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Process Specification for the Manual Arc Welding of Aluminum Alloy Hardware

Engineering Directorate

Structural Engineering Division

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National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas

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Process Specification for the Manual Arc Welding of Aluminum Alloy Hardware

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REVISIONS		
VERSION	DESCRIPTION	DATE
--	Original version	4/6/95
A	Formatting, elimination of subclasses and types, refers to ASTM specs E1417 and E1742, refers to heat treat PRC-2002.	4/20/98
B	Formatting, changed process owner, rewrite numerous sections for clarification, deleted requirement for WIR, deleted section 8.2 on audits, added section 8.3 on WPQ, deleted mil specs for NDE, added PRCs for NDE.	07/07/99
C	Comprehensive technical rewrite modeled from changes made to PRC-0005, Revision C. Added reference to JPG 5322.1 and details for welding of precision cleaned hardware (Reference memo ES-01-027).	03/07/03
D	Comprehensive rewrite to combine PRC-0001 and PRC-0003 and make editorial changes. PRC-0003 will be cancelled with this change. Make provision for Class D welds for ground based hardware.	02/10/2004
E	Added Class D criteria to section 7.1. Modified “General” section in Appendix A.	03/18/2004
F	Removed “Technology” from preparer’s and approver’s branch name and changed approver name to current Branch Chief name (i.e., Hernandez to Files).	03/20/2006
G	Add reference to Class D welding in 3.0 for on-site JSC work authorized by the JSC Engineering Directorate’s manufacturing operations. Add additional Class D stipulations in last paragraph of 3.1. Added Reviewer signature block.	11/21/2007
H	Revised the definitions of flight and non-flight hardware in 2.0; added NAS 410, NASA-STD-5009, PRC-5010 and PRC-6510 to 4.0; deleted PRC-6504 and PRC-6505 from 4.0; revised 6.6 to allow mechanical repairs; revised 7.0 through 7.3 to add separate inspection requirements for flight hardware and require NAS 410 certification for NDE personnel inspecting flight hardware; revised the WPS, PQR and WPQ requirements in 8.0 to include a provision found in 6.1.1; and revised Appendix A in its entirety.	11/08/12

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1.0 SCOPE

This process specification provides the minimum requirements that govern the manual arc welding of aluminum alloy hardware. Design, procedural and quality assurance requirements are given. All work instructions and Weld Procedure Specifications (WPS) used during welding shall satisfy the requirements of this process specification.

2.0 APPLICABILITY

This process specification applies to manual (and semi-automatic) arc welding of aluminum alloy hardware that is fabricated under the authority of NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC) by any of the following types of welding processes and any of their process derivatives (e.g., pulsed current, etc.):

a. Gas tungsten arc welding (GTAW).
b. Gas metal arc welding (GMAW).
c. Plasma arc welding (PAW).
d. Soft Plasma arc welding (SPAW).

The term “flight hardware” refers to any hardware acceptable for space flight use (Class I), use in ground tests or training in a hazardous environment (Class II), use in water immersion training (Class IIIW) and Ground Support Equipment (GSE). The term “non-flight hardware” refers to any hardware acceptable for use in non-hazardous training or displays (Class III), Special Test Equipment/Devices (STE/D), use in facilities (buildings and related accessories), mockup mission equipment and engineering prototype and development hardware.

Future builds of hardware where the existing engineering documentation calls out NASA/JSC PRC-0003 for welding shall utilize this specification. Existing hardware fabricated to PRC-0003 requirements shall not be affected by this change. In addition, existing engineering documentation that specifies welding per PRC-0007 shall be accommodated by PRC-0001, Class D. Existing hardware fabricated to PRC-0007 requirements shall not be affected by this change.

3.0 USAGE

This process specification shall be called out on the engineering drawing by a drawing note with the following general format which specifies the PRC and weld class nomenclature:

WELD AND INSPECT PER NASA/JSC PRC-0001, CLASS X.

Regarding onsite JSC work for minor facilities repair and manufacture of shop aids that is performed under the work authorization of the JSC Engineering Directorate's manufacturing operations, welds shall be considered Class D, if they conform to the Class D weld criteria and exclusions herein. Execution of these welds shall not require the formality of an engineering drawing, and may be executed by verbal orders.

To minimize fabrication costs by avoiding over-inspection and unnecessary rework/repair, individual welds, or components on a weldment shall be classified separate where possible. This can be accomplished by including a note on the engineering drawing with the general

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format shown below which specifies only the PRC nomenclature. The weld class shall then be indicated by either: 1) calling out the specific weld class with the welding symbol at the individual weld joints or, 2) by using specific flag notes with the welding symbol at the individual weld joints. Refer to Figure 3.0a and 3.0b below for examples of these methods.

WELD AND INSPECT PER NASA/JSC PRC-0001. WELD CLASSES SHALL BE AS INDICATED AT WELD LOCATION CALLOUTS.

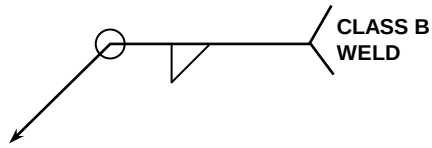

FIGURE 3.0a

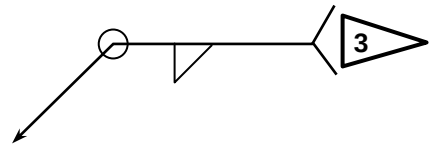

FIGURE 3.0b

3.1 WELD CLASSIFICATION

Welds made using this specification shall be primarily classified in accordance with the service conditions of the weldment. Therefore, the "Class" defines the severity of service intended for the joint by design and governs the extent to which quality assurance provisions are applied to the weld joint as specified herein.

