Process Specification for Orbital Tube Gas Tungsten Arc Welding of Steel and Nickel Alloy Hardware

Engineering Directorate

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REVISIONS		
VERSION	DESCRIPTION	DATE
Baseline	Original version	6/1/95
A	Formatting, changed process owner, elimination of subclasses and types, deleted requirement for WIR, refers to ASTM specs E1417 and E1742, refers to heat treat PRCs, included and expanded acceptance criteria, deleted section 8.2 on audits, rewrote numerous sections for clarification.	07/29/99
B	Allow for flight and non-flight hardware. Numerous editorial corrections. Include requirements for precision cleaned hardware (ref. JPG 5332.1). Rewrite definitions for weld classes. To match that of PRC-0005.	02/06/2004
C	Correct 2 typographical errors where it was found a reference to PRC-0005 and should be PRC-0010. Changed reference to SOP-004.5 from EM-004.5.	02/16/2006
D	Updated the review and approval signature blocks; revised the definitions of flight and non-flight hardware in 2.0; prohibited the use of Class C welds in pressurized components in 3.1c; added NAS 410, AWS D1.1, AWS D1.6, NASA-STD-5009, PRC-5010 and PRC-6510 to 4.0; deleted PRC-6504 from 4.0; revised 6.7 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; and reformatted Appendices A and B.	10/10/12
E	Changed title. Removed and added text throughout for clarity. Sections 2.0, 3.3, 5.1 and 5.2 revised for clarity. Sections 7.1 and 7.3 reversed locations. Sections 6.2.2, 6.3.11, 6.3.2, 6.3.2.1, 6.3.2.2, 6.3.2.3, 6.4, 6.5 and 9.1 were deleted in their entirety. In addition Tables II, III & IV were deleted. A new Table II was added and Table V became Table III. A definitions Section 10.0 was added. An Appendix B was added.	12/16/19
F	Removed and added text throughout for clarity, Section 3.1 Removed alternate weld classification criteria and unnecessary classification text.	03/23/26

1.0 SCOPE

This process specification provides the minimum requirements that govern the automatic and machine arc welding of steel and nickel alloy hardware. Procedural and quality assurance requirements are given. All Detailed Process Instructions (DPI) and Weld Procedure Specifications (WPS) used during welding shall satisfy the requirements of this process specification and its applicable documents.

2.0 APPLICABILITY

This specification applies to the automatic and machine arc welding of carbon and alloy steels, stainless and corrosion resistant steel alloys, and nickel alloy hardware fabricated under the authority of the NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC).

This process specification applies to arc welding of carbon and alloy steels, stainless and corrosion resistant steel alloys, and nickel alloy hardware that is fabricated under the authority of NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC) by the following welding process: Orbital Tube Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (OTGTAW).

3.0 USAGE

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

WELD AND INSPECT PER NASA/JSC PRC-0010, CLASS X.

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 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-0010. WELD CLASSES SHALL BE AS INDICATED AT WELD LOCATION CALLOUTS.

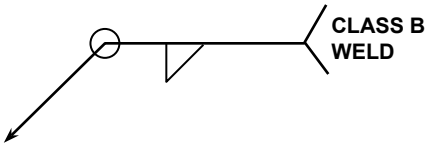


FIGURE 3.0a

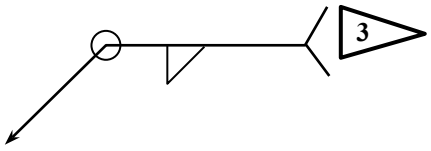


FIGURE 3.0b

3.1 WELD CLASSIFICATION

Welds made using this specification shall be primarily classified in accordance with the service conditions of the weldment. The "Class" governs the extent to which quality assurance provisions are applied to the weld joint.

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.

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.

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.

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 products 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. The contractor shall ensure that the work instructions meet the requirements of this process specification.

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, 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.

d. 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.

e. Class A welds which will be subjected to unusual or extreme service conditions (e.g., severe dynamic loading, cyclic, vibration, impact, corrosive, fatigue, extreme temp, etc.), shall be welded using a WPS qualified in accordance with AWS B2.1 “Special Test Weldments.” This requirement shall be noted on the engineering drawing.

f. Unless otherwise specified on the engineering drawing or WPS, welded hardware will be delivered in the “as welded” condition. If required, any heat treatment processing required shall be detailed on the engineering drawing and shall include notation that will reference NASA/JSC PRC-2001 or PRC-2003 as applicable.

g. When required weld insert material shall be noted on the drawing and parts list. Weld insert design/dimensions shall be either on the hardware drawing or a separate drawing.

