

**Department of Labor**

<b>Application License Name</b>	<b>Required Education Level</b>	<b>Required Experience/Qualifications</b>	<b>Statutory Citation</b>	<b>Fees</b>
Welder	There are no specific educational requirements; however, a working knowledge of the occupation is necessary. Possible knowledge areas include shielded metal arc welding, stud arc welding, submerged arc welding.	Proof of having passed technical examination	59 O.S.,§. 1636	\$25.00

# **Occupational Licensing Blueprint**

## **Roadmap for Occupational Licensing**

- Is there a compelling public interest that needs to be protected?
  - If yes, then continue
  - If no, then no regulation is required
  - Types public interests
    - Public health
    - Public safety
    - Fundamental rights
    - Substantial fiduciary interest
- Is the least restrictive means that would sufficiently protect the public interest used?
  - If yes, then continue
  - If no, then use a less restrictive means
  - Regulation options from least restrictive to most restrictive
    - Market Competition
    - Third-party or consumer created ratings and reviews
    - Private certification
    - Specific private civil cause of action or alternative dispute resolution
    - Deceptive trade practice act
    - Regulation of the process of providing specific goods or services to consumers
    - Public inspection
    - Mandatory bonding or insurance
    - Registration
    - Government certification
    - Business License
    - Specialty occupational license for medial reimbursement
    - Occupational license
- If occupational licensing is used, does the board in charge of such licensure have a controlling number of board members as market participants?
  - If yes, continue (board does not have antitrust immunity yet)
  - If no, stop (board has antitrust immunity)
- Is there active supervision of the board's actions by the state?
  - If yes, then board has antitrust immunity
  - If no, then board is subject to antitrust litigation

## Occupational Regulation Blueprint

### License Details

**What is the license?** Oklahoma Welding License

As of 1 July 2019 there were 6,722 licensed welders, 61 certified test facilities, and 104 state certified weld test inspectors.

**What does the license cover?** Any welded assembly in which the bulk of the component parts are prepared and joined by any combination of the cutting and welding processes covered by Section 1628 of the welding act.

**What Board regulates the license?** This license is not regulated by a board but is administered by the Safety Standards Division of the Oklahoma Department of Labor.

### Compelling Public Interest

**What is the compelling public interest (see Annex, item 1)?** Public Safety

**Is this public interest a demonstrated, real, significant, and probable harm (see Annex, item 2)?** Yes

### Least Restrictive Means

**What means is used to protect the public interest?** Occupational Licensing

**Is it the least restrictive means (see Annex, item 3), which sufficiently protects the interest (see Annex, item 4)?** Yes. While the American Welding Society is the definitive certification entity in North America, it does not provide for a basic welding certification. The Oklahoma state welder license enables individual's employment opportunities that may otherwise not be available as there is no training or education requirement. Passing the weld test indicates the required proficiency.

**If the answer to the above question is "No" then do not use that type of regulation to protect the public interest.**

-----*Continue only if Occupational Licensing was Used*-----

### Controlling Number of Market Participants on the Board

**How many members are on the regulatory board?** There is no regulatory board.

**How many of them are active market participants (see Annex, item 5)?** N/A

**Is the board controlled by these active market participants (see Annex, item 6)?** N/A

-----*Continue only if the Board is Controlled by Market Participants*-----

Active Supervision of the Board

**Is there active state supervision of the board (see Annex, item 7)?** No, there is no board.

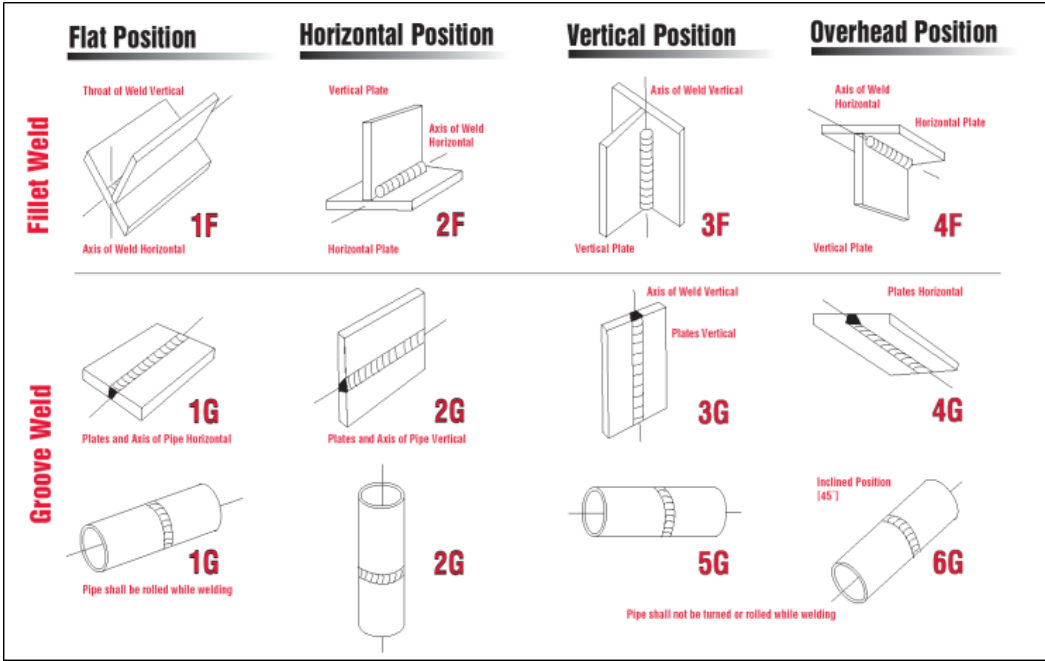
**If the answer to the above question is “No” then board’s conduct may violate the Sherman Act and the board’s actions are not protected by state immunity.**

