AWS B2.1-22-015:2011 (R2022)
An American National Standard

Standard Welding Procedure Specification (SWPS) for Gas Tungsten Arc Welding of Aluminum (M/P-22 to M/P-22), 18 through 10 Gauge, ER4043 or R4043, in the As-Welded Condition, with or without Backing

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American Welding Society®

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Approved by the
American National Standards Institute
July 7, 2010
Reaffirmed: November 29, 2021

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3rd Edition

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Prepared by the
American Welding Society (AWS) B2 Committee on Procedure and Performance Qualification

Under the Direction of the
AWS Technical Activities Committee

Approved by the
AWS Board of Directors

Abstract

This standard contains the essential welding variables for aluminum in the thickness range of 10 through 18 gauge using manual gas tungsten arc welding. It cites the base metals and operating conditions necessary to make the weldment, the filler metal specifications, and the allowable joint designs for fillet welds and groove welds.

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Foreword

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

The American Welding Society generates Standard Welding Procedure Specifications (SWPSs) for industry through the cooperative efforts of the AWS B2 Committee on Procedure and Performance Qualification, the AWS B2D Subcommittee on Standard Welding Procedure Specifications, and the AWS B2G Subcommittee on Procedure Qualification Records. The Welding Procedures Committee (WPC) of the Welding Research Council (WRC) originally managed the procedure qualification records in support of AWS Standard Welding Procedure Specifications and was formally transitioned to the AWS B2G Subcommittee on Procedure Qualification Records in 2019.

The need for pretested welding procedures that are supported by adequate test data and that satisfy the technical requirements for the commonly used construction codes and specifications has been expressed by many individuals and organizations. The purpose of a welding procedure qualification is to provide test data for assessing the properties of a weld joint.

This Standard Welding Procedure Specification is an outgrowth of the coordinated work of the AWS B2G Subcommittee on Procedure Qualification Records and the AWS B2 Committee on Procedure and Performance Qualification. The AWS B2G Subcommittee on Procedure Qualification Records has provided the data documented on the Summary of Procedure Qualification Records.

The welding terms used in this specification shall be interpreted in accordance with the definitions given in the latest edition of AWS A3.0M/A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions, Including Terms for Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, and Thermal Spraying.* Welding symbols shall be those shown in the latest edition of AWS A2.4, *Standard Symbols for Welding, Brazing, and Nondestructive Examination.*

The AWS B2 Committee on Procedure and Performance Qualification was formed in 1979 to provide welding standards concerning the subject of qualification. The primary document developed by this committee is AWS B2.1/B2.1M, *Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification*. This document established the foundation and framework for Standard Welding Procedure Specifications (SWPSs). The first two SWPSs were published in 1990. Since then SWPSs are continuing to be developed and published by the American Welding Society.

This is a reaffirmation to AWS B2.1-22-015:2011.

A vertical line in the margin or underlined text in clauses, tables, or figures indicates an editorial or technical change from the AWS B2.1-22-015:2002 edition.

Comments and suggestions for the improvement of this standard are welcome. They should be sent to the Secretary of the AWS B2 Committee on Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 St., # 130, Miami, FL, 33166.

Standard Welding Procedure Specification (SWPS)

Gas Tungsten Arc Welding of Aluminum (M/P-22 to M/P-22), 18 through 10 Gauge, ER4043 or R4043, in the As-Welded Condition, with or without Backing

Supporting PQR Numbers: 152A, 153A, 154A, 155A, 156A, 157A, 158A, 159A, 160A, 161A, 162A, 163A

Requirements for Application of SWPSs

Scope. The data to support this Standard Welding Procedure Specification (SWPS) have been derived from the above listed Procedure Qualification Records (PQRs), which were reviewed and validated under the auspices of the AWS B2G Subcommittee on Procedure Qualification Records. This SWPS is not valid using conditions and variables outside the ranges listed. The American Welding Society considers that this SWPS presents information for producing an acceptable weld using the conditions and variables listed. The user needs a significant knowledge of welding and accepts full responsibility for the performance of the weld and for providing the engineering capability, qualified personnel, and proper equipment to implement this SWPS.

Application. This SWPS is to be used only as permitted by AWS B2.1/B2.1M, *Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification*, and the applicable fabrication document(s) [such as code, specification, or contract document(s)]. The fabrication document(s) should specify the engineering requirements such as design, need for heat treatment, fabricating tolerances, quality control, and examination and tests applicable to the end product.

User's Responsibility. A SWPS does not replace or substitute for fabrication codes, specifications, contract requirements, or capability and judgment on the part of the user. A SWPS is to be used only as permitted by the applicable fabrication code, specification, or contract document. The ability to produce production welds having properties suitable for the application depends upon supplementing the SWPS with appropriate performance qualification tests and sound engineering judgment. The user is responsible for the quality and performance of the final product in accordance with the provisions of the fabrication document(s).

Supplementary Instructions. To adapt this SWPS to a specific application, a user may issue supplementary instructions. Such instructions may consist of tighter fit-up tolerances, higher minimum preheat temperature, or any other instructions necessary to produce a weldment that meets the requirements of the fabrication document(s). These instructions shall not be less restrictive than provided in the SWPS.

Standard Units of Measure. This standard makes use of both 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.

Safety. Safety and health issues and concerns are beyond the scope of this standard and therefore are not 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

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