4.0 REFERENCES

The standards and documents 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*

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 A5.12 *Specification for Tungsten Arc Welding Electrodes*

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

ANSI/AWS D1.6 *Structural Welding Code - Stainless Steel*

ANSIAWS QC-1 *Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors*

d. Compressed Gas Association, Inc.

G-11.1 *Argon, Commodity Specification for*

e. Military Documents

MIL-A-18455 *Argon, Technical*

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

f. NASA/JSC Documents

JPR 5322.1 *Contamination Control Requirements Manual*

PRC-2001 *Process Specification for the Heat Treatment of Steel Alloys*

PRC-2003 *Process Specification for the Heat Treatment of Nickel 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 and Braze Filler Materials, Electrodes, and Fluxing Materials*

SOP-007.1 *Preparation and Revision of Process Specifications*

g. NASA Headquarters

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

h. SAE / AMS Documents

AMS-STD-1595 *Qualification of Aircraft, Missile and Aerospace Fusion Welders*

5.0 MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

All materials (base and filler materials as applicable) 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.

5.1 SHIELDING 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. Shielding and purging gas mixtures shall be subject to the qualification variable requirements listed in AWS B2.1. In addition:

a. ll gases used for shielding or purging shall have a dew point of -40°F (minus 40 °C) or better.
b. All gases used for welding shall be delivered through clean low-nonvolatile residue (NVR)/particulate tubing.
c. Hydrogen and Nitrogen gas shall not be used for shielding or purging in any welding operationgoverned under this specification.

5.2 FILLER METALS AND ELECTRODES

All filler metals shall meet the requirements of the applicable AWS filler metal specification relative to the specific alloy and process being used. In addition, the following shall apply:

a) For JSC operations, welding electrodes and filler materials shall be controlled in accordance with SOP-004.5.

b) All filler metals shall be used in accordance with a qualified WPS.

c) Filler metal configurations which can not be procured to an AWS or other applicable filler metal specification shall meet an applicable NASA/JSC or other industry material specification and shall be approved by the responsible M&P Engineering authority prior to use.

d) Non consumable tungsten and tungsten alloy electrodes for OTGTAW shall conform to the applicable AWS specification.

e) Inserts shall be listed on the engineering drawing.

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-PRF-27407

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. Outside vendors shall provide control and storage according to the applicable material specification or manufacturer's recommendation, whichever is more rigid.

6.0 PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

All weldments shall be fabricated according to the requirements of this process specification. The requirements of the applicable codes and standards listed in Section 4.0, shall be met as specified by this PRC based on the design and intended function of the hardware. Certain paragraphs of this process specification are abbreviated re-statements taken from the applicable standards and are included here for the user's convenience. The remaining paragraphs of this process specification represent requirements imposed in addition to the basic requirements of the applicable codes and standards.

All arc welding shall be performed using Welding Procedure Specifications (WPS) that have been qualified in accordance with the requirements of Section 6.2. To accommodate any unique differences due to tooling, fixtures, grounding, etc. in the weld parameter settings between a test specimen welding condition and a production component welding condition, a one time adjustment to the heat input specific parameters shall be allowed with no additional qualification testing required. This adjustment in setting(s) shall be allowed on the "first production component" only. The specific changes shall be documented on a revised WPS reflecting the statement "First Production Component Adjustment" to differentiate from the original WPS.

6.1 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 JPR 5322.1. These tools must be maintained clean and kept in VC clean bags/containers 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. A 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

Filler metal shall be used for tack welding with the GTAW process. This method of welding shall be specified on an approved WPS.

6.3 WELD QUALIFICATION

This specification provides specific allowances for components that are fabricated for pressure containing applications and non pressure containing (i.e., structural only) applications.

6.3.1 WPS Qualification

A Welding Procedure Specification (WPS) shall be qualified for each unique weld type (as detailed in 6.3.2) to be produced, before the production welds are made. An existing qualified WPS for one unique weld type may be used for a different engineering drawing provided the requirements of 6.3.2 are met, and it is demonstrated that the essential weld variables listed in Table III will be met. Demonstration shall constitute all the requirements of Section 6.3 except that no additional documentation is required except, when a WPS(s) is written for a specific item(s) of hardware, it shall be revised/amended to show allowance for use on other than the initial specifically stated hardware. The actual welding variables, methods, practices, specific tooling requirements, and test results used during WPS qualification shall be recorded on a Procedure Qualification Record (PQR).

