



Meeting Report: ISO 3834 Workshop
Held At: Graz, Austria
Date: July 9, 2008

The workshop was to promote the use of ISO 3834. Speakers were:

- Detlef Von Hofe (Germany): Overview of ISO 3834 and its relationship with product standards
- Tim Jessop (UK): Certification Scheme
- Horia Dascau (Romania): Experiences of the Romanian ANBCC
- Chris Smallbone (Australia): Promotion and Marketing of ISO 3834 outside of Europe
- Stefano Morra (Italy): Experiences of the Italian ANBCC

Overview of ISO 3834

- EN729 was the predecessor to ISO 3834
- ISO 9000 covers welding as a "special process"; ISO 3834 deals with how to cover this process
- 1.2 M person involved in welding in EU; 455,000 in Germany
- Original IIW document 902-86 developed: "Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Welding Technology"
- ISO 3834-1 describes the system
- ISO 3834-2, ISO 3834-3, ISO 3834-4 covers 3 different levels: Comprehensive; Basic; Elementary
- Welder qualification requirements are the same for all 3 parts
- Main differences in the 3 parts are around requirements for documentation, and assignment of responsibility
- ISO 3834-5 describes documents necessary to claim conformity to -2, -3 or -4
- Allowed methodology
 - Following the ISO documents
 - Adoption of other documents that provide technically equivalent conditions to the ISO documents
 - Adoption of different supporting standards where these are required in application standards used by the manufacturers
- Audit must be completed by independent 3rd party; not necessarily the notified body of the country/jurisdiction

IIW Certification Schemes

- Current schemes
 - Manufacturers of Products
 - Welding Coordination Personnel
- Based on EWF schemes in place since mid 90's
- Company Certification
 - IAB Group B deals with scheme documentation and ANBCC for the company certification systems
 - ANBCC is responsible for granting certifications and monitoring auditors
- IIW Document 337 – Interpretation and Implementation
- IIW Document 338 – Supplements: about European directives and standards
- IIW Document 339 – Rules for ANBCC's: aligned with ISO 17021
 - 16 ANBCC currently approved
- IIW Document 340 – Rules for ANBCC's assessment of Companies
- Personnel Certification
- IIW Document 341 – Rules for Personnel Certification
 - Based on ISO 14731
 - Does provide proof of competence to ISO 14731
 - Certification renewed every 3 years, based on continuing competence

- IAB Group B deals with the scheme documentation
- ANB assess and certify the welding coordinators

Experiences of the Romanian ANBCC

- Romania had a national certification scheme from 1985 to 2000, which assisted in the transition to ISO 3834
- At present 87 companies were certified by the Romanian Welding Association (ASR); 81 in Romania, the rest in Bulgaria, Moldova and Serbia
- About 49% of companies are in the Petrochemical industry

Promotion and Marketing of ISO 3834 outside of Europe

Overview of challenges and proposed solutions in the Australian experience.

Note: Chris Smallbone will post his presentation on the IIW web site.

Experiences of the Italian ANBCC

- Italian Institute of Welding was the first ANBCC in 1997, previously using EN729.
- 130 companies currently certified; 200 companies have gone through process
 - 40% are in structural steel
 - 15% in light structures such as equipment frames and railway vehicles
 - 15% in equipment and machinery
 - 30% in petrochemical and pressure vessels
- Recently, certification to ISO 3834 became mandatory by law
- Many large specifiers have made ISO 3834 mandatory
- Some have done it voluntarily – about 40% of the total certified.
- Total market is about 1000 companies, so the percentage certified is quite low – even in Europe, the challenge to sell ISO 3834 is significant)

Italy and Romania represent about 50% of all ISO 3834 companies presently certified under the IIW ANBCC scheme, about 500 in total.

But there are many other organizations that offer the certification program. The total number of companies with 3834 is unknown. It seems this figure is not available, and other “registrars” do not need to publish their numbers.

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