

USE AND MISUSE OF LOGOS, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

WELDING GREEK INSTITUTE (WGI) / ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ
ΣΥΓΚΟΛΛΗΣΕΩΝ

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Supersedes the “Use and Misuse of Logos” part of document WGI/056, version 2.0 (31/03/2025)

1. Purpose

These rules set out the conditions under which the logos, diplomas and certificates of the Welding Greece Institute (WGI) may be referred to and displayed, and the consequences of their misuse.

The aim is to protect the credibility of the qualifications, to prevent employers, clients and authorities from being misled, and to safeguard the rights of WGI, the International Institute of Welding (IIW) and the European Welding Federation (EWF).

2. Scope

These rules are binding on every holder of a diploma or certificate issued by WGI, on every trainee and candidate, and on every company that employs or promotes personnel certified by WGI.

3. Ownership of the marks

- The word and figurative marks “WGI”, “Welding Greece Institute”, “IIW” / “International Institute of Welding” and “EWF” / “European Welding Federation” are **registered and protected trademarks** of their respective proprietors.
- WGI uses the IIW and EWF marks under its authorisation as an approved body and solely within the scope of that authorisation.
- The award of a qualification **does not transfer** any right in the marks. The holder acquires only the limited right of reference described in clause 4.

4. Permitted use by holders of qualifications

The holder of a qualification is entitled:

- to refer to the qualification in a curriculum vitae, a professional profile and professional correspondence, using its **full and accurate title**, the certificate number and the expiry date where one exists;
- to present the original diploma or certificate to an employer, client or authority as evidence of his or her qualifications;

- to produce a true copy of the qualification for the above purposes, provided its content is not altered.

Diplomas and certificates are **strictly personal** and evidence solely the qualifications of the named holder.

5. Use of the logos by companies

- Use of the WGI logo by a company is permitted only with the **prior written consent** of WGI and only for the purpose, in the form and for the period specified in that consent.
- The employment of certified personnel **does not** confer any right to use the WGI, IIW or EWF logos in corporate communications, on products, on vehicles, on packaging or on a website.
- Any use implying that the company, its products or its services are certified or approved by WGI, the IIW or the EWF, where no such certification exists, is prohibited.
- Use of the logos on inspection reports, test certificates, WPSs, WPQRs or other technical documents issued by the company itself is prohibited.

6. General rules on reproduction

- The logos shall be used as supplied, in the official form, official colours and proportions provided by WGI.
- Changing the colours, distorting, rotating, decolourising, adding effects, combining with other marks or incorporating the logo into another logo is prohibited.
- The logo shall remain legible and shall retain sufficient clear space around it.
- Use in any context that offends or diminishes the reputation of the proprietors is prohibited.

7. Prohibited practices

The following are expressly prohibited:

- the misrepresentation or **falsification** of WGI certificates, diplomas or logos;
- the use of a diploma or certificate by an unauthorised third party;
- the alteration of qualifications, their reproduction for supply to third parties, and their sale;
- claiming certification wider than that actually held, as regards the welding process, material, position, thickness or any other element of the scope of validity;
- the use of a qualification that has **expired, been suspended or been withdrawn**;
- the creation of websites, social media accounts or printed material implying an official relationship, agency or partnership with WGI in the absence of a written agreement;
- the registration of a domain name, trademark or company name that contains or resembles the WGI, IIW or EWF marks.

8. Validity and cessation of the right of reference

- The right to refer to a qualification ceases **automatically** upon its expiry, suspension or withdrawal.
- Within [10] days of expiry or withdrawal, the holder shall remove every reference to it from websites, profiles, printed material and email signatures.
- In the event of withdrawal, WGI may require the original qualification to be returned.

9. Verification of authenticity

The authenticity of any qualification is verified solely by WGI, on request to info@wgi.gr, and where applicable through the IIW and EWF databases. WGI maintains a register of the qualifications it has issued.

10. Consequences of misuse

Any misuse of certificates, logos or intellectual property rights will result in:

- immediate withdrawal of the qualifications and of the related certificates;
- notification of the competent authorities and the filing of a criminal complaint, where applicable;
- notification of the IIW, the EWF, the accreditation body and any other relevant body;
- notification of the employer or of the recipient of the falsified document;
- public disclosure of the misuse, where this is necessary and legally permissible;
- a claim for compensation for any direct and consequential loss.

The forgery and falsification of documents, as well as the infringement of trademark and intellectual property rights, are **subject to criminal and civil proceedings** under the Greek Criminal Code, Law 4679/2020 on trademarks and Law 2121/1993 on intellectual property.

11. Reporting of misuse

Any suspected misuse of a logo or qualification should be reported to info@wgi.gr, preferably with supporting evidence (photograph, link, copy of the document). Reports are handled confidentially.

12. Validity and review

These rules take effect on the date of issue and are reviewed at least every three years, or whenever the requirements of the IIW and the EWF change. The version in force is published at www.wgi.gr.