6.3.2 WPS Test Requirements

At a minimum, the following are minimum requirements for the qualification of a welding procedure. This effort shall include the welding of a minimum of 9 weld samples that represent the weld type specified.

Table II – Required Testing

Heat Input	# of Weld Samples	Required Testing			
		VT(1) (2)	RT(2) (3)	Tensile(3)	Metallographic(4) (5)
Nominal (amps)	3 Each	3	3	2	1
-5% of Nominal	3 Each	3	3	2	1
+5% of Nominal	3 Each	3	3	2	1

(1) Visually test O.D. & I.D.

(2) Acceptance criteria is Class A

(3) If the weld procedure includes a PWHT, the radiographic testing shall, at a minimum, be performed after the PWHT cycle

(4) Evaluated to the requirements of AWS B2.1

(5) Photomicrographs shall be taken of the prepared samples and retained with the PQR

6.3.3 Essential Variables

The WPS shall specify all of the essential welding variables and the applicable allowable ranges qualified for each variable, as indicated in Table III. In addition, the WPS shall detail all methods, practices, specific tooling requirements that are determined necessary by the operating facility to successfully execute the weld in production.

Table III - Essential Welding Variables

Variable #	Variable / Weld Type	Range Allowed
1	Power Source Model #	None
2	Weld Head Model #	None
3	Joint Configuration	None
4	Groove Angle	+/- 5º
5	Nominal Tube Dia.	None
6	Nominal Wall Thickness	None
7	Material Type(s)	None
8	Electrode Start Position	+/- 60º
9	Preweld Cleaning Steps	None
10	Allowable Joint Gap	None
11	Preweld Purge Time	(1)
12	Postweld Purge Time	(1)
13	Tube ID Prepurge Flow Rate or Pressure	None
14	Weld Head Prepurge Flow Rate	+/- 15%
15	Gas Composition/Spec.	None
16	Electrode Travel Speed & Machine Setting	None
17	Arc Travel Start Delay	None
18	Total Weld Current On Time	None
19	Weld Time @ Level or Circumference Interval	None
20	Current Pulse Width (%)	None
21	Current Pulse Rate	None
22	Consumable Insert Type and Specification	None

23	Background Welding Current	None
24	Pulse Welding Current	None
25	Electrode Type	None
26	Electrode Diameter	None
27	Electrode Tip Geometry	None
28	GTAW Electrode to Work Gap (nom. setting)	+/- 10%
29	Minimum Preheat Temp.	None
30	PWHT Procedure/Spec.	None

6.3.4 REQUALIFICATION OF WPS

Requalification of the WPS shall be required when any of the following conditions exist:

a) The weld system has been placed on a different external power source except when the power supply has a means for internal power regulation,
b) Major maintenance has been performed on the weld system. Major maintenance includes replacement of the power supply, major repair of the power supply requiring entrance into the controller welding power supply, or replacement of the weld head has occurred,
c) Preproduction weld samples do not meet requirements and no assignable cause for the failure can be determined.

Requalification may be performed with less total test sample requirements than that required for an initial qualification for a unique weld type. For requalification, only 2 weld samples shall be produced and submitted; one at the “high limit” setting and one at the “low limit” setting for that WPS. Requalification due to item a) or b) above only requires weld samples to be made from one WPS that is specified for use on that system.

The samples shall, at a minimum, be subjected to visual inspection and volumetric NDE and shall meet the applicable requirements specified herein. Requalification results shall be documented on a PQR with a specific notation made indicating “Requalification” and an explanation as to the cause. If the requalification activities result in any welding parameter(s) deviations that exceed the range specified in Table II or AWS B2.1 as applicable, for that parameter, then the level of testing in 6.3.2 shall be required.

6.4 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-2001 or PRC-2003, as applicable. Vibratory techniques shall not be used in place of thermal treatments.

6.5 WELD REPAIRS AND WELDED REPAIRS TO BASE METAL

All weld and welded repairs shall be performed using the WPS used for the original weld or a specific qualified WPS for that repair and shall meet all of the requirements of the original drawing and any additional requirements that are documented in the WPS. A weld repair may be applied manually in lieu of an automated or machine applied

repair, provided the essential variables/parameters of the original WPS are duplicated and the heat input applied is less than the initial weld. Weld repair does not include the correction of dimensional or other deficiencies of weld joints groove/bevel preparation by “buttering” or build up provided the area corrected by welding is fully consumed in the final weld. Also, the following requirements shall be required in the weld repair activity:

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. Ihe 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.

