



## AWS D1.1 Interpretation

**Subject:** NDT Level III Qualifications  
**Code Edition:** D1.1-83  
**Code Provision:** Subsection 6.7.7  
**AWS Log:** D1-84-012

**Inquiry:**

- (1) Is it the intent of the Code to prohibit Level III NDT individuals from performing NDT testing if they are not qualified as Level II NDT operators?
- (2) Is a Level III who also been qualified as a Level II NDT operator, and who maintains his Level II NDT operator status on a regular basis, qualified to perform NDT testing under the Code?

**Response:**

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

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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.