



AWS D1.5 Interpretation

Subject: RT Requirements for Butt Joints
Code Edition: D1.5M/D1.5:2008
Code Provision: Clause 6.7.1
AWS Log: D1.5-08-I04

Inquiry: Is RT on butt joints merely a suggestion or a mandatory requirement by the Bridge Welding Code?

Response: RT is required by Clause 6.7.1, unless otherwise provided (e.g. subsequent code provisions like ESW which requires both UT and RT or agreement between supplier and owner for alternate acceptance verification). Clause C6.7.1 provides clarification for this code provision.

AASHTO/AWS D1.5, Bridge Welding Code, 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.