

ISO/TC 44/SC 10

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Welding — Calibration, verification and validation of equipment used for welding, including ancillary activities

Soudage — Étalonnage, vérification et validation du matériel utilisé pour le soudage, y compris pour les procédés connexes

PREVIEW
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Reference number
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ISO/CEN PARALLEL PROCESSING

This final draft has been developed within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and processed under the **ISO-lead** mode of collaboration as defined in the Vienna Agreement. The final draft was established on the basis of comments received during a parallel enquiry on the draft.

This final draft is hereby submitted to the ISO member bodies and to the CEN member bodies for a parallel two-month approval vote in ISO and formal vote in CEN.

Positive votes shall not be accompanied by comments.

Negative votes shall be accompanied by the relevant technical reasons.

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ISO copyright office
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
copyright@iso.org
www.iso.org

Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 General requirements	3
4.1 General	3
4.2 Frequency	4
4.3 Requirements	4
4.4 Process data	5
4.5 Material properties	5
5 Process data common to more than one welding/brazing process	5
5.1 Process data common to all welding/brazing processes	5
5.2 Requirements specific to several welding/brazing processes	7
5.3 Requirements specific to arc welding (group 1)	8
6 Metal arc welding without gas protection (group 11)	9
7 Plasma arc welding (group 15)	9
8 Resistance welding (groups 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25)	10
9 Gas welding (group 3)	11
10 Friction welding (group 42)	12
11 Laser beam welding (group 52)	12
12 Electron beam welding (group 51)	14
13 Stud welding (group 78)	15
14 Brazing (group 9)	16
14.1 General	16
14.2 Manual and mechanized flame brazing (group 912)	16
14.3 Induction brazing (group 916)	16
14.4 Resistance brazing (group 918)	17
14.5 Furnace brazing in protective atmosphere (group 921)	17
14.6 Vacuum brazing (group 922)	18
14.7 Furnace brazing in open atmosphere (group 921)	19
14.8 Dip-bath brazing (group 923), salt-bath brazing (group 924) and flux-bath brazing (group 925)	20
14.9 Infrared brazing (group 941)	21
15 Preheat and/or post weld heat treatment	21
15.1 Preheat	21
15.2 Post weld heat treatment	22
16 Post weld cleaning	23
17 Flame cutting (group 81) and other ancillary processes	23
Annex A (informative) Details for stud welding	24
Annex B (informative) Acceptance testing of equipment	25
Annex C (informative) Parties involved	26
Bibliography	27

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 44, *Welding and allied processes*, Subcommittee SC 10, *Quality management in the field of welding*, in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 121, *Welding and allied processes*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17662:2005) which has been technically revised.

Requests for official interpretations of any aspect of this International Standard should be directed to the Secretariat of ISO/TC 44/SC XXX via your national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org.

Welding — Calibration, verification and validation of equipment used for welding, including ancillary activities

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for calibration, verification and validation of equipment used for

- control of process variables during fabrication, and
- control of the properties of equipment used for welding or welding allied processes

where the resulting output cannot be readily or economically documented by subsequent monitoring, inspection and testing. This involves process variables influencing the fitness-for-purpose and in particular the safety of the fabricated product.

NOTE 1 This International Standard is based on the lists of process variables stated in International Standards for specification of welding procedures, in particular, but not exclusively in the ISO 15609 series. Future revisions of these International Standards can result in addition or deletion of parameters considered necessary to specify.

Some guidance is, in addition, given in [Annex B](#) as regards requirements for calibration; verification and validation as part of acceptance testing of equipment used for welding or allied processes.

Requirements to calibrate, verify and validate as part of inspection, testing, non-destructive testing or measuring of final welded products performed in order to verify confirm product compliance are outside the scope of the present International Standard.

The subject of this International Standard is limited to calibration, verification and validation of equipment after installation, as part of the workshops' and site operations for maintenance and/or operation.

It needs to be stressed that this International Standard has nothing to do with manufacture and installation of equipment for welding. Requirements to new equipment are formulated in directives and product codes (standards), as necessary.

