



AWS D1.1 Interpretation

Subject: Earlier Code Editions
Code Edition: D1.1-84
Code Provision: None
AWS Log: D1-84-015

Inquiry: May the current Code (e.g., AWS D1.1-84) requirements be applied to contract documents that specify an earlier edition of the Code (e.g., AWS D1.1-80)?

Response: The Code edition specified in the contract documents governs the work under that contract. However, when requested by the contractor, the Committee recommends to the Engineer that the provisions of the current AWS D1.1 be permitted in lieu of the edition specified in the contract documents.

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.