

Duraband Certification Program Expanded

Postle Industries has a well-established policy of requiring that its applicators be certified. It goes so far as to restrict sales of Duraband®NC, Tuffband®NC, and TubeWeld 110 to only companies currently certified.

The program initially issued certificates only to the company being certified. The company receiving the certification was responsible for ongoing individual training and verification. In 2017 the certification program was expanded to include the individual applicators. Both the application company and the individual hardbander now receive certificates. This ensures that new hardbanders demonstrate their proficiency and understanding of the parameters and equipment.

Both company and individual certificates are valid for 3 years. In addition, the individual certificates are not transferable and valid only while employed at that same company. Below are brief descriptions of our four certifications.

Applicators, your company and individual welder certificates need to be current & readily available upon request. Pipe owners, you should be asking for certificates from the applicators. You can also obtain certificates from your Postle or Tech Center representative. If they do not have a valid certificate, they shouldn't be hardbanding your pipe!

Duraband®NC and Tuffband®NC

On drill pipe, Duraband is by far the most popular hardbanding wire on the market. Tuffband is another hardbanding wire that is more commonly used when adding tungsten carbide. It is also used as a "repair wire" when applying over old materials that are badly compromised. Both are hard wires (57 HRC Tuffband/ 60 HRC Duraband), however the wear life of Duraband is many times that of Tuffband.

They both have very similar parameters, so a single certification covers both wires.

CoolBanding®

Coolbanding is a patented process whereby Duraband can be applied without damaging the IPC. The new Coolbanding certification was added once the Coolbanding Hardbanding process had been developed and tested. Since the application procedure and parameters were much different from conventional hardbanding, a separate certification became necessary.

TubeBanding™

With the growing use of work string tubing for drill-outs on the long laterals, hardbanding on tubing has grown in popularity. It has now become a well-established application.

Due to the relatively thin walls of the upset area, heat input and control are extremely important to ensure the upset area maintains its strength and properties. This new process allows hardbanding with Duraband on the upset without the Heat Affected Zone (HAZ) being compromised.

Applying Duraband on tubing has a different set of parameters than either traditional hardbanding or Coolbanding. A new certification for TubeBanding has now been added to ensure that hardbanders understand the difference in the application procedure and parameters.

Work String Tubing Connection Rebuilding with TubeWeld 110 (Patent Pending)

Before TubeBanding got started, there was a lot of work string tubing upsets that were worn beyond acceptable dimensions. Thousands of joints of tubing were trashed because of upsets that were badly worn, and fell below acceptable ODs. TubeBanding has eliminated this problem, however there remains lots of worn tubing that, beyond upset OD wear, are still in serviceable condition.

Postle has developed a wire and a process for rebuilding those old worn upsets. The wire is called TubeWeld 110, and is formulated to create a weld with characteristics very similar to the base metal of the tubing. The application process is quite different than any of the other hardbanding application processes. For that reason, a separate certification category has been added.

For more information on certifications, please contact your Postle Industries or local Tech Center representative. We have a dedicated team of qualified hardbanding technicians that can answer your questions and help get you trained and certified.