Weld Repairs. Defects shall be repaired by grinding, chipping, sanding, thermal gouging or machining the weld metal to the extent needed to completely remove the defects. Except on low carbon steels, thermal gouging and cutting performed with carbon-based electrodes shall require the excavated cavity be finished by grinding to sound metal. 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. The level of documentation of repair welds shall, at a minimum, be consistent with that required for the original production weld.

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 121°C (250°F). All straightening operations must be validated by an appropriate method(s) to show that the process used for straightening shall not degrade the joint or surrounding material below specified design requirements.

Base Metal Repairs. Repairs to base metal anomalies shall be brought to the attention of the responsible M&P Engineering authority 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 ensure that fabrication activities are carried out in a

manner that meets the requirements of this process specification and verify the following items at the appropriate time during fabrication activities.

a) The welding operator is certified for the specific welding operation prior to welding.
b) The fit-up is in accordance with the engineering drawing prior to welding for Class A and B Pressure Containing Components.
c) A WPS exists prior to welding.
d) Compliance with the WPS for essential variable ranges during welding.
e) The PWHT is in accordance with the assigned WPS after welding.
f) Weld one process control specimen at each of the following conditions:
    1. Prior to welding the first production joint during each shift.
    2. Upon changing from one certified machine setting to another.
    3. Upon discovery of unsatisfactory system performance.
    4. Specimens shall be visually inspected by an AWS CWI.
    5. Visually inspected specimens shall meet the acceptance criteria of the hardware's weld classification.

7.1 CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION OF INSPECTION PERSONNEL

7.1.1 Visual Inspection

Personnel performing visual inspections of Class A, B and C welds shall be an AWS CWI. The CWI certification must be current.

7.1.2 Nondestructive Inspection

Personnel performing acceptance inspections of flight hardware (Class I, II, IIIW and GSE – see Appendix B) shall be qualified and certified, at a minimum, to Level 2 in accordance with NAS 410. Personnel performing acceptance inspections requiring Special Non-Destructive Evaluation (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 – see Appendix B) 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 i
nspections 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.

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.
However, for steel and nickel alloys, black oxide on the fusion or heat affected zone that can be removed with a mild Scotch-Brite is not rejectable.

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

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 responsible M&P Engineering authority. 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 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.

7.3.1 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 responsible M&P Engineering authority. 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. When liquid penetrant is the only available option for inspection and is selected and approved as an alternate to radiographic inspection, the liquid penetrant inspection shall be performed as specified in section 7.2.3. For multi-pass welds, inspections shall be performed on every pass.

7.3.2 Class B

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

7.3.3 Class C

Class C welds only require visual inspection.

8.0 PROCESS DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

The WPS, PQR, and WOPQ 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, an identification of the welding equipment, 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 DEVIATIONS AND WAIVERS

Any deviations or waivers regarding the use of this process specification shall be requested in writing by the outside vendor. 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.

9.0 CERTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL

9.1 WELDING OPERATOR QUALIFICATION

Welding shall be performed by a welding operator qualified and certified in accordance with AWS B2.1. Sufficiently detailed records shall be maintained to demonstrate continuity of operator performance on the welding system or system(s) on a semi-annual (6 month) basis. These records shall be made available to the NASA/JSC M&P organization upon request.

10.0 DEFINITIONS

Welding Procedure Specification (WPS) - A qualified written working procedure that must be developed before beginning production for each unique weld type to be produced. The WPS shall be traceable by means of serialized nomenclature and shall show traceability.

Procedure Qualification Record (PQR) - 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.

Welding Operator Performance Qualification (WOPQ) - Documentation that shows that a welding operator has been tested in accordance with AWS B2.1 and shown competent to produce a sound weld for a specific welding process/base material/base metal thickness combination.