Alternatively, individual welds, welded connections, or entire weldments (for simplicity, the terms weld, welded connection, and weldment will be used interchangably) may be classified by relating the weld to the factor of safety used in the design. However, when classifying welds in this manner, regardless of the factor of safety, adequate consideration should be given to the severity of the service conditions (e.g., static loading vs. dynamic loading, cyclic, vibration, fatigue, corrosive, extreme temp, etc.), material characteristics (e.g., ductility, toughness, etc.), and the potential consequences of weld failure.

Where conditions exist that make it difficult to choose between 2 weld classes, then the more stringent of the 2 classes shall be applied.

Quality assurance provisions for all weld classes are detailed in Section 7.0. Weld classes shall be chosen on the basis of the following definitions:

a. Class A (Flight or non-flight) — Applies to welds in critical load bearing elements that are not fail-safe. Class A welds are typically used in primary load bearing connections. Failure of a Class A weld in service would be catastrophic and would result in the loss of life, system(s), control, or major components. Alternatively, if it is determined from appropriate engineering analyses that a weld has a Factor of Safety (FS_{uts}) vs ultimate tensile strength of the calculated minimum weld throat cross section of <2.0, it shall be designated as a Class A weld.

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b. Class B (Flight or non-flight) — Applies to welds in load bearing elements that are fail-safe. Class B welds are typically used in secondary load bearing (i.e., shared load) connections. Failure of a Class B weld in service would reduce the overall efficiency of the system, but the loss of the system(s) or endangerment to personnel would not be expected. Alternatively, if it is determined from appropriate engineering analyses that a weld will have a FS_{uts} of ≥ 2.0 and <3.5, it may be designated as a Class B weld.

c. Class C (Flight or non-flight) — Applies to welds that are in minor load bearing elements that are fully contained where failure in service would have minor or no affect on the efficiency of a system and endangerment to personnel would not occur. Class C welds are typically used in secondary or tertiary load bearing (i.e., shared load) connections. Alternatively, if it is determined from appropriate engineering analyses that a weld will have a FS_{uts} of ≥ 3.5 and <5.0, it may be designated as a Class C weld.

d. Class D (Non-flight hardware only) — Applies to welds that are in noncritical elements and where failure would have no affect on the efficiency of a system and endangerment to personnel would not occur. Class D welds are typically used in connections where any expected load transfer at the weld would be negligible. Alternatively, if it is determined from appropriate engineering analyses that a weld will have a FS_{uts} of ≥ 5.0, it may be designated as a Class D weld. In any case, Class D shall not be specified for welds used for making connections onto critical or primary load path elements (e.g., lift points, etc.) or elements directly related to personnel supporting activities, regardless of the loading condition/direction.

In addition to the above definitions, the following requirements shall also apply to weld classifications:

- If any weld intersects or overlaps another weld of a higher classification, then the lower classed weld shall be automatically upgraded to the higher of the 2 weld classes and subjected to the appropriate quality assurance provisions.
- If any weld falls within ½" of any higher classed weld, then it shall be automatically upgraded to the higher of the 2 weld classes and subjected to the appropriate quality assurance provisions.
- Class D welds are only intended for on-site (JSC) fabrication operations. All welds that are specified as Class D on weldments that are subcontracted off-site shall be recognized as Class C and shall be subject to all applicable Class C requirements specified herein. Class D welds shall only apply to welds made on 1000, 3000, 5000 and 6000 series aluminum alloys. In addition, welds joining 2 or more dissimilar base metals shall not be allowable under Class D provisions.

3.2 WORK INSTRUCTIONS

Work instructions shall be generated for implementing this process specification. The work instructions shall contain sufficient detail to ensure that the manufacturing process produces consistent, repeatable results that comply with this specification. At JSC, these work instructions are approved as Detailed Process Instructions (DPIs) that describe in a detailed, step-by-step format the required procedures, equipment, and materials to be used for conducting a given process. If this manufacturing process is to be performed by an outside vendor, work instruction development shall be the responsibility of the vendor.

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3.3 DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

a. The design of welded joints (including weld sizes) shall utilize adequate engineering analysis methods (e.g., stress analysis, fracture mechanics/fracture control, FEA, FMEA, etc.) to ensure that the resultant connection strength is capable of successfully transferring the maximum load expected to pass between the interconnecting members and meet the required factors of safety and design margins.

b. All engineering drawings shall depict welded joints using the applicable symbols described in AWS A2.4.

c. The engineering drawing shall specify any additional or alternate testing or inspection requirements. Where spot, intermittent, or other special inspection requirements are specified that deviate from those stated herein, it shall be detailed on the drawing as a note or by using the applicable symbology described in AWS A2.4. For Class A welds, alternate or reduced NDE requirements shall not be allowed.

d. All alloys with magnesium levels >3.0% Mg, including filler alloys, shall not be specified for service conditions exceeding 65°C (150°F).

e. Class A welds are expected to be welds requiring full strength of the weld joint therefore, these welds shall be a groove design and full penetration wherever possible. The ability to successfully perform radiographic examination on these weld joints shall be considered during design.

f. Unless otherwise specified on the engineering drawing, hardware will be delivered in the “as welded” condition. If required, the engineering drawing shall include notation that will specify the appropriate heat treatment process, referencing NASA/JSC PRC-2002.

g. Intermittent welding (skip welds) shall not be specified for Class A joints.

h. Intermittent welds shall not be specified for butt welds (square or groove design) unless the unwelded portions of the joint are adequately supported to prevent one member from coming out plane with the adjoining member.

i. Weld filler material shall be specified on the engineering drawing in the parts list.

