



**AWS D1.1 Interpretation**

**Subject:** Vibratory Stress Relief  
**Code Edition:** D1.1-90  
**Code Provision:** Subsection 4.4  
**AWS Log:** ID1-90-010-02

**Inquiry:** (1) In accord with D1.1, subsection 4.4, may vibratory stress relief be used as an alternate to thermal stress relief?  
(2) If the drawing/spec. is silent relative to vibratory stress relief, may vibratory stress relief be used?

**Response:** (1) No. See 4.4. Postweld heat treatment does more than relieve stress.  
(2) If compliance with D1.1, subsection 4.4, is not required, this is not a Code question.

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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.