

## **COVID-19 and Welder Qualification Continuity**

### **TWI Software, May 2020**

Many of the major welding standard organisations have made arrangements to help facilitate effective welder qualification continuity during the current labour restrictions which are in place due to COVID-19.

ASME Code Case 2996 (Approved 16 April) allows the qualifications of welders who have their employment interrupted because of COVID-19 to extend their qualifications by up to three months, providing :

- The qualification was valid at the time of interruption of employment
- The qualification would expire during the time of interruption of employment

So, a welder who then makes a production weld after the original qualification expired, but within the additional three months maintains continuity and the new qualification expiration date would be six months from the date of the new production weld.

ISO TC 44 / SC 11 will shortly release a 'Position Statement' with the same provisions to ASME Code Case 2996 covering ISO 9606 and ISO 14732.

AWS D1.1 will also shortly release a similar 'Addendum' to the B, C and D series of standards on qualification of welding personnel including D1.1. This will be essentially similar to ASME and ISO, but will allow an extension of six months.

### **Welding Qualifier**

To allow for this in Welding Qualifier involves a few simple steps, as follows :

1. For ISO 9606/14732 and ASME IX qualifications, the first step is to go the Backstage options and change the 'Prolongation from last weld date' to 3 months. Note that this is not required for AWS D1.1.
2. You can now update the qualification of any affected qualifications in the normal way. The update date should be specified as the date of interruption of employment and the reference should be 'Code Case 2996' for ASME IX. For the other two codes, I would suggest a reference of 'COVID-19 Interruption of employment rules', as the rules themselves have not been officially published yet.
3. For ISO 9606/14732 and ASME IX, you should now return to the Backstage options and set the Prolongation period back to 6 months.

For ASME IX, the provisions of the code case will expire on July 16 2020, so no welder qualifications can be extended after that date based on the provisions of the Code Case.

For AWS D1.1, no qualifications can be extended after 30 September 2020 based on the Addendum.

Stay Safe.

The TWI Software Development Team