Structural Welding Code—Steel Reinforcing Bars
Abstract

This code covers the requirements for welding steel reinforcing bars in most reinforced concrete applications. It contains a body of rules for the regulations of welding steel reinforcing bars and provides suitable acceptance criteria for such welds.
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Official interpretations of any of the technical requirements of this standard may only be obtained by sending a request, in writing, to the appropriate technical committee. Such requests should be addressed to the American Welding Society, Attention: Managing Director, Standards Development, 8669 NW 36 St, # 130, Miami, FL 33166 (see Annex D). With regard to technical inquiries made concerning AWS standards, oral opinions on AWS standards may be rendered. These opinions are offered solely as a convenience to users of this standard, and they do not constitute professional advice. Such opinions represent only the personal opinions of the particular individuals giving them. These individuals do not speak on behalf of AWS, nor do these oral opinions constitute official or unofficial opinions or interpretations of AWS. In addition, oral opinions are informal and should not be used as a substitute for an official interpretation.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the AWS D1 Committee on Structural Welding. It must be reviewed every five years, and if not revised, it must be either reaffirmed or withdrawn. Comments (recommendations, additions, or deletions) and any pertinent data that may be of use in improving this standard are required and should be addressed to AWS Headquarters. Such comments will receive careful consideration by the AWS D1 Committee on Structural Welding and the author of the comments will be informed of the Committee’s response to the comments. Guests are invited to attend all meetings of the AWS D1 Committee on Structural Welding to express their comments verbally. Procedures for appeal of an adverse decision concerning all such comments are provided in the Rules of Operation of the Technical Activities Committee. A copy of these Rules can be obtained from the American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 St, # 130, Miami, FL 33166.
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Foreword

This foreword is not part of this standard but is included for informational purposes only.


The 1961 document was replaced with a greatly revised version, AWS D12.1-75, *Reinforcing Steel Welding Code*, with the format patterned after the AWS D1.1-72, *Structural Welding Code*. The 1975 code was produced by the AWS Structural Welding Committee but was not renumbered to reflect this committee change. As with ANSI/AWS D1.1, AWS D12.1-75 was designed as a self-contained code, including within it the qualification of welders and procedures, and requirements for workmanship, quality, and inspection.

The listings of materials and welding processes were revised in the D12.1-75 code. Items newly introduced were the carbon equivalent method for determining preheat, the parenthetical inclusion of metric (SI) conversions, and the two different methods of joint strength determination.

The AWS D12.1-75 document was revised and the title changed to ANSI/AWS D1.4-79, *Structural Welding Code—Reinforcing Steel*. Since the 1979 edition of ANSI/AWS D1.4, *Structural Welding Code—Reinforcing Steel*, was issued, further use by designers, engineers, and fabricators has necessitated a number of changes to the requirements; the 1992, 1998, 2005, and 2011 editions reflected these changes.

The evolution of AWS D1.4/D1.4M, *Structural Welding Code—Steel Reinforcing Bars*, is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWS D12.1-61</td>
<td>Recommended Practices for Welding Reinforcing Steel, Metal Inserts and Connections in Reinforced Concrete Construction;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS D12.1-75</td>
<td>Reinforcing Steel Welding Code;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/AWS D1.4-79</td>
<td>Structural Welding Code—Reinforcing Steel;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/AWS D1.4-92</td>
<td>Structural Welding Code—Reinforcing Steel;</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANSI/AWS D1.4-98</td>
<td>Structural Welding Code—Reinforcing Steel;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS D1.4/D1.4M:2005</td>
<td>Structural Welding Code—Reinforcing Steel;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS D1.4/D1.4M:2011</td>
<td>Structural Welding Code—Reinforcing Steel; and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Changes in Code Requirements.** Underlined text in the subclauses, tables, or figures indicates an editorial or technical change from the 2011 edition. A vertical line in the margin indicates a revision from the 2011 edition.
Summary of Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clause/Table/ Figure/Annex</th>
<th>Modification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clause 1</td>
<td>Restructured to identify new safety and health information; new materials added. GTAW is now permitted as a prequalified welding process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 2</td>
<td>New clause that lists all normative references. This replaces subclause 1.9 from the 2011 edition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 3</td>
<td>New clause that provides terms and definitions specific to this standard. It replaces subclause 1.5 from the 2011 edition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 4</td>
<td>Previously Clause 2 in the 2011 edition. Base metal stresses and allowable stresses in welds were removed and replaced with new content on the design of welded joints. New Table 4.1 covers design strength and the allowable strength of welded joints.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 5</td>
<td>Previously Clause 3 in the 2011 edition. New content on lap joints: bar diameter range, effects of eccentricity, and lap joints in an anchorage. Figures 5.1 through 5.5 modified for clarification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 6</td>
<td>Previously Clause 4 in the 2011 edition. New content on foreign materials and coatings, weld size. Figures 6.1 revised for clarity. Figure 6.2 extensively revised to include new schedules for weld profiles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 7</td>
<td>Previously Clause 5 in the 2011 edition. New content on GTAW electrodes and filler metals. Tables 7.1 revised to include several A5 filler metal specifications, most notably AWS A5.36.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 8</td>
<td>Previously Clause 6 in the 2011 edition. Table 8.2 revised to include GTAW, bar diameter groups, and AWS A5.36. Figure 8.5 revised for clarity. Figure 8.8 is new.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex A</td>
<td>Sample forms now include GTAW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commentary</td>
<td>Commentary is new for this edition. This is a practice used by other D1 codes and as such will now be included as part of this standard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Informative Annexes. These annexes are not code requirements but are provided to clarify code provisions by showing examples, providing information, or suggesting alternative good practices.

