 via your national standards body. Alcomplete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org.

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# Introduction

This International Standard is intended to provide the basis for the mutual recognition by examining bodies of qualification related to the competence of welding operators and weld setters in the various fields of application. Tests shall by carried out in accordance with this International Standard unless more severe tests are specified by the relevant application standard, when these shall be applied.

The welding operator's or weld setter's ability and job knowledge continue to be approved only if the welding operators or weld setters are working with reasonable continuity on welding work within the extent of qualification. However, a functional knowledge test is mandatory.

It is presumed that the welding operator or weld setter has received training or has industrial practice within the range of qualification.

All new qualifications are to be in accordance with this International Standard from the date of issue.

At the end of its period of validity, the existing and valid qualification testing of welding operators and weld setters in accordance with the requirements of a national standard may be revalidated in accordance with this International Standard. The new range of qualification will be interpreted in accordance with the requirements of this International Standard.

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# Welding personnel — Qualification testing of welding operators and weld setters for mechanized and automatic welding of metallic materials

# 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for qualification of welding operators and also weld setters for mechanized and automatic welding.

This International Standard does not apply to personnel exclusively performing loading or unloading of the automatic welding unit.

This International Standard is applicable when qualification testing of welding operators and weld setters is required by the contract or by the application standard.

The requirements for testing of stud welding operators and setters are given in ISO 14555. The qualification and revalidation is in accordance with this International Standard.

Annex A dealing with functional knowledge forms an integral part of this International Standard. Annex B dealing with welding technical knowledge, Annex C outlining the qualification test certificate and the Bibliography are informative.

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# 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references only the edition cited applies. For undated references the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3834-2, Quality requirements for fusion welding of metallic materials — Part 2: Comprehensive quality requirements

ISO 4063, Welding and allied processes — Nomenclature of processes and reference numbers

ISO 9606-1, Qualification testing of welders — Fusion welding — Part 1: Steels

ISO 9606-2, Qualification test of welders — Fusion welding — Part 2: Aluminium and aluminium alloys

ISO 9606-3, Approval testing of welders — Fusion welding — Part 3: Copper and copper alloys

ISO 9606-4, Approval testing of welders — Fusion welding — Part 4: Nickel and nickel alloys

 ${\tt ISO\,9606-5}$ ,  ${\tt Approval\,testing\,of\,welders-Fusion\,welding-Part\,5}$ :  ${\tt Titanium\,and\,titanium\,alloys}$ ,  ${\tt zirconium\,and\,zirconium\,alloys}$ 

ISO 14555, Welding — Arc stud welding of metallic materials

ISO 15609-1, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure specification — Part 1: Arc welding

ISO 15609-3, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure specification — Part 3: Electron beam welding

ISO 15609-4, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure specification — Part 4: Laser beam welding

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ISO 15609-5, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure specification — Part 5: Resistance welding

ISO 15613, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Qualification based on pre-production welding test

ISO 15614-1, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 1: Arc and gas welding of steels and arc welding of nickel and nickel alloys

ISO 15614-2, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 2: Arc welding of aluminium and its alloys

ISO 15614-5, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 5: Arc welding of titanium, zirconium and their alloys

ISO 15614-6, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 6: Arc and gas welding of copper and its alloys

ISO 15614-7, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 7: Overlay welding

ISO 15614-8, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 8: Welding of tubes to tube-plate joints

ISO 15614-11, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 11: Electron and laser beam welding

ISO 15614-13, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 13: Upset (resistance butt) and flash welding all

ISO 15614-14, Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials — Welding procedure test — Part 14: Laser-arc hybrid welding of steels, nickel and nickel alloys

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# 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

# 3.1

# automatic welding

welding in which all operations are performed without welding operator intervention during the process

Note 1 to entry: Manual adjustment of welding variables by the welding operator during welding is not possible.

## 3.2

# mechanized welding

welding where the required welding conditions are maintained by mechanical or electronic means but may be manually varied during the process

# 3.3

# pre-production welding test

welding test having the same function as a welding procedure test, but based on a non-standard test piece, representative of the production conditions

## 3.4

# production test

welding test carried out in the production environment with the welding unit, on actual products or on simplified test pieces, before production or during an interruption in normal production

## 3.5

# production sample testing

testing of actual welded products sampled from a continuous production

## 3.6

# programming

incorporation of the approved welding procedure specification and/or the specified movements of the welding unit into a programme

# 3.7

# setting-up

correct adjustment of the welding unit before welding, if required by entering the robot programme

# welding operator

person who controls or adjusts any welding parameter for mechanized or automatic welding

## weld setter

person who sets up welding equipment for mechanized or automatic welding

# welding unit

welding installation including auxiliary apparatus such as jigs and fixtures, robot manipulators and rotating devices

## 3.11

# welding unit operation

starting and, if necessary, stopping of the production cycle, including loading and unloading the work pieces

# 3.12

# examiner

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examiner (standards.iteh.ai) person who has been appointed to verify compliance with the applicable standard

Note 1 to entry: In certain cases, an external independent examiner can be required.

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# 3.13

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# examining body

organization that has been appointed to verify compliance with the applicable standard

Note 1 to entry: In certain cases, an external independent examining body can be required.

