



Heads Up

Issue: 19

Date: June 5, 2008

Re: Changes to Testing Welders

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of instances when the capabilities and skill level of UA welders has been questioned. In investigating these matters it's been found that in many cases the concerns raised by contractors and owners are justifiable. To remedy this situation we must take corrective action to address the problems at hand.

Effective immediately all local union test facilities are to begin implementing the following changes to their welder testing events:

- Time limits will be established on each one of the weld tests taken. The time limits are shown on the Weld Test Specifications. *(The time limit for taking the test will start after the ATR has accepted the fit-up and tack welds and the coupon is placed in the test position on the weld test stand.)*
- Grinding on the weld test coupons needs to be strictly limited. Excessive and prolonged grinding is an indication that the welder lacks the necessary skill to make an acceptable weld and would be justification for the ATR to terminate the welder's test. *(The old saying "it's a weld test, not a grinding test" holds true on this matter)*
- For members who do not hold any current UA welding certifications in the applicable process, the individual must undergo a "welding capability demonstration" before being permitted to take a UA weld test. The demonstration must be administered by an ATR and be must be found to be acceptable prior to taking an actual UA weld test. The type and size of the coupon used for the demonstration would be left up to the local union ATR *(based on material availability)*.

This is an extremely serious matter and should not be underestimated by local unions and our members. The future well being of the UA Welder Certification Program is at risk and needs all of your assistance to turn matters around. It only takes a few incidents to bring discredit to any certification program. It's up to all of us to ensure the integrity level and industry acceptance of our welder certification program.