

ASSESSMENT OF THE SKILLS OF LOCAL WELDERS
TO INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS

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The standard of performance of local welders in manual arc welding and gas cutting were assessed by conduction interviews and trade tests. They were from various industrial organizations in the country.

Research Methodology:

One hundred and six (106) welders were interviewed and trade tested to ASME IX standards at the Training Centre of the Colombo Dockyard (Pte) Limited, with a view to recruiting them to fill the existing vacancies in the Company.

Applications were called in the newspapers and the suitable candidates were summoned for an interview and a trade test.

Results:

Of all those who were summoned for the interview only 42% were fit to be given a trade test after checking on their basic knowledge. Of them only 5% were found to have reached the skilled level and another 15% managed to reach semi-skilled level. The balance 80% were found to be unskilled.

All those who were found to be skilled at this trade test, have either been trained by foreign experts engaged in local projects or those who have been working abroad. The Colombo Dockyard has to maintain the above mentioned standards as it is engaged in a competitive trade at international level.

Observations :

The results show that a vast majority of local welders have not reached satisfactory standards. Their performance was found to be far below the internationally accepted levels.

Conclusion:

The following were the reasons that appear to have caused this situation.

- a) There is little need to improve the present standard of performance due to poor demand for quality work.
- b) Poor training standards maintained by the training institutions in the country.
- c) Effective training facilities available in the country are very limited.