



AWS D1.1 Interpretation

Subject: Notches and Gouges on Oxygen Cut Surfaces

Code Edition: D1.1-84

Code Provision: Subsection 3.2.2

AWS Log: D1-85-025

Inquiry:

- (1) Does 3.2.2 mean just oxygen cut areas adjacent to welds, or areas to be welded?
- (2) What is meant by “occasional notches or gouges”; and how close or far away is “occasional”?
- (3) Is repair required for notches and gouges up to 3/16 in., or is repair required for notches and gouges 3/16 in. and larger?
- (4) What are the requirements pertaining to other conditions such as ends of girder flanges, ends of beams, cope and notches in beams, base plate and gusset plates?

Response:

- (1) Applies to all oxygen cut areas.
- (2) [The meaning of “occasional” is] as defined in *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary* (i.e., “infrequent occurrence”) and as explained in the Commentary 3.2.2. [Spacing is] determined by the fabricator, together with the Inspector or Engineer, or both. (Also see Commentary 3.2.2.)
- (3) For notches and gouges up to and including 3/16 in., repair is to be made by fairing, grinding or gouges over 3/16 in. are repaired by welding only with approval of the Engineer.
- (4) All oxygen cut edges must meet the requirements of 3.2.2.

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.