Appendix A

WELD ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR PRESSURIZED COMPONENTS

Table A1. Class A Visual and Surface Inspection Acceptance Criteria

Size and Appearance of Groove Welds	Minimum size as specified on drawing. If profile requirements are not specified on the drawing, the weld shall be convex with a maximum reinforcement as stated herein. Any profile is unacceptable where the weld to base metal transition forms a sharp notch or reduces the base metal thickness (T) beyond the minimum specified on the drawing.
Size and Appearance of Fillet Welds	Minimum size as specified on drawing. If profile requirements are not specified on the drawing, the weld shall be flat or slightly convex with a maximum reinforcement as stated herein. Any profile is unacceptable where the weld to base metal transition forms a sharp notch or reduces (T) beyond the minimum specified on the drawing.
Cracks	None allowed.
Undercut	Undercut shall not exceed 20% of the total weld length. The depth of any undercut indication where T < 0.035", undercut shall not exceed 5% of T. Where T is >/= 0.035" and </= 0.09", undercut shall not exceed 10% of T or 0.010", whichever is the lesser. Where T > 0.09", the depth of undercut shall not exceed 0.010". The minimum distance allowed between adjacent undercut or underbead concavity indications is 1/2 the length of the longest adjacent indication.
Pores or Voids	The maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.02" or ¼ of T, whichever is the lesser. Indications less than .010" in diameter shall not be considered.
Inadequate Penetration and Incomplete Fusion	The maximum length of any indication shall not exceed ¼ of T in any weld length of 6T or less. The minimum distance allowed between adjacent incomplete penetration or fusion indications, is ½ the length of the longest adjacent indication.
Weld Face or Root Concavity or WM Thinning	Concavity shall not exceed 10% of T or 0.01", whichever is the lesser.
Overlap	None allowed.
Misalignment	Misalignment shall not exceed 10% of T, or 0.020", whichever is the lesser.
Peaking	Weld joint peaking shall not exceed a total of 5 degrees.
Weld Face or Root Convexity	Reinforcement, or melt-thru, shall not exceed 20% T or 0.06", whichever is the lesser.
Surface Discoloration	A black - brown color is not allowed.
Surface Roughness	Surface finish of welds and adjacent material resulting from processes used to remove weld reinforcement and otherwise shall not exceed 63 microinches.
General Workmanship	Weld deposits, face and root reinforcement and adjacent base metal shall display a smooth and uniform appearance. The weld toes shall blend smoothly into the base metal without unfused overlaps or undercut exceeding that specified.

Table A2. Class B Visual and Surface Inspection Acceptance Criteria

Size and Appearance of Groove Welds	Minimum size as specified on drawing. If profile requirements are not specified on the drawing, the weld shall be convex with a maximum reinforcement as stated herein. Any profile is unacceptable where the weld to base metal transition forms a sharp notch or reduces the base metal thickness (T) beyond the minimum specified on the drawing.
Size and Appearance of Fillet Welds	Minimum size as specified on drawing. If profile requirements are not specified on the drawing, the weld shall be flat or slightly convex with a maximum reinforcement as stated herein. Any profile is unacceptable where the weld to base metal transition forms a sharp notch or reduces (T) beyond the minimum specified on the drawing.
Cracks	None allowed.
Undercut	Undercut shall not exceed 15% of the total weld length. The depth of any undercut indication where T < 0.035", undercut shall not exceed 10% of T. Where T is >/= 0.035" and </= 0.09", undercut shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.010", whichever is the lesser. Where T > 0.09", the depth of undercut shall not exceed 0.015".
Pores or Voids	The maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.02" or 1/3 of T, whichever is the lesser. Indications less than .010" in diameter shall not be considered.
Weld Face or Root Concavity or WM Thinning	Concavity shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.015", whichever is the lesser.
Overlap	None allowed.
Misalignment	Misalignment shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.025", whichever is the lesser.
Peaking	Weld joint peaking shall not exceed a total of 5 degrees.
Weld Face or Root Convexity	Reinforcement, or melt-thru, shall not exceed 20% T or 0.06", whichever is the lesser.
Surface Discoloration	A black - brown color is not allowed.
Surface Roughness	Surface finish of welds and adjacent material resulting from processes used to remove weld reinforcement and otherwise shall not exceed 63 microinches.
General Workmanship	Weld deposits, face and root reinforcement and adjacent base metal shall display a smooth and uniform appearance. The weld toes shall blend smoothly into the base metal without unfused overlaps or undercut exceeding that specified.

