



AWS D1.1 Interpretation

Subject: Test Plate Root Opening Tolerances
Code Edition: D1.1-85
Code Provision: Figure 5.22A
AWS Log: D1-85-030

Inquiry: Is it permissible to have a 0-1/16-in. root opening between the test plates shown in Figure 5.22A?

Response: Yes. The Committee has not specified any tolerances for the dimensions in Figure 5.22A. The dimensions shown are nominal and need not be exact. (The contractor may place dimensional tolerances on shop drawings, such as those required in 3.3.)

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.