



**AWS A5.01M/A5.01:2008 Interpretation**

**Subject:** *Procurement Guidelines for Consumables—Welding and Allied Processes—  
Flux and Gas Shielded Electrical Welding Processes*

**AWS Log:** A5.01M/A5.01:2008-I01

**Inquiry:** Is analysis of weld metal chemical composition sufficient to satisfy that all wet mixes within the lot are equivalent per AWS A5.01 “controlled chemical composition?”

**Response:** No

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AWS standards are prepared by AWS technical committees. Because many AWS standards are written in the form of codes or specification, they cannot present background material or discuss the committee’s intent.

The nature of inquiries directed to the American Welding Society and their technical committees have indicated that there are some requirements in AWS standards that are either difficult to understand or not sufficiently specific.

It should be recognized that the fundamental premise of AWS standards are 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 AWS standards represent the collective experience of AWS technical committees; and, while some provisions may seem overly conservative, they have been based on sound engineering practice.