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Welder

Description

A welder joins metal parts by different types of welding according to the technical documentation. In addition to metal, a welder can also work with plastic material. He is responsible for preparation and finishing of pieces that are welded and in that process different hand tools are used (wrenches /spanners, hammer, combination pliers, screwdriver, file, grinder, hand milling machine, etc.), instruments (meter, manometer, angle, callipers, laser thermometer, etc.) and machines and devices (different welding equipment-gas, manual, electric arc, in protective atmosphere of CO₂ and inert gas, gas welding). Welder working activities include organization (maintenance and preparation of the work place), operational activities (reading technical documentation, control of pieces, welding, joining and cleaning the work pieces), administrative activities and HSE (implementation of safety measures, workplace safety rules and environmental protection). Due to the specificities of welders' job and risk welders are exposed to, a special attention is paid to safety at work and use of personal protective equipment (ppe): gowns, gloves, shoes, protective mask, goggles, hard cap, antiphone, apron and harness.

Welder job is performed in shifts in production plants, halls, production and service shops and at construction sites. The job is physically demanding and includes exposure to polluted air, extreme temperatures, noise, poor lights, risks from burns, mechanical injuries and poisoning. Those performing this profession often work in an air polluted environment, extreme temperatures, noise, cramped conditions and poor lighting and may be at risk to be exposed to burns, mechanical injuries, falls, poisoning, fire and explosion. Welder job is often determined as a workplace with higher risk according to the Risk Assessment Act.

Desirable traits/requirements

- Manual dexterity
- Agility and physical endurance
- Good sight and precision
- Sense of shape and proportion
- Visual imagination
- Spatial orientation
- Healthy musculoskeletal system
- Responsibility and reliability
- Being well-organized and team-oriented

Positive aspects:

- The welder performs a highly responsible job. The fields of work are broad and this job is in a constant demand. Metals industry is versatile, technologically more advanced, a high-quality products and structures are produced requiring competent welders.

Negative strane:

- Welders must be precise and cautious when handling machines and equipment. They work mostly in a standing or squatting position in noisy plants and halls, exposed to high temperatures, pollutions and injury or burn risks.

Career path/ fields of work

The welder's job requires completion of three-year secondary vocational education for the occupation of a welder or locksmith-welder, i.e., non-formal training program lasting minimum 960 hours. Competences for certain welding methods (MIG, MAG, TIG, REL, EPP, resistance welding, gas welding) can be acquired through shorter non-formal trainings. Depending on the employer's or procuring entity's requirements, appropriate certification/attestation of welders may be required which can be obtained only at relevant accredited institutions.