



Media Contact: Adrienne Zalkind, 800-443-9353 (x 416), or azalkind@aws.org

AWS TO HOST FREE SESSION ON NEW OSHA REGULATION FOR REDUCED HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM EXPOSURE

Session to Cover Steps for Compliance by OSHA's November 27th Deadline

Miami, FL, September 19, 2006 – The American Welding Society (AWS) announced today it will be holding a free session covering the new Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements pertaining to hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) exposure – a must-see lecture for anyone in the business of welding stainless steels and other alloy steels containing chromium. The session, *Compliance with OSHA's Hexavalent Chromium Standard*, will commence at 10:30 AM on November 1, 2006, at the FABTECH International and AWS Welding Show, which will run from October 31 through November 2 at the Georgia World Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Final implementation of OSHA's new Cr(VI) permissible exposure limit (PEL) requirement that became effective at the end of May is scheduled for November 27th, leaving little time for members of the welding and cutting industry to meet the required significant reduction in fume exposure. This important session will address the details of the new rule, path to compliance, as well as the steps that should be taken to protect against excessive Cr(VI) exposure.

“AWS is dedicated to helping the industry prepare for this change,” said Jeff Weber, AWS associate executive director. “As a technical society, AWS collects and disseminates as much relevant information as possible via our published materials, sessions and conferences, on welding standards and procedures, as well as welding health and safety. Welding health and safety awareness is vital and AWS encourages all members of the welding industry to take the appropriate precautions to ensure a safe welding experience.”

During the session, speakers will present an overview of this new OSHA standard, critical information about Cr(VI) exposure, and the appropriate use of ventilation, personal protective equipment and other techniques to reduce exposure. Additionally, fabricators will discuss case studies based on personal experiences in bringing their respective facilities to code. A panel discussion and question/answer period will follow the presentations.

Session speakers include Susan Fiore, past Chair of the AWS Safety and Health Committee and senior engineer at Edison Welding Institute; Kevin Lyttle, Chair of the AWS Fumes and Gases Committee and manager of welding research and development at Praxair, Inc. (NYSE: PX); Cliff Frey, member of the AWS Labeling and Safe Practices Committee and a senior technical services representative at 3M Worldwide (NYSE:MMM).

About AWS

The American Welding Society (AWS) was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes, including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves nearly 50,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 Districts with more than 200 local Sections. For more information, visit the Society's website at <http://www.aws.org> and click on “pressroom.”