4.0 REFERENCES

The standards listed below shall be considered a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the revision that is in effect on the date of invitation for bids or the date of request for proposals shall apply.

a. Aerospace Industries Association of America (AIA) National Aerospace Standards (NAS)

NAS 410 *NAS Certification & Qualification of Nondestructive Test Personnel*

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b. American Society of Nondestructive Testing (ASNT)

SNT-TC-1A *Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing*

c. American Welding Society (AWS) Standards

ANSI/AWS A2.4 *Standard Symbols for Welding, Brazing and Nondestructive Testing*

ANSI/AWS A3.0 *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions*

ANSI/AWS A5.10 *Specification for Bare Aluminum and Aluminum Alloy Welding Electrodes and Rods*

ANSI/AWS A5.12 *Specification for Tungsten Arc Welding Electrodes*

ANSI/AWS B2.1 *Standard for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification*

ANSI/AWS D1.2 *Structural Welding Code - Aluminum*

ANSI/AWS QC-1 *Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors*

d. Compressed Gas Association, Inc.

G-11.1 *Argon, Commodity Specification for*

e. Federal Documents

BB-H-1168 *Helium Federal Specification*

f. Military Documents

MIL-A-18455 *Argon, Technical*

MIL-P-27407 *Propellant Pressurizing Agent, Helium*

g. NASA/JSC Documents

JPG 5322.1 *Contamination Control Requirements Manual*

PRC-0008 *Process Specification for the Qualification of Manual Arc Welders*

PRC-2002 *Process Specification for the Heat Treatment of Aluminum Alloys*

PRC-5010 *Process Specification for Pickling, Etching and Descaling of Metals*

PRC-6503 *Process Specification for Radiographic Inspection*

PRC-6506 *Process Specification for Liquid Penetrant Inspection*

PRC-6510 *Process Specification for Ultrasonic Inspection of Welds*

SOP-004.5 *Control of Weld Filler Materials, Electrodes, and Fluxing Materials*

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SOP-007.1 *Preparation and Revision of Process Specifications*

TI-0000-04 *Training Instruction for the Welding Processes*

h. NASA Headquarters

NASA-SPEC-5006 *General Fusion Welding Requirements for Aerospace Materials Used in Flight Hardware*

NASA-STD-5009 *Nondestructive Evaluation Requirements for Fracture Critical Metallic Components*

5.0 MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

All base materials used in the welding of hardware per this specification, shall meet the requirements of an applicable JSC material specification unless otherwise specified. If a JSC material specification is not available, then an applicable commercial specification or a manufacturer's specification shall be used. Filler and electrode materials used shall conform to the applicable AWS specification listed herein. Filler metals and electrodes purchased to alternate specifications shall be allowed provided they meet the minimum requirements of the specifications listed herein.

5.1 SHIELDING AND PURGE GASES

Allowable shielding gases (including purge gases) are listed in Table I. Gases purchased to alternate specifications shall be allowed provided they meet the minimum requirements of the specifications listed herein. Mixtures of these gases are allowed and the nominal mixture used for the qualification welding shall be that used for production and shall be listed on the WPS. All shielding and purging gases and nominal gas mixtures shall be treated as an essential procedure qualification variable and shall be subject to the AWS B2.1 requirement for these variables. In addition:

a. All gases used for welding shall be delivered through clean low-nonvolatile residue (NVR)/particulate tubing.

b. Nitrogen or hydrogen gas in any concentration, shall not be used for shielding or purging in any welding operation governed under this specification.

c. All gases used for shielding or purging shall have a dewpoint of -40°F (minus 40 °C) or better.

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Table I. Allowable Shielding Gases

GAS	DESCRIPTION	SPECIFICATION
Argon	Gas	MIL-A-18455
Argon	Type II, Grade B (Liquefied)	CGA G-11.1
Helium	Type I, Grade A	MIL-P-27407
Helium	Grade A	BB-H-1168

5.2 FILLER METALS AND ELECTRODES

Filler metals shall be selected from Table II. Alternate selections may be warranted based on specific service conditions, design requirements, or other factors however, the alternate selection shall be approved by the NASA/JSC M&P organization prior to use. In addition, the following shall apply:

a) Non consumable tungsten and tungsten alloy electrodes for GTAW and PAW shall be selected according to the process being used at the direction of the responsible M&P organization. The electrode type and size shall be specified on the WPS.

b) Weld filler metals shall be called out on the engineering drawing in the parts list.

5.2.1 Control and Storage

Welding electrodes shall be stored in a clean, dry, and controlled area that provides protection from contamination, physical damage, and commingling of alloys. Any form of electrodes or weld filler metal which is damaged, dirty, exhibits oxidation/corrosion or has been contaminated with water, oil, grease or any form of hydrocarbons shall not be used and shall be disposed of in accordance with an appropriate disposal procedure. For JSC operations, welding electrodes and filler materials shall be controlled in accordance with SOP-004.5. Outside vendors shall provide control and storage according to the applicable material specification or manufacturer's recommendation, whichever is more rigid.

Table II. Weld Metal Fillers For Aluminum and Aluminum Alloy Combinations

BASE METAL	2014	2219	5052	5083	5086	5456	6061
2014	2319	2319					4145
2219		2319					4043
5052			5654	5356	5356	5356	
5083				5183	5356	5183	

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BASE METAL	2014	2219	5052	5083	5086	5456	6061
5086					5356	5556	
5456						5556	
6061							4043

6.0 PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

All weldments shall be fabricated according to the requirements of this process specification and shall be performed using Welding Procedure Specifications (WPS) that have been qualified in accordance with the requirements of Section 8.0 in addition to that as detailed below.

