

Australian Industry

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SUCCESS STORY NUMBER RT04: UP-SKILLING AND TRAINING OF WELDERS
KEEPS COACH MANUFACTURER ON TOP – SA company uses WTIA Expert
Technology Tools

Background

Up-skilling of workers is a topic of particular interest in the current climate of skills shortages in the welding and other trades areas. Quality of work and safety of vehicles is also high on the public agenda, and work undertaken by WTIA in Adelaide in the Road Transport Industry Sectoral Project (ISP) highlights both of these issues. The Project is supported by the South Australian Department of Economic Development and Trade, and Transport SA is an active member of the SMART Road Transport Industry Group.

Welding Management

WTIA Technology Manager Greg Terrell, Coordinator of the Road Transport ISP, introduced local bus manufacturer Custom Coaches to one of the WTIA's Expert Technology Tools (ETTs), a Total Welding Management System (TWMS). Available on CD, this set of documents and forms enables a company to tailor and implement a management system based on AS/NZS ISO 3834 *Quality requirements for welding - Fusion welding of metallic materials*.

The welding management staff at Custom Coaches undertook a self-assessment and audit of their current operations using a second easy-to-use WTIA ETT and identified a number of areas where they could make improvements to their welding operations and productivity.

Training

Custom Coaches currently employs some 120 vehicle body builders in South Australia, and an area of improvement was the up-skilling of the operators responsible for welding square hollow steel frames at its Royal Park facilities. Some newly graduated employees were also in need of on-the-job training to help them successfully join the team. They had undertaken their initial theoretical training

at Port Adelaide Training and Development Centre (PATDC), an IIW Approved Training Body within the WTIA's network.

Custom Coaches called on Greg to assist with on-going staff training in a number of areas.

Using another WTIA ETT, the Pocket Guide to Weld Defects, Greg delivered on-site training to a group of non-skilled welding operators, resulting in 10 being qualified to AS/NZS 1554 *Structural steel welding*. The graphical Pocket Guide enabled the students to easily identify, understand the cause, and rectify the common weld defects in structural steel.

Greg also worked with Custom Coaches' staff in the areas of Gas Metal Arc Welding skills, and trained them in the welding of stainless steels, utilising a second WTIA Pocket Guide.

The ability of the welders to handle this often challenging material paid off when it was found that some chassis parts being imported by the company were now made from 3CR12 material, in line with European standards. With their Total Welding Management System in place and workers up-skilled for stainless steel welding, the company was able to smoothly accommodate the change, and continue to produce quality vehicles for the Australian travelling public.

*Welding
stainless
steel*



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