Table A3. Class A Subsurface Inspection Acceptance Criteria

Cracks	None allowed.
Cold Shut and Laps	None allowed.
Porosity and Inclusions	The maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.02” or ¼ of T, whichever is the lesser. Indications less than .010” in diameter shall not be considered.
Inadequate Penetration and Incomplete Fusion	The maximum length of any indication shall not exceed ¼ of the base metal thickness in any weld length of 6T or less. The minimum distance allowed between adjacent incomplete penetration or fusion indications, is ½ the length of the longest adjacent indication.
Undercut and Underbead Concavity	The length of any undercut or underbead concavity indication shall not exceed 20% of the total weld length. The depth of any undercut indication where T < 0.035”, undercut shall not exceed 5% of T. Where T is >/= 0.035” and </= 0.09”, undercut shall not exceed 10% of T or 0.010”, whichever is the lesser. Where T > 0.09”, the depth of undercut shall not exceed 0.010”. The minimum distance allowed between adjacent undercut or underbead concavity indications is 1/2 the length of the longest adjacent indication.
Misalignment	Misalignment shall not exceed 10% of T, or 0.020”, whichever is the lesser.
Weld Face or Root Concavity or WM Thinning	Thinning shall not exceed 10% of T or 0.01”, whichever is the lesser.
Weld Face or Root Convexity	Reinforcement, or melt-thru, shall not exceed 20% of T or 0.06”, whichever is the lesser.

Table A4. Class B Subsurface Inspection Acceptance Criteria

Cracks	None allowed.
Cold Shut and Laps	None allowed.
Porosity and Inclusions	The maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.02” or 1/3 of T, whichever is the lesser. Indications less than .010” in diameter shall not be considered.
Inadequate Penetration and Incomplete Fusion	The maximum length of any indication shall not exceed 1/3 of the T in any weld length of 6T or less. The minimum distance allowed between adjacent incomplete penetration or fusion indications, is ½ the length of the longest adjacent indication.
Undercut and Underbead Concavity	The length of any undercut or underbead concavity indication shall not exceed 15% of the total weld length. The depth of any undercut indication where T < 0.035”, undercut shall not exceed 10% of T. Where T is >/= 0.035” and </= 0.09”, undercut shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.010”, whichever is the lesser. Where T > 0.09”, the depth of undercut shall not exceed 0.015”. The minimum distance allowed between adjacent undercut or underbead concavity indications is 1/2 the length of the longest adjacent indication.
Misalignment	Misalignment shall not exceed 15% of T, or 0.025”, whichever is the lesser.
Weld Face or Root Concavity or WM Thinning	Thinning shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.015”, whichever is the lesser.
Weld Face or Root Convexity	Reinforcement, or melt-thru, shall not exceed 20% of T or 0.06”, whichever is the lesser.

Appendix B

WELD ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR NON-PRESSURIZED AND STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

Table B1. Class A Visual and Surface Inspection Acceptance Criteria

Size and Appearance of Groove Welds	Minimum size as specified on drawing. If profile requirements are not specified on the drawing, the weld shall be convex with a maximum reinforcement as stated herein. Any profile is unacceptable where the weld to base metal transition forms a sharp notch or reduces the base metal thickness (T) beyond the minimum specified on the drawing.
Size and Appearance of Fillet Welds	Minimum size as specified on drawing. If profile requirements are not specified on the drawing, the weld shall be flat or slightly convex with a maximum reinforcement as stated herein. Any profile is unacceptable where the weld to base metal transition forms a sharp notch or reduces (T) beyond the minimum specified on the drawing.
Cracks	None allowed.
Undercut	Undercut shall not exceed 15% of the total weld length. The depth of any undercut indication where T < 0.035", undercut shall not exceed 10% of T. Where T is >/= 0.035" and </= 0.09", undercut shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.010", whichever is the lesser. Where T > 0.09", the depth of undercut shall not exceed 0.015".
Pores or Voids	The maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.02" or 1/3 of T, whichever is the lesser. Indications less than .010" in diameter shall not be considered.
Weld Face or Root Concavity or WM Thinning	Concavity shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.015", whichever is the lesser.
Overlap	None allowed.
Misalignment	Misalignment shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.025", whichever is the lesser.
Peaking	Weld joint peaking shall not exceed a total of 5 degrees.
Weld Face or Root Convexity	Reinforcement, or melt-thru, shall not exceed 20% T or 0.06", whichever is the lesser.
Surface Discoloration	A black - brown color is not allowed.
Surface Roughness	Surface finish of welds and adjacent material resulting from processes used to remove weld reinforcement and otherwise shall not exceed 63 microinches.
General Workmanship	Weld deposits, face and root reinforcement and adjacent base metal shall display a smooth and uniform appearance. The weld toes shall blend smoothly into the base metal without unfused overlaps or undercut exceeding that specified.

