

E-mail your comments to Mary Ruth Johnsen, mjohnsen@aws.org

Reader Suggests Additional Certifications for Higher Earning Potential

In the Spring 2007 issue of *Inspection Trends*, in The Answer Is section (page 28), an individual who had become a CWI two years ago and was seeking to increase his/her earning potential asked for recommendations for additional certifications.

Although I agree with the response that both ASNT NDT and NACE certifications are good recommendations, I am also equally disappointed that they did not recommend additional AWS certifications such as the Certified Welding Supervisor (CWS), Certified Welding Educator (CWE), Radiographic Interpreter (RI), etc.

Jackie W. Morris
Quality, Warranty & Environmental Mgr.
Bender Shipbuilding & Repair Co., Inc.
Mobile, Ala.
AWS SCWI, CWS, and CWE

Additional Information on Cutting with Oxyfuel

I thought I would clarify the question in The Answer Is section of the Spring 2007 *Inspection Trends* (page 28) from the writer who thought the question/answer published in the fifth edition of the Sample CWI Fundamental Examination was in error.

The question is, "Which of the following metals cannot be

efficiently cut with OFC?"

This is a question that comes from the history of the CWI program and would rely on experience and, to some extent, welding background. The basis for the question is general knowledge and would be covered by welding textbooks and classroom activities. I am not sure whether the rewrites of the *Welding Handbooks* address this process in modern-day versions but older editions did.

Cast iron can be more effectively "cut" with oxyfuel utilizing a method called stack cutting where a waste piece of carbon steel is placed on top of the cast iron and assists in the rapid oxidation phenomenon inherent with oxyfuel cutting. The carbon steel actually assists in facilitating the cut of the cast iron. This is not widely used in industry at this technological period but was discussed in committee during the early years of test bank development. This "helpful hint" actually made it easier to cut cast iron than stainless steel. This cannot be achieved with stainless steels. Thus the correct answer to the question is stainless steel. AWS CWIs must have a knowledge base that includes experience as well as textbook knowledge. Not all information to be competent in the field can be found in the written word. One must rely on experience at times.

Don Grubbs
Training Manager, 904 Corporate — TCM Div.
Team Industrial Services, Inc.
Alvin, Tex.
AWS CWI and former director, AWS Certification Dept.