



AWS D1.5 Interpretation

Subject: Welder Operator Requirements
Code Edition: D1.5M/D1.5:2008
Code Provision: 5.21.2, 5.23.1.2, and 5.23.1.5
AWS Log: D1.5-08-I05

Inquiry: Is it the intent of the AWS D1.5:2008 Bridge Welding Code that an individual may take a qualification test on a test plate prepared with a joint configuration such as a B-L2c-S, weld one side, turn the qualification plate over, backgouge with either a grinder or air carbon arc torch, and then grind the backgouge to bright metal prior to welding the second side? Or take the qualification test on a test plate prepared with a joint configuration such as a B-L2a-S, remove the backing after welding the first side, backgouge by air carbon arc torch or grinding and then weld the backgouge prior to RT or bend testing?

Response: No.

Reason: Prequalified or Production weld joints, other than those listed in Figures 5.1 and 5.2, are not intended to be used for qualification of production welders or welding operators.

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.