6.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROCESSES

6.1.1 Preweld Cleaning of Weld Joint Surfaces

Prior to welding, all weld joint surfaces within a minimum of ½" of the weld line shall be cleaned in a manner shown to be adequate and repeatable in producing a surface cleanliness level conducive to producing sound welds by a given weld process. The specific process and procedural steps to carry out the process shall be part of the procedure qualification activities and shall be appropriately detailed on the qualification and procedure specification (PQR and WPS) documentation as well in the production work instructions. Welder's shall be trained in these same methods and process techniques.

6.1.2 Intermittent Welding

Applicable to all processes, weld joints that are specified for intermittent welding shall have the ends of the parts, or departure from a straight weld line (e.g., square corner, etc.), welded regardless of the interval of the weld.

6.1.3 Tooling and Fixturing

Weldments shall be fixtured with appropriate tooling as deemed necessary by the fabricator. Tools and fixtures shall be constructed of materials that will not interefere with the welding process nor damage or contaminate the hardware.

6.1.4 Temporary or Tack Welding

Temporary (includes the term "tack" welding) welding in areas of the hardware not planned for welding or where the temporary weld will not be totally consumed by the final weld, shall not be allowed. All temporary welds placed at or in a weld joint shall be ground and feathered appropriately to accommodate the final welding process to achieve the expected deposit of sound weld metal. All temporary and tack welding shall only be performed by a welder(s) whose qualifications are current and applicable.

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6.1.5 Welding Equipment

Equipment (e.g., power supplies, positioners, flowmeters, etc.) used for manual welding operations need not have calibrated instrumentation (dials, gauges, indicators, meters, etc.). However, reference indicating instrumentation (e.g., dials, meters, gauges, etc.) shall be fully functional (useful output) and in good working order. The equipment shall be capable of being used by a qualified welder, using a qualified procedure, to produce sound welds.

6.1.6 Welding Precision Cleaned Hardware (including tube preparation for welding)

Whenever precision-cleaned hardware must be maintained clean during welding into an assembly, the welding operation shall be performed in a dedicated Class 100,000 Clean Work Area. This may require temporary tents over the weld area and/or local monitors located in the area of welding to ensure the Class 100,000 environment is being met. Portable particle counters shall be located as close as possible to the work area, so as to monitor local contaminants during tube preparation and welding. Tools used in weld preparation and welding (such as cutter, weld head, files) shall be visibly cleaned per JPG 5322.1 and maintained clean (e.g. bagged when not in use).

For hardware that cannot be subsequently precision-cleaned, a proven method for protecting against system contamination during tube preparation and welding shall be implemented. One such method is the use of a physical barrier, such as plugs. The installation and removal of plugs shall be tracked by a reliable method and independently verified. Prior to plug removal, the exposed internal surfaces of the tube shall be cleaned using a swab wetted with an approved solvent, and positive backpressure shall be maintained as the plug is removed.

Tube cutters shall use a sharp blade, changed frequently. Cutting shall be performed with minimal cutter pressure to aid in preventing particle generation. Vacuum shall be used during tube facing operations to remove particulate. Whenever possible, facing operations shall be performed away from the weld assembly area, to reduce particulate contamination of the welding work area. Tube facing shall be performed without the use of cutting oils, other fluids, lubricants or coolants. Abrasives, including sandpaper or abrasive pads, shall not be used inside tubes or when unprotected internal surfaces are exposed. After each tube preparation, and prior to welding, a high-velocity gas purge shall be performed. The purge gas velocity shall be the maximum attainable using a 90-psig source. The purge gas used during facing and welding shall meet the hydrocarbon and particulate requirements for the system under assembly. The purge gas shall be supplied in accordance with Section 5.1.

6.2 PROCESS SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

6.2.1 Gas Tungsten Arc Welding

Additional filler metal shall be used with the GTAW process unless it can be demonstrated by weld qualification that weld cracking and other undesirable metallurgical conditions will not exist in the finished weld made without filler metal (autogenous weld). This method of welding shall be specified on an approved WPS.

6.2.2 Gas Metal Arc Welding

The GMAW short circuiting transfer mode shall not be used to fabricate flight hardware nor to join materials of greater than ¼” thickness unless specifically qualified and documented in a WPS. Thickness limitations for this process mode shall be as specified by AWS B2.1. The

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process can be used to deposit the root and additional passes in the root region of butt joints exceeding that specifically qualified for, up to a deposited weld metal thickness as allowed by the WPS. The GMAW short circuiting transfer mode shall not be used to make Class A welds designated for any type of hardware.

6.2.3 Plasma Arc Welding

Additional filler metal shall be used with the PAW process unless it can be demonstrated by weld qualification that weld cracking and other undesirable metallurgical conditions will not exist in the finished weld made without filler metal (autogenous weld). This method of welding shall be specified on an approved WPS.

6.3 PREHEATING

Preheating shall not exceed 121°C (250°F) at any point on the assembly. Actual welding shall begin immediately after preheating has reached the temperature specified on the WPS or 121°C (250°F) maximum. Weld joints involving alloys with magnesium levels >3.0% (including filler alloys), shall not be preheated above 65°C (150°F).

6.4 INTERPASS TEMPERATURE

a. In weld joints between different base metal types and thickness, the higher of the preheat requirements of the joint members shall apply.

b. The temperature of the assembly shall not exceed 177 °C (350°F). However, interpass temperatures may reach as high as 343°C (650°F) in provided that the weldment is solution heat treated and aged (as applicable to the alloy) using an appropriate post-weld heat treatment.

6.5 POST-WELD HEAT TREATMENT (PWHT)

Postweld heat treatment, when required by the engineering drawing or WPS, shall be performed after completion of all welding in accordance with NASA/JSC PRC-2002, as applicable. Vibratory techniques are not prohibited but shall not be used in place of thermal treatments. All postweld inspections shall be applied immediately following all post weld heat treatment activities.