Errata. It is the Structural Welding Committee’s Policy that all errata should be made available to users of this code. Therefore, any significant errata will be published in the Society News Section of the Welding Journal and posted on the AWS web site at: http://www.aws.org/technical/d1/.

Suggestions. Your comments for improving AWS D1.4/D1.4M:2018, Structural Welding Code—Steel Reinforcing Bars are welcome. Submit comments to the Managing Director, Standards Development, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 St, # 130, Miami, FL 33166; telephone (305) 443-9353; fax (305) 443-5951; e-mail info@aws.org; or via the AWS web site <http://www.aws.org>.
# Table of Contents

*Personnel* ........................................................................................................... v

*Foreword* ............................................................................................................. vii

*List of Tables* ...................................................................................................... xi

*List of Figures* .................................................................................................... xi

1. **General Requirements** .................................................................................. 1
   1.1 Scope .............................................................................................................. 1
   1.2 Units of Measurement ............................................................................... 1
   1.3 Safety ........................................................................................................... 1
   1.4 Application ................................................................................................. 2
   1.5 Steel Reinforcing Bar Base Metal ............................................................. 2
   1.6 Welding Processes ..................................................................................... 3

2. **Normative References** .................................................................................. 4

3. **Terms and Definitions** ................................................................................ 6

4. **Design of Welded Joints** ............................................................................... 7
   4.1 Design Basis ............................................................................................... 7
   4.2 Effective Weld Areas, Lengths, Throats, and Sizes .................................... 7
   4.3 Other Limit States ...................................................................................... 8

5. **Structural Details** ....................................................................................... 11
   5.1 Transition in Bar Size Number .................................................................. 11
   5.2 Joint Types ................................................................................................ 11
   5.3 Direct Butt Joints ...................................................................................... 11
   5.4 Indirect Butt Joints ................................................................................... 11
   5.5 Lap Joints .................................................................................................. 11
   5.6 Lap Joints in an Anchorage ...................................................................... 11
   5.7 Interconnection of Precast Members ......................................................... 11

6. **Workmanship** ............................................................................................. 19
   6.1 Preparation of Base Metal ....................................................................... 19
   6.2 Assembly .................................................................................................... 19
   6.3 Control of Distortion, Shrinkage, and Heat ............................................... 20
   6.4 Quality of Welds ......................................................................................... 20

7. **Technique** ................................................................................................... 25
   7.1 Filler Metal Requirements ......................................................................... 25
   7.2 Minimum Preheat and Interpass Temperature Requirements ................. 25
   7.3 Welding Environment ............................................................................... 25
   7.4 Arc Strikes .................................................................................................. 25
   7.5 Weld Cleaning ............................................................................................ 26
   7.6 Tack Welds ................................................................................................. 26
   7.7 Progression of Welding ............................................................................. 26
   7.8 Welding of Coated Base Metal ................................................................. 26
   7.9 SMAW Electrodes .................................................................................... 26
   7.10 GMAW Electrodes .................................................................................. 27
   7.11 FCAW Electrodes .................................................................................... 27
7.12 GTAW Electrodes and Filler Metals ................................................................. 27
7.13 Shielding Gas .................................................................................................. 28

8. Qualification ........................................................................................................... 33
8.1 General .................................................................................................................. 33
8.2 WPS Qualification ............................................................................................... 33
8.3 Welder Qualification ............................................................................................ 35
8.4 Retests .................................................................................................................... 37
8.5 Period of Effectiveness ......................................................................................... 38
8.6 Records ............................................................................................................... 38

