



AWS D1.1 Interpretation

Subject: Inspector Responsibilities
Code Edition: D1.1-79
Code Provision: Subsections 6.5.4, 6.5.5
AWS Log: D1-84-010

Inquiry: (1) Does 6.5.5 require that all welding related activities listed in Section 3, including preparation of base metal and assembly, [have] 100% documentation of inspection by the inspector?
(2) Is the inspector required to systematically verify that the criteria in Section 3 are met by random checks to assure compliance with the workmanship requirements?

Response: (1) No.
(2) Yes. 6.5.4 and 6.5.5 require observation of the work at suitable intervals to verify that applicable requirements of Section 4 and Section 3, respectively, are met.

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.