

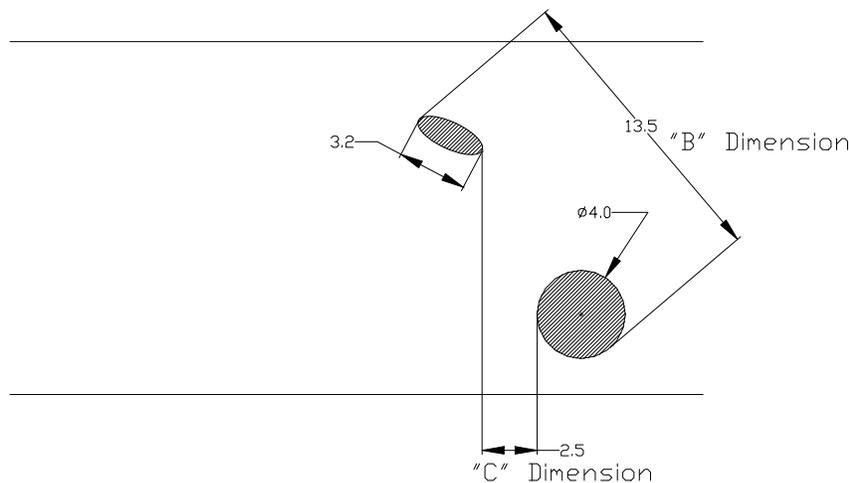


## AWS D1.5 Interpretation

**Subject:** Radiographic Discontinuity Evaluation Criteria  
**Code Edition:** D1.5-96  
**Code Provision:** Sections 9.21 and 9.21.2.1, and Figure 9.4  
**AWS Log:** D1.5-96-I02

**Inquiry:** Please indicate what the correct interpretation is when considering the correct application of the “B” dimension referenced in paragraph 9.21.2.1 and illustrated in Figure 9.4 when multiple discontinuities are evaluated as one single discontinuity.

**Response:** If two indications are noted to be in closer proximity than the minimum spacing, “C”, measured along the longitudinal axis of the weld, the two indications are evaluated and measured as a single discontinuity, equal to the sum of their total individual lengths, plus the spacing between them. This single discontinuity is then measured at its greatest overall dimension without regard to the orientation of the longitudinal axis or discontinuity location within the weld. The diagram below gives a visual reference to the aforementioned interpretation. The groove weld size is assumed to be 32 mm and all sketch dimensions are in millimeters.



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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.