

Computer Database of Welding Operations 1995 NOVA Award Nomination 08

Common Arc Corporation

Common Arc is a non-profit corporation created in 1988 by the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers with support from the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers to maintain a computer database of welding operations for multiple employers. Common Arc reduces redundant welder testing at owner locations by extending a welder's certification with all participating employers as long as the welder continues to demonstrate welding skill in accordance with ASME requirements with any participating employer.

Under Common Arc, boilermakers arrive at owner locations already certified with the employer and ready to begin production welding. Common Arc has documented savings to the industry of \$43.1 million in 1994 alone, a return of \$38.42 per dollar spent on Common Arc.

130 employers and 4,500 boilermaker welders participate in Common Arc, and 67,000 individual weld procedure statuses are being tracked by Common Arc's computer system. The Common Arc concept is available to all craft and employer groups operating under ASME and National Boiler Board requirements.

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