

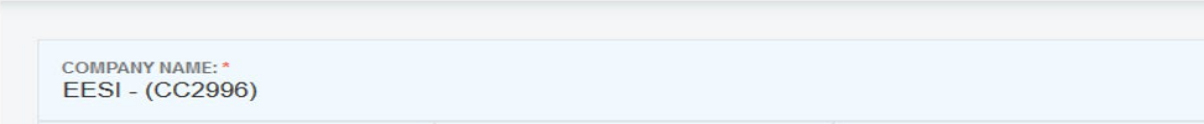
## COVID-19 Update

### ASME and AWS extension of Continuity for Unemployed Welders and Brazers

Welders<sup>1</sup> who work for our members have to weld with each process at least every six months, and the member has to document that to maintain the welder's qualified status. If that does not happen, the welder loses his or her qualification and has to be retested. Recognizing that COVID-19 has caused widespread employment interruption, to expedite rehiring welders and keep the cost down, ASME has issued short-term revision to Section IX via Code Case 2996 extending the six-month interval an additional three months from the last date a welder used a process. AWS did the same thing, but the extension is six months. Contractors should note "CC2996" in the welder's ASME continuity log when taking advantage of this extension and "COVID" or similar for AWS records.

NCPWB Chapter Secretaries who find that a welder's continuity record has exceeded the 6-month limit may grant the welder an additional three months if the contractor advises the Secretary that the welder was unemployed due to COVID-19. The Secretary may simply enter a date three months before the welder's qualifications would have expired and use that as the new starting point for the six-month interval. When updating the continuity date in the National Welder Database, add the contractor's name (even if the contractor already exists in the database) then enter the code case number CC2996 after the name (see the example below)

### Add Contractor



COMPANY NAME: \*  
EESI - (CC2996)

---

<sup>1</sup> While "welders" is used here, brazers are also included in the special provisions

**Approval Date: April 16, 2020**

*Code Cases will remain available for use until annulled by the applicable Standards Committee.*

**Case 2996**

**Extension of Joining Personnel's Qualification Continuity  
Section I; Section III; Section IV; Section VIII, Division 1;  
Section VIII, Division 2; Section VIII, Division 3; Section IX;  
Section XI, Section XII, B31**

*Inquiry:* Under what conditions may an organization extend the qualification continuity of joining personnel?

*Reply:* It is the opinion of the Committee that the qualification continuity of joining personnel who have experienced an employment interruption due to the COVID-19 outbreak may be extended an additional three months beyond that allowed by QW-322(a), QB-322(a), and QF-322(a) under the following conditions:

- a. The qualification was valid at the time of the employment interruption and
- b. The qualification was scheduled to expire during the employment interruption.

The latest date the joining personnel uses the process within the extended period will be the new date for continuity purposes. QW-322.1(b), QB-322(b), and QF-322.1(b) shall still apply for the joining personnel whose continuity has been extended. The provision of this Code Case will expire three months after the approval date.

This Case number shall be shown in the joining personnel's continuity report.

The Committee's function is to establish rules of safety, relating only to pressure integrity, governing the construction of boilers, pressure vessels, transport tanks and nuclear components, and inservice inspection for pressure integrity of nuclear components and transport tanks, and to interpret these rules when questions arise regarding their intent. This Code does not address other safety issues relating to the construction of boilers, pressure vessels, transport tanks and nuclear components, and the inservice inspection of nuclear components and transport tanks. The user of the Code should refer to other pertinent codes, standards, laws, regulations or other relevant documents.



American Welding Society®

## COVID-19: Notice to users of AWS standards that require periodic maintenance of personnel qualifications

AWS is in the process of seeking to issue an addendum to the standards listed below. If approved, the addendum will allow an extension on the continuity of joining or allied processes qualifications for those who have experienced an employment interruption due to the COVID-19 outbreak for an additional six months, under the following conditions:

- a. The qualification was valid at the time of the employment interruption and
- b. The qualification was scheduled to expire during the employment interruption.

This extension will expire September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and will apply to the following Standards:

Note: Since AWS cannot issue addenda to previous editions of codes and standards, AWS recommends that Owners and their Engineers recognize the rationale for this action and agree to allow their fabricators this exception on existing projects.

**B2.1/B2.1M**, *Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification*  
**B2.2/B2.2M**, *Specification for Brazing Procedure and Performance Qualification*  
**B2.3/B2.3M**, *Specification for Soldering Procedure and Performance Qualification*  
**B2.4**, *Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification for Thermoplastics*  
**C2.16/C2.16M**, *Guide for Thermal Spray Operator Qualification Programs*  
**C2.18**, *Guide for the Protection of Steel with Thermal Sprayed Coatings of Aluminum and Zinc and their Alloys and Composites*  
**C2.19/C2.19M**, *Specification for the Application of Thermal Spray Coatings to Machine Elements for OEM and Repair*  
**C2.23M/C2.23**, *Specification for the Application of Thermal Spray Coatings (Metallizing) of Aluminum, Zinc, and Their Alloys and Composites for the Corrosion Protection of Steel*  
**C3.5M/C3.5**, *Specification for Induction Brazing*  
**C3.6M/C3.6**, *Specification for Furnace Brazing*  
**C3.12M/C3.12** *Specification for Furnace Soldering*  
**C7.3**, *Process Specification for Electron Beam Welding*  
**C7.4/C7.4M**, *Process Specification and Operator Qualification for Laser Beam Welding*  
**D1.1/D1.1M**, *Structural Welding Code – Steel*  
**D1.2/D1.2M** *Structural Welding Code – Aluminum*  
**D1.3/D1.3M** *Structural Welding Code – Sheet Steel*  
**D1.4/D1.4M** *Structural Welding Code – Reinforcing Steel Bars*  
**D1.5M/D1.5**, *Bridge Welding Code*  
**D1.6/D1.6M**, *Structural Welding Code – Stainless Steel*  
**D1.8/D1.8M**, *Structural Welding Code – Seismic Supplement*  
**D1.9/D1.9M**, *Structural Welding Code – Titanium*  
**D3.5**, *Guide for Steel Hull Welding*  
**D3.6M**, *Underwater Welding Code*  
**D9.1/D9.1M**, *Sheet Metal Welding Code*  
**D14.1/D14.1M**, *Specification for Welding of Industrial and Mill Cranes and Other Material Handling Equipment*  
**D14.3/D14.3M**, *Specification for Welding, Earthmoving, Construction, Agricultural, and Ground-Based Material Handling Equipment*  
**D14.5/D14.5M**, *Specification for Welding of Presses and Press Components*  
**D14.9/D14.9M**, *Specification for the Welding of Hydraulic Cylinders*  
**D15.1/D15.1M**, *Railroad Welding Specification for Cars and Locomotives*  
**D15.2/D15.2M**, *Recommended Practices for the Welding of Railroad Applications*  
**D17.1/D17.1M**, *Specification for Fusion Welding for Aerospace Applications*  
**D17.3/D17.3M**, *Specification for Friction Stir Welding of Aluminum Alloys for Aerospace Applications*  
**D18.1/D18.1M**, *Specification for Welding of Austenitic Stainless Steel Tube and Pipe Systems in Sanitary (Hygienic) Applications*  
**D18.3/D18.3M**, *Specification for Welding of Tanks, Vessels, and Other Equipment in Sanitary (Hygienic) Applications*  
**D20.1/D20.1M**, *Standard for Fabrication of Metal Components using Additive Manufacturing*

An official announcement will be made once the addendum is approved and issued.