



:: Information Booklet ::

National Skill Competition
for Best of the Best Welders – 2026
(An Associate Event of the International Institute of Welding)

Organised by

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF WELDING
(A Member Society of the International Institute of Welding)

Sponsored by

M/s voestalpine Bohler Welding India Pvt. Ltd.



Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| A. Best Structural Welder (SMAW) | - | 2F & 3G Positions (Carbon Steel) |
| B. Best Structural Welder (GMAW) | - | 2F & 3G Positions (Carbon Steel) |
| C. Best Pipe Welder (Root Pass: GTAW | | |
| Fill & Cap Passes: SMAW) | - | 6G Position (Carbon Steel) |
| D. Best Pipe Welder (GMAW) | - | 6G Position (Carbon Steel) |
| E. Best Pipe Welder (GTAW) | - | 6G Position (Carbon Steel) |

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Indian Institute of Welding conducts the “National Skill Competition for Best of the Best Welders” every year.
2. **This competition is open to all and FREE; and not gender specific.** The desirous candidates are required to contact the nearest Branch.
3. The Branches to propose one person as the single point of contact (SPOC) for this competition.
4. The industries may conduct the competition by themselves and may send the nominations (Winners only) directly for final; however, they must intimate respective IIW-India Branches for the witness and assessment.
5. Carrying out the competition by the Branches will be the complete responsibility of Branch Management. Also, they will witness the competition to be held in different industries in their jurisdiction.
6. The preliminary competitions will be conducted by different Branches of IIW-India. The **Winners** from Branch level competitions are eligible to take part in the National Final.
7. **The candidates are allowed to participate in one category only. The past Winners of the National level competition is not eligible to take part in the same category.**
8. The preliminary competitions should be completed within **15th October 2026 along with results of branch level**, so that the name of the Winners can be sent for the National level competition. **No entries for National Finals will be entertained thereafter.**
9. Branches to strictly follow the evaluation guidelines and send welders for finals accordingly.
10. The National Final for the Best of the Best Welders Competition will be held tentatively between **first or second week of December 2026 (exact dates to be intimated later). Venue will be Vadodara, Gujarat for finals.**
11. The candidates selected for the National level competition will be provided with free Boarding and Lodging by the Organisers for a maximum of 2 days.
12. The result of the Finals will be declared within two weeks after the National Finals, and the prizes will be distributed during the Inaugural Session of the **7th International Congress-2027, on 10th February 2027, in Vadodara, Gujarat.**
13. The Best of the Best Welders (Winners & Runner-up) selected at Finals will be given the “**Best of the Best Welder Award**”, which includes a Cash prize and a certificate for each Category.
14. The Winners of National Finals are eligible for taking part in the International Competitions, subject to the discretion of IIW-India and the Rules & Regulations of the Organisers, which will be intimated later.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Must be able to read and write in English and / or in any Indian Language.
2. Must have minimum 2 years’ experience in practical welding.
3. Must have basic theoretical knowledge of welding.
4. Must have some knowledge of the Codes / Standards being followed in their workplace.
5. Must be between **18 to 50 years old as on 31st October 2026.**



CONTACT FOR COMMUNICATION

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

General:

1. Only one set of pre-prepared test coupon (four plates or two pipe pieces) shall be provided to each competitor.
2. The welded test coupon shall be assessed through Visual Examination and only the qualified coupons will then be sent for Radiographic Testing.
3. Total Marks: 100 (50 marks for Visual assessment of test coupons and 50 marks for Radiographic assessment).
4. In case there is a tie in marks, completion time will be the factor for winning the competition. i.e., Welder, who have completed in lesser time, will be declare as the Winner.