9. Inspection ............................................................................................................... 52
9.1 General Conditions .............................................................................................. 52
9.2 Inspection of Base Metals .................................................................................... 52
9.3 Inspection of WPS Qualification and Equipment ................................................ 52
9.4 Inspection of Welder Qualifications .................................................................. 52
9.5 Inspection of Work and Records ........................................................................ 53
9.6 Obligations of the Contractor ......................................................................... 53
9.7 Nondestructive Testing ...................................................................................... 53
9.8 Personnel Qualification ...................................................................................... 54
9.9 Radiographic Testing ......................................................................................... 54

Annex A (Informative)—Sample Welding Forms ...................................................... 61
Annex B (Informative)—Nominal Dimensions of ASTM Standard Reinforcing Bars .................................................. 67
Annex C (Informative)—Temperature–Moisture Content Charts .................................. 69
Annex D (Informative)—Requesting an Official Interpretation on an AWS Standard ......................... 73

Commentary ............................................................................................................. 75

List of AWS Documents on Structural Welding ..................................................... 83
List of Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tables</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Design Strength and Allowable Strength of Welded Joints ...........................................9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>CJP Groove Weld Requirements for Direct Butt Joints .............................................12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Radiographic Acceptance Criteria ..............................................................................21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>Matching Filler Metal Requirements ...........................................................................29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>Minimum Preheat and Interpass Temperatures ..................................................................31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>Permissible Atmospheric Exposure of Low-Hydrogen Electrodes ...................................32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Prequalified WPS Fillet Weld Requirements ..................................................................39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>PQR Essential Variable Changes Requiring WPS Requalification for SMAW, GMAW, GTAW, and FCAW ..........................................................................................40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Number and Type of Tests for WPS Qualification .........................................................41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Macroetch Acceptance Criteria .....................................................................................41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>Welder Qualification—Number, Type of Test, Production Welds, and Positions Qualified ....42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Hole-Type Image Quality Indicator (IQI) Requirements ................................................58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List of Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figures</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Effective Throat for Flare-Groove Welds ..................................................................10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Direct Butt Joints Showing Transition Between Bars of Different Sizes .....................13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Direct Butt Joints .....................................................................................................14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Indirect Butt Joints ..................................................................................................15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Lap Joints ................................................................................................................16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Details of Joints of Anchorages, Base Plates, and Inserts ........................................17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Minimum Distance to Cold Bending Radius Tangent Points ..........................................22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Acceptable and Unacceptable Weld Profiles ................................................................24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Direct Butt Joint Test Positions for Groove Welds ..................................................43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Indirect Butt Joint Test Positions for Flare-Groove Welds or Fillet Welds ..................44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Positions of Groove Welds ........................................................................................45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Positions of Fillet Welds ..........................................................................................46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>Full-Section Tension Test Specimens for WPS Qualification Tests .............................47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>Full-Section Tension Test and Macroetch Test Specimens for Welder Qualification Tests 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>Bend Test Specimen for Welder Qualification Tests ....................................................50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>Flare-Bevel Groove Weld Effective Throat ..................................................................51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Source Position ........................................................................................................59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>Film Placement ..........................................................................................................60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.1</td>
<td>Temperature–Moisture Content Chart to be Used in Conjunction with Testing Program to 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Determine Extended Atmospheric Exposure Time of Low-Hydrogen Electrodes ..............</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.2</td>
<td>Application of Temperature–Moisture Content Chart in Determining Atmospheric Exposure 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Time of Low-Hydrogen Electrodes .............................................................................</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Structural Welding Code—Steel Reinforcing Bars

1. General Requirements

1.1 Scope
This code shall apply to the welding of the following:
(1) Steel reinforcing bar to steel reinforcing bar, and
(2) Steel reinforcing bar to carbon or low-alloy structural steel.

When this code is stipulated in contract documents, conformance with all provisions shall be required, except for those provisions that the Engineer or contract documents specifically modifies or exempts.

1.2 Units of Measurement
This standard makes use of both the U.S. Customary Units and the International System of Units (SI); the latter are shown within brackets ([ ]) or in appropriate columns in tables and figures. The measurements may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently.

1.3 Safety
Safety and health issues and concerns are beyond the scope of this standard; some safety and health information provided, but such issues are not fully addressed herein.

Safety and Health information is available from the following sources:
American Welding Society:
(1) ANSI Z49.1, Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes
(2) AWS Safety and Health Fact Sheets
(3) Other safety and health information on the AWS website
Material or Equipment Manufacturers:
(1) Safety Data Sheets supplied by the materials manufacturers
(2) Operating Manuals supplied by equipment manufacturers
Applicable Regulatory Agencies:
Work performed in accordance with this standard may involve the use of materials that have been deemed hazardous, and may involve operations or equipment that may cause injury or death. This standard does not purport to address all safety and health risks that may be encountered. The user of this standard should establish an appropriate safety program to address such risks as well as to meet applicable regulatory requirements. ANSI Z49.1 should be considered when developing the safety program.