



To: All Members

Re: Article 21 – Welder’s Qualifications and Testing

1. During the recent round of negotiations, several updates were made to the Welding Test Fund (WTF) Program to better reflect the needs of Zones and the increasing costs associated with this testing. These changes came into effect on May 1, 2025.

2. Zones are no longer restricted to the 6010/7018 Carbon Steel Procedure (MCAO F3F4-07). They are now able to select the test for which best reflects the needs of their membership. Each zone shall establish its preferred zone-specific procedure, which will remain the standard procedure for that zone for a minimum of one full year. Welders are eligible for reimbursement by MCAO for only one test annually.

3. New reimbursement levels of \$200 for the noted zone-specific procedure have been updated in the new Collective Agreement and are outlined in the following sub-paragraphs of Article 21.4

b) Employed welders shall be paid by the Contractor at the regular rate of pay, including all applicable benefits, for the successful completion of a qualification test on the noted zone-specific procedure.

c) Unemployed welders shall be paid a total of \$200.00 for a qualification test successfully completed on the Zone’s preferred MCAO Standard procedure. The welder will be entitled to receive this pay from the first Contractor that hires the welder. When hired, the welder is to submit written verification to the Contractor (from the Local Union) that such test was conducted while unemployed. The Contractor shall thereafter be reimbursed by MCAO for this payment.

d) Costs related to Test Facilities and Materials, in relation to the noted zone-specific procedure tests conducted by the Local Union (on both Employed and Unemployed Welders), shall be covered by the Local Union; and reimbursed to the Local Union at \$200.00 per test successfully completed.

e) TSSA Fees for conducting all tests on the preferred zone-specific procedure (for both Employed and Unemployed Welders) shall be paid by MCAO either by reimbursement form or directly to the TSSA when available.

4. Exclusive of the Collective Agreement, contractors (employers) can also be reimbursed for the time taken by an employee to complete the test, up to a maximum of four (4) hours, at the local zone's regular rate of pay as defined by the Collective Agreement, including all applicable benefits and industry funds, etc., with no additional overhead or markups applied.

5. Additionally, contractors (employers) can also be reimbursed for costs related to testing materials, in relation to the noted zone-specific procedure tests when the test is not performed at the UA test facility but is performed at the contractor's site or facility. The contractor (employer) shall be reimbursed a total of \$200.00 for each successfully completed test in accordance with para 2.