In order to be certified the individual must pass a weld test administered by a state certified weld test inspector at a state certified weld test facility. The annual certification fee for a welding license is \$25.00 (regardless of category or position) with a \$10.00 late fee for up to one (1) year past expiration. After one year past expiration the welder must retake and pass the weld test examination for their respective category and position. There is no fee to upgrade a category.

Fees collected for the 2018 fiscal year included \$184,770.00 in welder certification fees, \$2,300.00 in weld inspector fees and \$15,250.00 in weld test facility fees. The entirety of the \$202,320.00 was deposited in the state’s General Revenue Fund.

Felony convictions and military member/spouse reciprocity found in HB 1373 and SB 670, respectively, will have limited application to this license. A felony conviction does not prevent an individual from entering/performing within this industry. The Oklahoma Department of Labor shall apply all relevant provisions of the SB 670, however, the weld test requirements found in the Oklahoma Welding Act, 59 O.S. §§ 1624 – 1641, would remain in effect for any relocating military member or spouse to ensure public safety. There should be no limiting factors to obtaining a welding license within thirty (30) days of military transfer or honorable discharge to Oklahoma.

HB 2933, codified at 59 O.S. § 4003, which requires a one-time, one-year, fee waiver for low-income individuals has been implemented on a case-by-case basis. There is a process in place to waive the fee(s) for any individual demonstrating a financial need. The Department’s default response is to approve any validated need giving the benefit of the doubt to the individual.



## Annex

1. *Definition of a compelling public interest.* A compelling public interest must be one of the following interests: public health, public safety, fundamental rights, or a substantial fiduciary interest.
2. *Definition of a demonstrated, significant, and probable harm.* A harm is demonstrated when it has occurred in the past. A harm is significant when it could cause damage that merits action by lawmakers. A harm is probable when its propensity to occur merits action by lawmakers. When determining whether a harm is significant and probable, lawmakers may analyze various sources of information, including whether similar activities are licensed or regulated in other states. If, in other states, a lack of licensing does not cause significant harms, the harm is not demonstrated, real, or probable.
3. *List of means from least to most restrictive.*
  - Private Governance Options
    - Market Competition
    - Third-party or consumer created ratings and reviews
    - Private certification
    - Specific private civil cause of action or alternative dispute resolution
  - Public Regulation
    - Deceptive trade practice act
    - Regulation of the process of providing specific goods or services to consumers
    - Public inspection
    - Mandatory bonding or insurance
  - Command and Control
    - Registration
    - Government certification
    - Business license
    - Specialty occupational license for medical reimbursement
    - Occupational license
4. *Definition of sufficient protection.* A regulation sufficiently protects an interest if the regulation adequately remedies the harm or possible harm to the legitimate public interest so that the likelihood of such harm is appropriate considering the degree of damages which the harm may cause. “Sufficient” has not been uniformly defined by courts, but there should be some limitation on the choice to use a high standard of protection (like a guarantee) to justify the most restrictive mean every time.
5. *Definition of an active market participant.* The Court has found that active market participants possess strong private interests in a matter and pose a risk of self-dealing. A conservative interpretation of a “market participant” is any practitioner who works in the general industry, which is affected by the types regulations addressed by their respective boards. One could persuasively argue that these individuals possess strong interests and pose a threat of self-dealing.
6. *Definition of a controlling number.* Justice Alito, in his dissent in *NC Dental*, raises concerns that the Court did not define a “controlling number” on the board. He mentions how it could be a majority, a number required for a veto power, or even an obstructionist minority. To be safe, the State should consider all of these options to be a “controlling number,” especially since simpler terms like a “majority”—which clearly indicate a specific standard—are not used by the Court.
7. *Definition of active state supervision.* Active state supervision constitutes more than simply authorizing and enforcing decisions made by the board. States need to establish, review, or monitor decisions to ensure they are clearly articulated and firmly expressed as state policy. Therefore, a state must be reasonably informed to the decisions of a board, and then ratify the board’s conduct as proper state policy. The Court has made it clear that a “state does not give immunity to those who violate the Sherman Act by authorizing them to violate it, or by declaring that their violation is lawful.