6.6 WELD REPAIRS AND WELDED REPAIRS TO BASE METAL

All weld rework and welded repairs shall be documented on an appropriate discrepancy report (DR) or weld repair record (WRR) form and shall be performed using the WPS used for the original weld, a specific qualified WPS for that repair, or as approved by the responsible M&P engineering organization. Rework and repairs shall meet all of the requirements of the original drawing and any additional requirements documented in the WPS. Weld rework and repair does not include the correction of dimensional or other deficiencies of the groove/bevel preparation of weld joints by “buttering” or build up provided the area corrected by welding is fully consumed in the final weld. Also, the following requirements shall apply in the weld repair activity:

a. Mechanical Repairs. Defects shall be repaired by grinding, chipping, sanding or machining the weld metal to the extent needed to completely remove the defects. For groove welds, the reinforcement shall not be machined past flush to the base metal. For fillet welds, the final machined weld profile shall meet the applicable profile and

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size requirements. In both cases, the repair shall be blended smoothly into the unrepaired weld metal. All repairs shall be subjected to the same visual, surface and subsurface inspections as the unrepaired weld. Repairs requiring liquid penetrant inspection shall be etched in accordance with PRC-5010 prior to inspection.

b. Weld Repairs. Defects shall be repaired by grinding, chipping, sanding or machining the weld metal to the extent needed to completely remove the defects. The final repair cavity shall be of a configuration suitable for welding. Prior to welding, the excavation shall be subjected to the same visual, surface and subsurface inspections as the unrepaired weld. Excavations requiring liquid penetrant inspection shall be etched in accordance with PRC-5010 prior to inspection. Weld repairs shall be documented by the use of a weldment map or other record with sufficient detail to ensure identification of the weldment, identification of repair location(s), and type of defect. Repair welds shall be subjected to the same visual, surface and subsurface inspections as the unrepaired weld.

No more than two weld attempts shall be made to successfully repair a rejected flaw. If a second attempt is unsuccessful, a discrepancy report requiring review and dispositioning by the responsible Material Review Board (MRB) shall be generated.

c. Straightening. Welds or adjacent base metal which have been deformed by the welding operation may be straightened. All straightening operations shall take place at temperatures not to exceed the determined critical temperature for that alloy. Straightening operations determined to be severe in nature shall be reviewed and approved by the responsible M&P engineering authority prior to the operations taking place. All straightening operations shall be performed prior to any final inspection.

d. Base Metal Repairs. Repairs to base metal anomalies shall be brought to the attention of the NASA/JSC M&P organization for consideration of cause, prior to repair activities.

7.0 PROCESS VERIFICATION

Process verification shall consist of the inspections described in sections 7.1 to 7.3. In addition, the manufacturer shall assure that fabrication activities are carried out in a manner that meets the requirements of this process specification.

7.1 REQUIRED INSPECTIONS

Unless otherwise specified, all welds in a structure shall be subjected to the required inspections for the applicable weld class or classes. Unconsumed temporary or tack welds shall be subjected to the level of inspection required by the highest weld class specified in the design documentation.

7.1.1 Class A

Class A welds require visual, surface and subsurface inspections. Surface inspections shall be accomplished using the liquid penetrant method. Subsurface inspections shall be accomplished using the radiographic method. In cases where the weld configuration renders adequate radiographic inspection impractical, an alternate inspection method shall be utilized as approved by the NASA/JSC M&P engineering organization. When liquid penetrant is selected and approved as an alternate to radiographic inspection of multi-pass welds,

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inspections shall be performed on every pass. When ultrasonic inspection is selected and approved as an alternate to radiographic inspection, the ultrasonic inspection shall be performed as specified in section 7.2.5.

7.1.2 Class B

Class B welds require visual and surface inspections. Surface inspections shall be accomplished using the liquid penetrant method.

7.1.3 Class C

Class C welds only require visual inspection.

7.1.4 Class D

Class D welds only require inspection to verify the weld type, nominal size, length and location and to verify that the welds exhibit good workmanship practices. Good workmanship shall be defined as the presence of a uniform appearance and overall clean weld zones absent of spatter, arc strikes, tool marks and other obvious discontinuities. Where a size is not specified, the nominal weld size shall be per best shop practice and at the discretion of the manufacturing organization with the intent to utilize single pass welds wherever possible so as to avoid over-welding. A CWI is not required for this inspection. This level of inspection may serve as a means of “in process” or “self verification” where design and/or manufacturing protocols permit.

7.2 INSPECTION METHODS AND ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

7.2.1 General

Inspections shall be performed in accordance with a written procedure by personnel certified in accordance with section 7.3.

7.2.2 Visual

Welds shall be visually inspected for conformance to the drawing requirements and acceptance shall be in accordance with the applicable Class A, B or C acceptance criteria in Appendix A.

7.2.3 Liquid Penetrant

a) Non-Flight Hardware: Liquid penetrant inspections shall be performed per PRC-6506. Unless otherwise specified, a fluorescent (Type I) Sensitivity Level 3 or 4 penetrant shall be used for Class A welds and a visible (Type II) penetrant shall be used for Class B welds. Acceptance shall be in accordance with the applicable Class A or B acceptance criteria in Appendix A.

b) Flight Hardware: Liquid penetrant inspections shall be performed per PRC-6506. Unless otherwise specified, a fluorescent (Type I) Sensitivity Level 3 or 4 penetrant shall be used. Acceptance shall be in accordance with the applicable Class A or B acceptance criteria in Appendix A.

