



## AWS D1.1 Interpretation

**Subject:** Web Flatness Tolerances  
**Code Edition:** D1.1-80  
**Code Provision:** Subsections 3.5, 9.23  
**AWS Log:** D1-85-024

**Inquiry:** What tolerances should be used for the flatness of the panel between the bearing stiffener and the end of the web?

**Response:** These dimensional tolerances are not addressed by AWS D1.1 except in 8.13.3 and 9.23.3 when end panels are connected to other girders by bolted splices. Agreement between the contractor and the owner should be in accordance with 3.5.1.13.

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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.