[Annex C](#) provides information when other parties are involved in calibration, verification and validation activities.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 669, *Resistance welding — Resistance welding equipment — Mechanical and electrical requirements*

ISO 5171, *Gas welding equipment — Pressure gauges used in welding, cutting and allied processes*

ISO 5172:2006, *Gas welding equipment — Blowpipes for gas welding, heating and cutting — Specifications and tests*

ISO 5826, *Resistance welding equipment — Transformers — General specifications applicable to all transformers*

ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, *International vocabulary of metrology — Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

accuracy class

class of measuring instruments or measuring systems that meets stated metrological requirements that are intended to keep measurement errors or instrumental measurement uncertainties within specified limits under specified operating conditions

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 4.25]

3.2

accuracy of measurement

closeness of agreement between a measured quantity value and a true quantity value of a measurand

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 2.13]

3.3

calibration

set of operations that establish, under specified conditions, the relationship between values of quantities indicated by a measuring instrument or measuring system, or values represented by a material measure or a reference material, and the corresponding values realized by standards

3.4

measurement

process of experimentally obtaining one or more quantity values that can reasonably be attributed to a quantity

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 2.1]

3.5

measuring instrument

device used for making measurements, alone or in conjunction with one or more supplementary devices

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 3.1]

3.6

material measure

device intended to reproduce or supply, in a permanent manner during its use, one or more known values of a given quantity

3.7

measuring system

set of one or more measuring instruments and often other devices, including any reagent and supply, assembled and adopted to give information used to generate measured quantity values within specified intervals for quantities of specified kinds

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 3.2]

3.8

repeatability (of results of measurements)

closeness of the agreement between the results of successive measurements of the same measurement carried out under the same conditions of measurement

3.9

traceability

property of the result of a measurement or the value of a standard whereby it can be related to stated references, usually national or international standards, through an unbroken chain of comparisons all having stated uncertainties

3.10 validation

confirmation through the provision of objective evidence that the requirements for a specific intended use (e.g. client specification) or application (e.g. product standard) have been fulfilled

3.11 verification

confirmation through the provision of objective evidence that specified requirements have been fulfilled

Note 1 to entry: Verification will also be interpreted as a confirmation afterwards if available processes will succeed to an expected success.

4 General requirements

4.1 General

Measuring, inspection and test equipment are used for many purposes and as part of many work operations during welding fabrication. However, the purposes can be grouped as follows:

- 1) demonstration of conformance of product to specified requirements;
- 2) control of processes where the resulting output cannot be readily or economically verified by subsequent monitoring, inspection and testing;
- 3) general process control.

Measuring, inspection and test equipment used for demonstration of conformance of product to specified requirements (1) should be properly calibrated, verified, or validated. This is, for example, required in ISO 9001. Many of the procedures used for demonstration of conformance inspection are covered by standards, which typically include provisions for calibration, verification, or validation. This is, for example, the case for standards for non-destructive testing and/or destructive testing of welds. Further, requirements for documentation of such quality characteristics (e.g. non-destructive testing) are stated in application standards and/or contracts. Calibration, verification and validation of measuring devices used for this category of application are not covered by this standard, apart from a few comments on welding inspection and visual examination. The relevant standards for inspection and testing shall be consulted.

However, some quality characteristics (also related to safety) cannot be inspected or tested on the finished structure or product. This is, for example, the case for the materials properties of weld metals and to the heat-affected zones adjacent to welds. Such quality characteristics have to be documented indirectly by proper documentation of the fabrication process (2). The guidance given in this standard is limited mainly to calibration, verification and validation of measuring devices used for such indirect documentation of quality characteristics, influenced by welding. The measuring, inspection and test equipment can be separate measuring instruments or built-in instruments in, for example, the power sources used for welding.

Measuring, inspection and test equipment used for general process control may also have to be calibrated, verified or validated (3). This is, for example, recommended in ISO 9004¹⁾. However, specifications of such requirements are left entirely to the discretion of the manufacturer, the requirements cannot be standardized and they are not covered by the present International Standard.

A key issue of the International Standard is discussions of the influence of various process variables on the resulting output and in particular of the possibilities of verification of the output by subsequent monitoring, inspection and testing. The distinction between process variables in group (2) and group (3) is not always easy but essential for the interpretation of contractual and/or legal requirements. The main basis for selection of the relevant variables is the standards for specification of welding procedures.

