

The BOC Apprentice Welder Competition 2012 Prospectus

 **BOC**
A Member of The Linde Group

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Introduction

The BOC Apprentice Welder Competition is open any Apprentice/Trainee, Full or Part Time Learner who is undertaking a recognised national craft qualification in welding.

1. The competition aims

The aims of the Apprentice Welder Competition are:-

- To give apprentices and trainee welders the experience of participating in a skills competition as part of their education
- To reinforce the importance of craft skills and practices
- To reflect the requirements for regional welding skills within the home nations
- To raise the profile of welding skills
- Encourage competitors to advance to international skills competitions

2. Competition levels

The Apprentice Welder Competition has four levels:-

- Level A Internal training provider competitions
- Level B Inter-training provider regional competitions
- Level C Home nation Finals
- Level D UK national Final

The competition is progressive at each level the competitors are required to demonstrate that their welding skills have developed and although the test piece design may remain unchanged the competitors will be required to weld them in different positions.

3. Competition requirements

Level A

At this level, the competition is run internally by the training provider. At its simplest, it could involve the formal recognition of the best practical work produced by Learners during the year. It is recommended that there should be some competitive element: so it could be based on the quality of weld test pieces produced under competition conditions and judged by the training provider's staff.

Level B: Regional final

This second level is held at a suitable training provider's venue within the region. The top three competitors from Level A are invited to compete. The competitors are required to complete 4 set welding test pieces in low carbon steel, using Manual Metal Arc (MMA), Metal Active Gas (MAG) and Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) processes. Judges will be supplied by BOC and independent of the Training Providers.

Level B competitions takes place over a whole day and include:

- Preparing the test pieces
- Judging
- Prize giving

Level C: Home nation finals

The finals will be held at three venues across the UK (England Scotland & Wales). The top 2/3 competitors from the respective regional competitions will be invited to compete. It must be noted at this level the competitors have gain their place on merit and no substitutions will be accepted.

To demonstrate that the competitors skills have developed they will be required to complete 4 set welding test pieces in low carbon steel within a given time in different welding position to the regional finals, using Manual Metal Arc (MMA), Metal Active Gas (MAG) and Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) processes. Judging will be independent of the Training Providers.

Level D UK. National Final

At this level the 3 finalist from the Home Nations will be invited to The Welding Institute to compete for the title of BOC Apprentice Welder of the year.

4. Competition test pieces

To assist training providers in designing their Level A competition details of the set test pieces specification for levels B & C are available on the competition website www.boconline.co.uk/welder_competition together with guidance for Level A test pieces, this is not mandatory and the training provide can design their own competition to suit local requirements

5. Dates

Please refer to the Competition Calendar available from the website www.boconline.co.uk/welder_competition. Level A competitions are to be completed 14 days before your regional final

6. Entry requirements

The Apprentice Welder Competition is open to all Apprentices, Trainees and Full- Part Time Learners of any age who is engaged on a recognised national craft qualification in welding.

7. Judging

Judging criteria for **Level A** weld test pieces is the responsibility of the training provider. Additional advice is available from BOC if required. Judging for level B, C & D will be independent of the training providers and will take the form of visual inspection conforming to ISO 5817 Grade C & D respectively. No volumetric or destructive testing of the weld piece will take place.

8. Support

BOC Will provide the following:

- Prizes for all levels
- A bursary towards the cost of material and welding consumables for Regional and Home Nation finals.
- One nights hotel accommodation competitors only entering home nation finals
- Independent Judges for levels B, C & D
- PR Support to the overall competition

Training Providers are to supply their own materials and welding consumables for Level A.

9. Registration

To register for the competition log on to the competition website www.boconline.co.uk/welder_competition and follow the link to the registration page.

10. Competition second attempt

A competitor who has achieved entry into Level C but did not gain entry to Level D or gain a place in Level D but did not win, may attempt the competition for a second time provided:

- That he has not completed his award body course during the year of his application
- He is selected by his college or Training Provider for re-entry to Level B
- He did not win the UK National Finals

Only one second attempt will be allowed for a competitor who meets the above requirements.

11. Further progression

At BOC we do not see the Apprentice Welder Competition as end and will actively encourage competitors, who have the potential to represent the UK in future international welding competitions should they meet the required profile, for age and personality plus they have developed the required welding skills.