Material:

Plate: ASTM A36 / IS 2062 or Equivalent

Pipe: ASTM A106 Gr. B / API 5L Gr. B or Equivalent

Dimension:

5. Plate: 200 mm X 100 mm X 8 mm thk. (2 pieces for Butt Weld and 2 pieces for Fillet Weld) for categories A & B (SMAW & GMAW).
1. Pipe: NB 4" Sch. 40 (6.02 mm thk.) X 100 mm lg. (2 pieces) for categories C & D (SMAW & GMAW).
2. Pipe: NB 2" Sch. 40 (3.91 mm thk.) X 100 mm lg. (2 pieces) for category E (GTAW).

Assembly and Tack Welding:

1. Single V preparation within 55 ~ 65 degree with root gap and root face as per Welder's choice for Butt welds.
2. Tack welding:
 - a) Fillet welding plates shall be tacked in both the edges and at the centre of back side (15 mm)
 - b) Butt welding plates shall be tacked in both ends of the groove with 15 mm length each
 - c) 4" Pipe shall be tacked in 3 positions with 15 mm length each (except in overhead position)
 - d) 2" Pipe shall be tacked in 2 positions with 10 mm length each (except in overhead position)

Consumables:

1. Categories A : E7018 dia 2.5 mm & 3.2 mm (AWS A5.1)
2. Category C : ER70S-2 for Root Pass Dia 2mm & Fill & Cap Passes with E7018 3.2mm
3. Categories B & D : ER70S-6 dia 1.2 mm (AWS A5.18)
4. Category E : ER70S-2 dia 2 mm (AWS A5.18)

Cleaning:

Grinding is not allowed on back of root and capping run. Hacksaw Blade and brush may be used for cleaning.

Completion Time (including setup / tacking):

1. Category A : 60 min
2. Category B : 50 min
3. Category C : 90 min
4. Category D : 60 min
5. Category E : 45 min

Assessment:

1. Visual assessment for all coupons shall be done in accordance with ISO 5817.
2. Radiography assessment (only for the visually qualified test coupons) shall be done in accordance with ASME SEC. IX 191.1.2. RT to be performed for full circumference in case of pipe welds and in case of butt weld plates RT to be performed on 150mm length.
3. Final marks will be provided by adding both the marks of visual and radiographic assessments.

Certification:

1. Certificate of Participation to be issued to each welder at Branch level competition by the respective Branch. Certificates also to be issued to the Winner of each category by the Branch.
2. Certificate of Participation to be issued to each Competitor at Finals by the Organising Committee of International Congress. Award Certificate for the Winners and Runners-Up will be issued by IIW-India HQ,

**PROFORMA FOR APPLICATION / NOMINATION FOR
NATIONAL SKILL COMPETITION FOR BEST OF THE BEST WELDERS – 2026**

Application for Best of the Best Welder Competition in Category

Forwarded by IIW-India Branch

PLEASE FILL ALL THE DETAILS IN CAPITAL LETTERS

1. Name:
2. Date of Birth:
3. Present Address:

4. Mobile no.:
5. E-mail id:
6. Photo id (type & no.):
7. Name of Sponsoring Organization (if Applicable):

8. Address of the Organization:
(With Tel. No. & Email)

9. Welder Qualification details:

Process	Position	Organisation	Material Grade	Thickness range of welder qualification

4. Professional Experience in years:

5. Nature of welding work performed:

Declaration: I hereby declare that I will follow all the instructions provided for the Best of the Best Welder Competition. I will take part in a fair and friendly manner and will accept the results declared as final. I also declare that all the particulars stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of the applicant:

Date:

Signature of the Nominating authority (if sponsored):

Name: Designation:

(Note: Welder ID issued within last one year/letter from organization is must for participating in competition).

IIW-India Branch office Entries:

Form Received From on
For competition in Structural Welder (A / B) / Pipe Welder (C / D / E) category (please tick the category applied for).

Signature of Receiving Authority of the Branch office:

Name: Designation:

Photographs
(1 photo to be
affixed here, 1 photo
to be stapled with
the form for Branch
and 1 photo to be
handed over during
the National Final)