



AWS D17.1/D17.1M Interpretation

Subject: Visual Weld Inspectors
Code Edition: AWS D17.1/D17.1M:2010-AMD1
Code Provision: Clause 7.1.2
AWS Log: D17.1-10-I01

Inquiry: In AWS D17.1:2010 Clause 7.1.2 the requirements on visual weld inspector have been changed from the previous 2001 version and has not been defined clearly. What needs engineering authority approval, the inspection personnel, test requirements or training program? Also AWS B5.2 becomes mandatory in this paragraph while it is optional in the previous 2001 version. This will have a huge impact to Honeywell and its suppliers especially if engineering authority approval is required, which means Honeywell has to force its suppliers to be compliant and reapprove the visual inspector training program for all the welding suppliers.

Response: AWS D17.1/D17.1M:2010 requires certified personnel to perform visual weld inspections. There are two approaches available. One approach uses AWS QC1 certification. The other approach employs an Engineering Authority-approved certification program based upon three criteria: experience, training and testing. AWS B5.2 is to be used to develop these criteria, as approved by the Engineering Authority.

As specified in Clause 1.1 Scope of AWS D17.1/D17.1M:2010, the Engineering Authority has the option to take exception or make additions to any requirement within this specification.

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.