



AWS D1.1 Interpretation

Subject: Base Material Approval
Code Edition: D1.1-90
Code Provision: Subsection 1.2
AWS Log: 1-8/91-01-02

Inquiry: How does a base material become approved in the AWS D1.1 as a prequalified material?

Response: Material suppliers advise the D1 Committee of their particular material type, including the applicable ASTM or API designation, and furnish to the Committee, upon request, a variety of Welding Procedure Qualification records, history of usage, and other mechanical testing properties (e.g., impact properties, hardness test results, etc.). The D1 Committee determines if the material has demonstrated successful weldability in the industry. If all of the above information is favorable, then the Committee, utilizing these operating parameters, can translate them into the applicable Code requirements for prequalification status of the material.

AWS D1.1, Structural Welding Code—Steel, is prepared by the AWS Structural Welding Committee. Because the Code is written in the form of a specification, it cannot present background material or discuss the committee's intent.

Since the publication of the first edition of the Code, the nature of inquiries directed to the American Welding Society and the Structural Welding Committee has indicated that there are some requirements in the Code that are either difficult to understand or not sufficiently specific, and other that appear to be overly conservative.

It should be recognized that the fundamental premise of the Code is to provide general stipulations applicable to any situation and to leave sufficient latitude for the exercise of engineering judgment. Another point to be recognized is that the Code represents the collective experience of the committee; and, while some provisions may seem overly conservative, they have been based on sound engineering practice.