



AWS D1.5 Interpretation

Subject: Butt Welds in Girder Webs
Code Edition: D1.5M/D1.5:2008
Code Provision: Subclauses 6.11 and 6.26.3
AWS Log: D1.5-08-I01

Inquiry: Is it the intent of the AWS D1.5:2008 *Bridge Welding Code* that when evaluating the NDT results of beam or girder web vertical butt welds that the applicable RT or UT acceptance criteria for welds subject to tensile stress under any condition of load be used to determine acceptance, regardless of the location of the tested area?

Response: Yes, unless the region is specifically shown on the design drawings as subject only to compressive stress (see 6.26.2.2).

AWS standards are prepared by AWS technical committees. Because many AWS standards are written in the form of codes or specification, they cannot present background material or discuss the committee's intent.

The nature of inquiries directed to the American Welding Society and their technical committees have indicated that there are some requirements in AWS standards that are either difficult to understand or not sufficiently specific.

It should be recognized that the fundamental premise of AWS standards are 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 AWS standards represent the collective experience of AWS technical committees; and, while some provisions may seem overly conservative, they have been based on sound engineering practice.