# 3.14

# welding equipment

individual apparatus used in welding, such as a power source or wire feeder

# Qualification

# 4.1 Methods of qualification

The qualification test for welding operators and weld setters shall follow a preliminary welding procedure specification (pWPS) or welding procedure specification (WPS) prepared in accordance with the relevant part of ISO 15609.

Welding operators or weld setters shall be qualified by one of the following methods:

- qualification based on a welding procedure test in accordance with the relevant part of ISO 15614;
- b) qualification based on a pre-production welding test in accordance with ISO 15613;
- c) qualification based on a test piece in accordance with the relevant part of ISO 9606;
- d) qualification based on a production test or production sample test.

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For arc welding processes when using methods c) or d), the testing and acceptance criteria shall be in accordance with the relevant part of ISO 9606 for butt or fillet welds or ISO 15614-8 for tube to tube-plate welds, unless otherwise specified by an application standard.

For arc welding processes using methods a), c) and d) and for method b) which refers to ISO 15614, the qualification test for overlay welding based on ISO 15614-7 shall require visual testing, surface (magnetic particle/liquid penetrant) testing and bend testing only when a qualified WPS is used by the welding operator.

For other welding processes when using methods c) or d), the qualification of the weld setter and welding operator shall be in accordance with the relevant standard. Where the relevant standard does not specify testing and acceptance requirements, then as a minimum the test piece shall be visually tested and at least one macro-section shall be taken or, for butt welds, volumetric testing shall be carried out. The acceptance criteria shall be specified as for the relevant international welding procedure specification.

Any method of qualification may be supplemented by a test of knowledge related to welding technology. Such a test is not mandatory. Annex B includes a recommendation for such a test.

Any method of qualification shall be supplemented by a test of the functional knowledge appropriate to the welding unit, see  $\underbrace{Annex\ A}$ .

The essential variables and the range of qualification are specified in the appropriate subclauses of  $\underline{4.2}$  and the period of validity in  $\underline{\text{Clause 5}}$ .

# 4.2 Essential variables and the range of qualification ITeh STANDARD PREVIEW

# 4.2.1 General

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Provided that the welding operator or weld setter works according to a qualified WPS, there are no limitations on the range of qualification other than those specified in 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.

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# 4.2.2 Automatic welding

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The following changes require re-qualification:

- change of the welding process (except variants within welding process 13 as defined in ISO 4063);
- welding with or without arc sensor and/or joint sensor;
- change from single-run-per-side technique to multi-run-per-side technique (but not *vice versa*);
- change of type of welding unit (including change in the robot control system).
- change from welding with arc sensor and/or joint sensor to welding without arc sensor and/or joint sensor (but not *vice versa*).

# 4.2.3 Mechanized welding

The following changes require re-qualification:

- change of the welding process (except variants within welding process 13 as defined in ISO 4063);
- change from direct visual control to remote visual control and *vice versa*;
- deletion of automatic arc length control;
- deletion of automatic joint tracking;
- addition of welding positions other than those already qualified in accordance with ISO 9606-1;
- change from single-run-per-side technique to multi-run-per-side technique (but not *vice versa*);

- deletion of backing;
- deletion of consumable inserts.

# Period of validity

# 5.1 Initial qualification

The welding operator or weld setter qualification begins from the date of welding of the test piece(s), provided that the required testing has been carried out and the test results obtained were acceptable. Each certificate needs to be confirmed every six months, otherwise it becomes invalid.

The validity of a certificate may be extended as specified in 5.3. The method chosen for the extension of qualification, 5.3 a), b) or c), shall be stated on the certificate at the time of issue.

# 5.2 Confirmation of validity

The qualifications of a welding operator or weld setter for a process shall be confirmed every six months by the person responsible for welding activities or examiner/examining body. This confirms that the welding operator or weld setter has worked within the range of qualification and extends the validity of the qualification for a further six-month period.

This subclause is applicable to all the options for revalidation given in 5.3.

# 5.3 Revalidation of qualification

Revalidation shall be carried out by an examiner/examining body.

The competence of the welding operator well well well be periodically verified by one of the following methods: https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/7443f7ec-7135-4c9d-9f2e-0e3fa64c2127/iso-14732-2013

- The welding operator or weld setter shall be retested every six years.
- Every three years, two welds made during the last six months of the validity period shall be tested by radiographic or ultrasonic testing or destructive testing and the results shall be recorded. The acceptance levels for imperfections shall be as specified in the application standards. The weld tests shall reproduce the original test conditions. These tests revalidate the qualification for an additional three years.
- A qualification for any certificate shall be valid as long as it is confirmed in accordance with 5.2 and provided all the following conditions are fulfilled:
  - the welding operator or weld setter is working for the same manufacturer for whom he or she qualified and who is responsible for the manufacture of the product;
  - that the manufacturer's ISO 3834-2 or ISO 3834-3 quality requirements have been proven by verification:
  - that the manufacturer has documented that the welding operator or weld setter has produced welds of acceptable quality based on application standards.

# 5.4 Revocation of qualification

When there is a specific reason to question a welding operator's or weld setter's ability to make welds that meet the product standard quality requirements, the qualifications that support the welding he or she is doing shall be revoked. All other qualifications not questioned shall remain valid.