



AWS D1.1 Interpretation

Subject: Effect on WPS Qualification Because of Changes in Filler Metal Classification
Code Edition: D1.1-92
Code Provision: Subsections 5.4.4, 5.15
AWS Log: 2.23

Inquiry:

- (1) Are welding procedures that have been previously qualified by test, and that employ filler metals previously classified under a separate filler metal specification with a different classification, required to be requalified when the filler metal specification committee makes a change that results in a reclassification of the electrode?
- (2) Are welders who are currently qualified to weld with a specific electrode required to be requalified when the activities of the filler metal committee cause the electrode to be reclassified under a different filler metal specification?

Response:

- (1) No, subsection 5.4.4 of D1.1-92 would permit the continued use of these procedures without requalification. The written WPS, however, should be changed to reflect the new filler metal classification.
- (2) No. The Code intent is expressed in subsection 5.15 of D1.1-92. If there is no change in the electrode, there is no need to redetermine the ability of the welder to produce sound welds.

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.