



AWS D1.3 Interpretation

Subject: Rust and Moisture
Code Edition: D1.3:2008
Code Provision: Subclause 5.2
AWS Log: D1.3-08-I09b

Inquiry: The second sentence in 5.2 reads:

Surfaces to be welded and surfaces adjacent to a weld shall also be free from loose or thick scale, slag, rust, moisture, grease, or other foreign material that would prevent proper welding or produce objectionable fumes.

When applying this sentence specifically to rust and moisture, may we perform production welding (i.e., arc spot welding to structural steel) in the presence of rust and moisture so long as there isn't enough rust and moisture to prevent proper welding?

Response: No, see subclause 5.2.

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.