7.2.4 Radiographic

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a) Non-Flight Hardware: Radiographic inspections shall be performed per PRC-6503. Acceptance shall be in accordance with the applicable Class A acceptance criteria in Appendix A. Gamma radiation sources shall not be used unless approved by the NASA/JSC M&P engineering organization. Approval of gamma radiation sources shall be based on demonstration of radiographic sensitivity equivalent to that obtainable with an X-ray source.

b) Flight Hardware: Radiographic inspections shall be performed per PRC-6503. Acceptance shall be in accordance with the applicable Class A acceptance criteria in Appendix A.

7.2.5 Ultrasonic

a) Non-Flight Hardware: Unless otherwise specified, ultrasonic inspections and acceptance shall be performed per PRC-6510, Class A.

b) Flight Hardware: Ultrasonic inspections and acceptance shall be performed per PRC-6510, Class A.

7.3 CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION OF INSPECTION PERSONNEL

7.3.1 Visual Inspection

Personnel performing visual inspections of Class A, B and C welds shall be American Welding Society (AWS) Certified Welding Inspectors (CWI). The CWI certification must be current.

7.3.2 Nondestructive Inspection

Personnel performing acceptance inspections of flight hardware (Class I, II, IIIW and GSE) shall be qualified and certified, at a minimum, to Level 2 in accordance with NAS 410. Personnel performing acceptance inspections requiring Special NDE shall also be qualified and certified for Special NDE in accordance with NASA-STD-5009.

Personnel performing acceptance inspections of non-flight hardware (Class III, STE/D, mockup, and facility hardware) shall be qualified and certified in accordance with either NAS 410 or SNT-TC-1A. Personnel making accept/reject decisions shall, at a minimum, be certified to Level 2. Level 3 personnel making accept/reject decisions shall have successfully completed a hands-on practical examination equivalent to the examination required for Level 2. Level 1 personnel may perform acceptance inspections under the direct supervision of a Level 2 but shall not make accept/reject decisions.

Formal qualification and certification is not required for personnel performing engineering evaluation inspections.

8.0 PROCESS QUALIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

The WPS, PQR, and WPQ shall be prepared and retained as a permanent record and made available upon request to the NASA/JSC M&P organization for review. These procedures must contain, at a minimum, all of the essential welding parameters (procedure qualification

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variables, etc.), an identification of the welding equipment, the preweld cleaning procedure (refer to Section 6.1.1) and include any pertinent tooling information. One copy of the WPS shall be maintained in the vicinity of the welding station and shall be readily accessible by the welders, inspectors, supervision, and engineering.

8.1 PROCEDURE QUALIFICATION VARIABLES

Applicable to all processes, the process variables considered “essential” and applicable to qualification of a welding procees/procedure shall be all those as required by AWS B2.1 and to include the following:

a. A change from vertical downhill welding to vertical uphill or vice versa,
b. A change from a stringer to a weave bead and vice versa,
c. A change from multiple passes per side to a single pass per side, but not vice versa,
d. As deemed necessary by the NASA/JSC M&P organization, an increase or decrease in in any one or more of the variables considered integral to the measured heat input (i.e., current, voltage, and travel speed) beyond that which was qualified. Where necessary, the procedure shall include weld tests that define the tolerance ranges of specifically identified parameters,
e. For keyhole welding techniques, a change from keyhole to non-keyhole and vice versa.

8.2 WELDING PROCEDURE SPECIFICATION

A Welding Procedure Specification (WPS) is a qualified written working procedure that must be developed before beginning production for each unique weld type to be produced. Qualification support documentation in the form of a Procedure Qualification Record (PQR) shall be maintained on file to show proof of process/procedure capability using the WPS. The WPS shall be traceable by means of serialized nomenclature and shall show traceability to the applicable PQR(s). The WPS used for production welding shall meet the requirements of AWS B2.1 and shall be certified by the responsible M&P organization at the operating facility, prior to use in production. If a qualified WPS does not exist prior to welding of production parts, one shall be qualified according to AWS B2.1 “Standard Test Weldments” at a minimum. “Prequalified” or “Standard Welding Procedure Specifications” shall not be permitted for production use on Class A or B welds made on flight hardware.

8.3 PROCEDURE QUALIFICATION RECORD

A Procedure Qualification Record (PQR) is documentation to support the welding procedure specification to show proof of process/procedure capability. A PQR shall be unique and traceable, by means of serialized nomenclature. The PQR shall be process-specific and specific to a unique weld type. Data required in the PQR shall include detailed descriptions of the test coupon configurations and joint designs, all pertinent material specifications, all pertinent essential process variables used, all destructive and nondestructive test results from the qualification sample set, and all required certifications from the approving organization. The PQR shall be approved by the responsible M&P organization at the operating facility.

8.4 WELDER PERFORMANCE QUALIFICATION

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A Welder Performance Qualification (WPQ) is documentation that shows that a welder has been tested in accordance with PRC-0008 and shown competent to produce a sound weld for a specific welding process/base material/filler metal/position combination.

9.0 TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL

9.1 TRAINING

At JSC, if welder training is considered necessary prior to qualification/requalification of existing JSC welding personnel or for the initial qualification of new hires, it shall be conducted in accordance with TI-0000-04. For an outside JSC vendor, welder training (when necessary) should consist of practice using the facility welding equipment and a specific WPS to demonstrate proficiency, under the supervision of a qualified/certified welder. Specific development of an appropriate training program shall be the responsibility of the vendor.

9.2 WELDER QUALIFICATION

Welding shall be performed by a welder qualified and certified in accordance with NASA/JSC PRC-0008. Sufficiently detailed records shall be maintained to demonstrate continuity of performance qualification on a semi-annual (6 month) basis.

10.0 DEVIATIONS AND WAIVERS

Any deviations or waivers regarding the use of this process specification shall be requested in writing. This request shall be directed to the NASA/JSC M&P organization with the appropriate justification and rationale. A written response will be provided upon such a request.

