

A3.2

AUTHORITY TO SPEAK OR ACT FOR THE AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY

"Only those persons who have been authorized to speak for, or act on behalf of, the American Welding Society, in accordance with the Society Bylaws, Board of Directors Rules, or the Rules of Operation of AWS Committees, may so speak or act and shall so speak or act only with respect to those matters on which they have been authorized to speak or act."

"No person not authorized to speak for or act on behalf of the Society shall represent or hold himself/herself out to any other person as possessing or exercising, whether expressly or implicitly, such authority."

"No person shall have the authority to bind the Society, either orally or in writing, without the prior (written) approval of the Board of Directors."

"In the area of Codes and Standards development and Codes and Standards interpretation, the Society shall conform to all mandatory government Standards, American National Standards Institute National Standards and current AWS Rules as approved by the Board of Directors."

"In keeping with the above policy, the Board of Directors requests a disclaimer statement be made by AWS Members and Members of AWS Committees when speaking or writing to individuals or groups, to prevent any chance of statements being mistaken as representing those of the American Welding Society. A recommended disclaimer for such purposes is, "The opinions and statements I express are my own and do not represent those of the American Welding Society."

A3.3

POLICY FOR AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

In view of recent court decisions imposing full responsibility for the actions and conduct of the Members, it is extremely important that all communications, including those to persons or organizations who are not Members of the Society, accurately reflect Society policy. Failure to comply with the following requirements and procedures may result in termination of Membership in the American Welding Society as provided in Article I, Section 3(d) of the Bylaws.

Use of Society Stationery

Society stationery should be used only for authorized Society activities and for normal communications among the Members of the Society. Any communications dealing with Society policy, or the interpretations of codes or standards adopted by the Society, should first be sent to the Headquarters office for review and approval by an appropriate Officer of the Society or an authorized Member of the Staff.

Use of Society Titles or Offices

Any correspondence signed by an Officer, Director, Committee Chair, Committee Member, Section Officer or Staff Member should be considered as an official communication from the Society and should be consistent with the policies and positions of the Society. This does not in any way prevent or inhibit an expression of personal views or dissenting viewpoints on matters being considered within the Society. Extreme care must be exercised to be sure that such views are being expressed as those of the writer rather than as official positions of the Society.

Communications Intended for Publication or Dissemination

Any communication which is submitted or intended for publication or dissemination which purports to represent the official position of the Society, or which could be interpreted to reflect the official policy or position of the Society, must first be submitted to the Headquarters office and approved by an appropriate Officer of the Society.

Policy on Replies to Inquiries Related to Interpretation of Standards

Official AWS interpretations shall be made:

1. Only with the concurrence of the relevant Technical Committee(s).
2. Only by someone who does not have a conflict of interest with the inquirer or his/her employer even if he/she would normally draft the reply as Chair of the Committee.

3. Through the AWS Staff person representing the cognizant Committee.

Respondents are not authorized to speak or write on behalf of the American Welding Society except as defined in this policy statement, and may not use official AWS stationery or logo without written permission of the AWS Board of Directors.

Requests for interpretation of AWS standards shall be reduced to writing. No oral interpretation shall be given. The *Welding Journal* shall regularly publish such inquiries and the written answers given to them.

If any oral opinions are given, the replier shall make it clear that he/she is giving his/her personal opinion and not the official interpretation of the Society.

AWS does not and will not endorse any specific brand or product.

By issuance of any publication, the American Welding Society does not assume any liability for its use. Each prospective user should make an independent investigation of a Publication before applying it to this work. This should be made clear in all publications and in reply to inquiries.