Table B2. Class B and C Visual and Surface Inspection Acceptance Criteria

Size and Appearance of Groove Welds	Minimum size as specified on drawing. If profile requirements are not specified on the drawing, the weld shall be convex with a maximum reinforcement as stated herein. Any profile is unacceptable where the weld to base metal transition forms a sharp notch or reduces the base metal thickness (T) beyond the minimum specified on the drawing.
Size and Appearance of Fillet Welds	Minimum size as specified on drawing. If profile requirements are not specified on the drawing, the weld shall be flat or slightly convex with a maximum reinforcement as stated herein. Any profile is unacceptable where the weld to base metal transition forms a sharp notch or reduces (T) beyond the minimum specified on the drawing.
Cracks	None allowed.
Undercut	Undercut shall not exceed 15% of the total weld length. The depth of any undercut indication where T < 0.035", undercut shall not exceed 10% of T. Where T is >/= 0.035" and </= 0.09", undercut shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.010", whichever is the lesser. Where T > 0.09", the depth of undercut shall not exceed 0.015".
Pores or Voids	The maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.02" or 1/3 of T, whichever is the lesser. Indications less than .010" in diameter shall not be considered.
Weld Face or Root Concavity or WM Thinning	Concavity shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.015", whichever is the lesser.
Overlap	None allowed.
Misalignment	Misalignment shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.025", whichever is the lesser.
Peaking	Weld joint peaking shall not exceed a total of 5 degrees.
Weld Face or Root Convexity	Reinforcement, or melt-thru, shall not exceed 20% T or 0.06", whichever is the lesser.
Surface Discoloration	A black - brown color is not allowed.
Surface Roughness	Surface finish of welds and adjacent material resulting from processes used to remove weld reinforcement and otherwise shall not exceed 63 microinches.
General Workmanship	Weld deposits, face and root reinforcement and adjacent base metal shall display a smooth and uniform appearance. The weld toes shall blend smoothly into the base metal without unfused overlaps or undercut exceeding that specified.

Table B3. Class A Subsurface Inspection Acceptance Criteria

Cracks	None allowed.
Cold Shut and Laps	None allowed.
Porosity and Inclusions	The maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.02” or 1/3 of T, whichever is the lesser. Indications less than .010” in diameter shall not be considered.
Inadequate Penetration and Incomplete Fusion	The maximum length of any indication shall not exceed 1/3 of the T in any weld length of 6T or less. The minimum distance allowed between adjacent incomplete penetration or fusion indications, is ½ the length of the longest adjacent indication.
Undercut and Underbead Concavity	The length of any undercut or underbead concavity indication shall not exceed 15% of the total weld length. The depth of any undercut indication where T < 0.035”, undercut shall not exceed 10% of T. Where T is >/= 0.035” and </= 0.09”, undercut shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.010”, whichever is the lesser. Where T > 0.09”, the depth of undercut shall not exceed 0.015”. The minimum distance allowed between adjacent undercut or underbead concavity indications is 1/2 the length of the longest adjacent indication.
Misalignment	Misalignment shall not exceed 15% of T, or 0.025”, whichever is the lesser.
Weld Face or Root Concavity or WM Thinning	Thinning shall not exceed 15% of T or 0.015”, whichever is the lesser.
Weld Face or Root Convexity	Reinforcement, or melt-thru, shall not exceed 20% of T or 0.06”, whichever is the lesser.

Appendix C

Hardware Classification

Hardware Classification	
Class I	Flight hardware - refers to any hardware acceptable for space flight use
Class II	Ground tests or training in a hazardous environment
Class IIIW	Hardware used in water immersion training
GSE	Ground Support Equipment
Class III	“Non-Flight hardware” refers to any hardware acceptable for use in non-hazardous training or displays
STE/D	Special Test Equipment/Devices used in facilities (buildings and related accessories), mockup mission equipment and engineering prototype and development hardware.
1 E	Any combination of hardware and software that is developed and operated to answer a scientific or engineering question that cannot be addressed in a terrestrial environment. Operating this hardware does not provide mission critical functions, and hazards are eliminated or controlled such that the safety of the crew, the space vehicle, or launch vehicle are not compromised.