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Appendix A

WELD ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

A1.0 GENERAL

If any of the acceptance criteria given below conflict with the engineering drawing requirements, then the stricter criteria shall apply. The symbol 'T' shall equal the nominal base metal thickness of the thinnest component in the welded connection. The weld length shall be the distance from end to end of the weld deposit or to a sharp change in weld direction where the angle of change in any direction is greater than 30° with a radius of less than 1/2". Unless otherwise stated, the criteria in this Appendix shall apply to all weld classes except Class D. Acceptance criteria for Class D welds are detailed in Section 7.1 of this specification. Alternate and/or additional acceptance criteria, when applicable, shall be specified in the design documentation.

Table A1.0. Acceptance Criteria

ITEM	DISCONTINUITY TYPE	Class A	Class B	Class C
1.0	**CRACKS IN THE WELD OR BASE METAL**	None allowed	None allowed	None allowed
2.0	**OVERLAP (COLDLAP)**	None allowed	None allowed	None allowed
3.0	**INCOMPLETE FUSION**	None allowed	None allowed	None allowed
4.0	**INCOMPLETE PENETRATION(1)**	None allowed	None allowed	None allowed
5.0	**POROSITY – SURFACE(2)**			
5.1	Maximum Individual Size(3 & 4)	0.25T or 0.030" whichever is less	0.33T or 0.060" whichever is less	0.50T or 0.090" whichever is less
5.2	Minimum Spacing	8x the size of the larger adjacent pore	4x the size of the larger adjacent pore	2x the size of the larger adjacent pore
5.3	Maximum Accumulated Length in any 3" of Weld(5)	1T or 0.12" whichever is less	1.33T or 0.24" whichever is less	2T or 0.36" whichever is less
6.0	**POROSITY – SUBSURFACE(2)**			
6.1	Maximum Individual Size(3 & 4)	0.33T or 0.060" whichever is less	0.50T or 0.090" whichever is less	Not Applicable
6.2	Minimum Spacing	4x the size of the larger adjacent pore	2x the size of the larger adjacent pore	Not Applicable
6.3	Maximum Accumulated Length in any 3" of Weld(5)	1.33T or 0.24" whichever is less	2T or 0.36" whichever is less	Not Applicable
7.0	**INCLUSIONS(2)**			
7.1	Maximum Individual Size(3 & 4)	0.33T or 0.060" whichever is less	0.50T or 0.090" whichever is less	Not Applicable
7.2	Minimum Spacing	4x the size of the larger adjacent inclusion	2x the size of the larger adjacent inclusion	Not Applicable
7.3	Maximum Accumulated Length in any 3" of Weld(5)	1.33T or 0.24" whichever is less	2T or 0.36" whichever is less	Not Applicable
8.0	**UNDERCUT**			
8.1	Full Length of Weld, Maximum Depth	0.002"	0.015T or 0.002", whichever is greater	0.025T or 0.002", whichever is greater

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ITEM	DISCONTINUITY TYPE	Class A	Class B	Class C
8.2	Maximum Individual Defect	0.07T or 0.03", whichever is less	0.10T or 0.05", whichever is less	0.20T or 0.07", whichever is less
8.3	Maximum Accumulated Length in any 3" of Weld(5)	0.20"	0.60"	1.00"
9.0	**FACE OR ROOT UNDERFILL – GROOVE WELDS**			
9.1	Full Length of Weld, Maximum Depth	0.005"	0.015T or 0.005", whichever is greater	0.025T or 0.005", whichever is greater
9.2	Maximum Individual Defect	0.07T or 0.03", whichever is less	0.07T or 0.03", whichever is less	0.07T or 0.03", whichever is less
9.3	Maximum Accumulated Length in any 3" of Weld(5)	0.20"	0.60"	1.00"
10.0	**CRATERS**			
10.1	Maximum Depth	0.20T or 0.03", whichever is less	0.20T or 0.05", whichever is less	0.20T or 0.05", whichever is less
10.2	Maximum Length	1T	1T	2T
11.0	**ARC STRIKES AND GOUGE MARKS**	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable
12.0	**WELD REINFORCEMENT -MANUAL WELDS**			
12.1	Material < 0.125"	1T maximum	No stated requirement	No stated requirement
12.2	Material 0.125" to 0.510"	1T or 0.100" maximum, whichever is greater	No stated requirement	No stated requirement
12.3	Material > 0.510"	0.170" maximum	No stated requirement	No stated requirement
13.0	**PEAKING**	3 degrees max	5 degrees max	No stated requirement
14.0	**MISMATCH BETWEEN MEMBERS AFTER WELDING**	T/10 or 1/8", whichever is less	T/5 or 3/16", whichever is less	No stated requirement
15.0	**FILLET WELDS**			
15.1	Weld Profiles	See Fig. A2.0	See Fig. A2.0	See Fig. A2.0
15.2	Weld Size (Size Stated on Drawing)	As shown by welding symbol	As shown by welding symbol	As shown by welding symbol
15.3	Minimum Weld Size (Size Not Stated on Drawing) – Single Side Fillet	1.5T	1.5T	1.5T
15.4	Minimum Weld Size (Size Not Stated on Drawing) – Double Side Fillet	1.0T	1.0T	1.0T
15.5	Maximum Weld Size – Size Stated on Drawing			
15.6	Material ≤ 0.090"	2.0x	2.0x	2.0x
15.7	Material 0.091" – 0.156"	1.5x	1.5x	1.5x
15.8	Material 0.157" – 0.750"	1.25x	1.25x	1.25x
15.9	Material ≥ 0.751"	1.1x	1.1x	1.1x
16.0	**DISCOLORATION**			
16.1	All oxidation colors except for black	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
16.2	Black	Reject	Reject	Reject
17.0	**LOOSE OXIDATION AND SCALE**	Reject	Reject	Reject

(1) Applicable to groove welds only.

(2) For all discontinuities approaching a free edge (See Figure A1.0), the closest edge of the discontinuity shall have clearance from the free edge ≥ 3X the largest of its dimensions or ≥ 2X the nominal weld throat, whichever is greater.

(3) Adjacent rounded discontinuities separated by ≤ 1X the length of the longer discontinuity shall be considered a single discontinuity.

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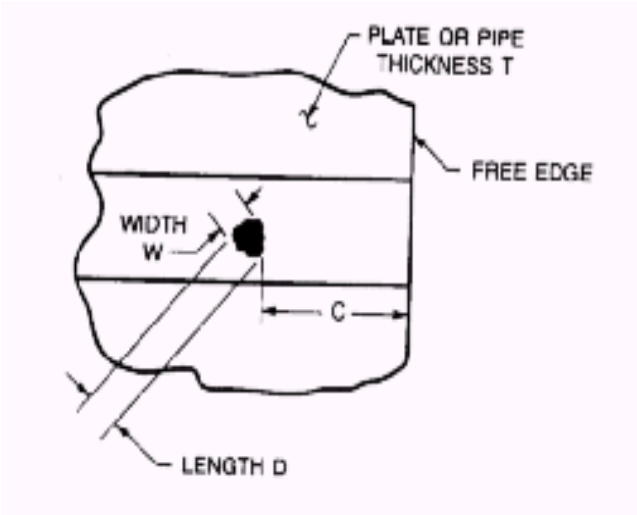
(4) Adjacent elongated discontinuities separated by ≤ 3X the diameter of the larger discontinuity, shall be considered a single discontinuity.

(5) For weld lengths less than 3", the total sum of indications shall be an equivalent proportion of the weld length.



C = Clearance spacing between closest edge of discontinuity and free edge

FIGURE A1.0 – DISCONTINUITY APPROACHING A FREE EDGE

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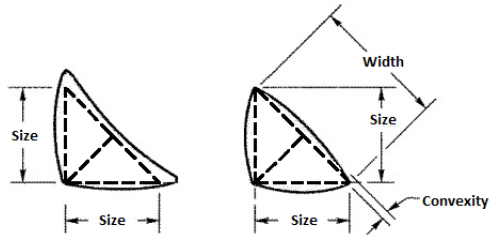
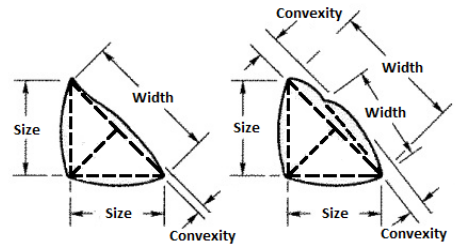


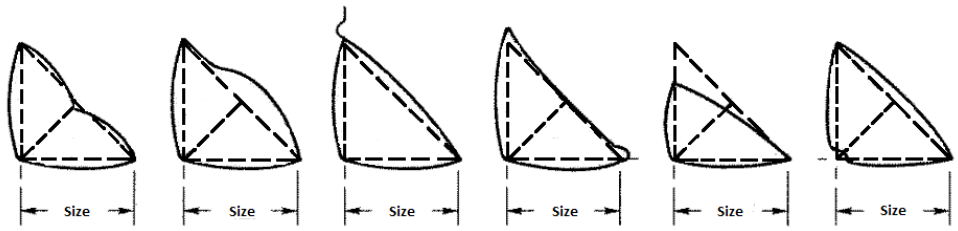
(1) Desirable Fillet Welds



(2) Acceptable Fillet Welds

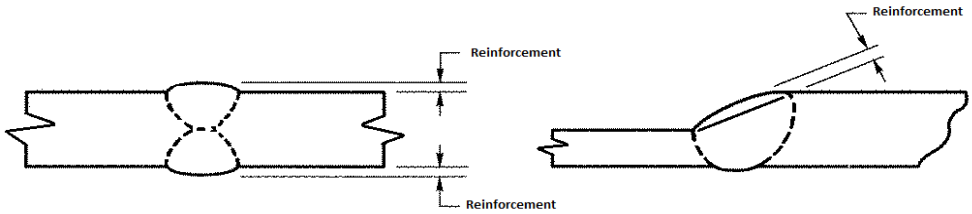
Note: Convexity of a weld or individual surface bead with dimension Width shall not exceed the value of the following table.

Width of Weld Face or Individual Surface Bead	Maximum Convexity Allowed
Width ≤ 5/16”	1/16”
Width > 5/16” to Width < 1.00”	1/8”
Width ≥ 1.00”	3/16”

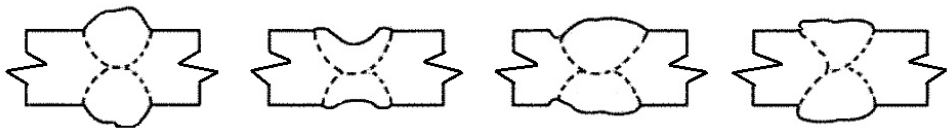


Insufficient Throat | Excessive Convexity | Excessive Undercut | Overlap | Insufficient Leg | Incomplete Fusion

(3) Unacceptable Fillet Weld Profiles



(4) Acceptable Groove Weld Profiles in Butt Welds Note: Reinforcement shall not exceed 1/8”.



Excessive Convexity | Insufficient Throat | Excessive Undercut | Overlap

(5) Unacceptable Groove Weld Profiles in Butt Joints

Figure A2.0 – ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE WELD PROFILES

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