1) It should be noted that ISO 9004 is not intended for certification, regulatory or contractual use.

The specific requirements for calibration, verification and validation of a particular instrument shall be derived from the required performance and shall be compatible with the permissible range as specified in the welding procedure specification (WPS) for the variable(s) in question. Many types of instruments used for control of welding such as ammeters, voltmeters, thermocouples, stop-watches etc. are also used for non-welding purposes. It should be noted that the requirements to accuracy, when used for welding purposes might be less stringent than for other applications of the instruments. "Normal" (standardized) procedures for calibration, verification and validation of the instruments can be too stringent and costly, if applied for welding purposes.

The formal requirements to calibration, verification and validation as regards control of welding and allied processes are specified in the ISO 3834 series and the ISO 14554 series. Some more specific supplementary requirements can, however, be found in structural codes and/or as contractual requirements.

4.2 Frequency

When a need for calibration, verification, or validation of equipment has been identified then calibration, verification, or validation shall be carried out once a year, unless otherwise specified. Where there is a proven record of repeatability and liability the frequency of calibration, verification and validation can be reduced. It can, however, be necessary to re-calibrate, re-verify or re-validate at more frequent intervals, depending upon the recommendation of the manufacturer of the instrument, the requirements of the user, or where there is reason to believe that the performances of the equipment have deteriorated. However, equipment shall be isolated and calibration, verification, or validation carried out before the equipment is put back in use after the following cases:

- whenever there are indications that an instrument does not register properly;
- whenever the equipment has been visibly damaged and the damage can have influenced the function of one or more instruments;
- whenever the equipment has been misused, subject to severe stress (overloads, etc.), or subject to any other event which can have resulted in damage to one or more instrument;
- whenever the equipment has been rebuilt or repaired.

4.3 Requirements

Calibration, verification and validation shall, in principle, be carried out for all the instruments used for control of the welding process variables specified in the welding/brazing procedure specification. However, International Standards for specification of welding/brazing procedures provide comprehensive lists of variables but not all variables are essential for all applications. The following paragraphs give for all common welding/brazing processes some guidelines on relevant requirements.

Calibration, verification and validation can be omitted entirely in the following cases:

- a) When verification of the process is not required.

Calibration, verification and validation can be omitted for all processes where there is no legal or contractual requirement for verification or validation of the process.

NOTE 1 This is usually the case for processes such as flame or plasma cutting and air arc gouging.

- b) Mass production

Calibration, verification and validation can be omitted provided all the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the production is controlled by pre-production testing, followed by testing of samples from the actual production at regular intervals;
- the control is supported by an adequate system for statistical quality control;

- the process is reasonably stable during the interval between testing of samples;
 - pre-production testing and sampling are performed separately for each production line (welding cell).
- c) Series and single piece production

Calibration, verification and validation can be omitted provided all the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the procedures are approved by procedure testing;
 - the actual production is carried out by the same welding machine used during procedure testing;
- or the process is supported by a calibrated online-monitoring system for welding parameters.

NOTE 2 The manufacturer can, for managerial reasons, wish to perform much more comprehensive calibration, verification and validation. The main reasons are the following:

- more efficient control of processes resulting in higher productivity and more economical operation;
- possibility of transferring procedures from one equipment to another without adjustments, maintaining an uninterrupted production;
- higher process stability and therefore increased economic efficiency;
- control data becomes compatible with different types of equipment.

4.4 Process data

For all welding/brazing processes, process data where calibration, verification, or validation are needed are stated below. Calibration, verification, or validation is not needed for all other process data.

4.5 Material properties

Several kinds of materials are used in connection with production involving welding or ancillary activities. This includes parent metals and filler metals but also shielding gases, materials used for backing, etc. Occasionally, incoming inspection and testing or check of stored materials may have to be performed, e.g. in order to identify a material. Such activities involve instruments and procedures for chemical analysis, positive material identification, etc. Provisions for calibration of instruments used for such purposes are outside the scope of this International Standard.

Gas backing purity can be measured prior to welding, however, and is an exception.

5 Process data common to more than one welding/brazing process

5.1 Process data common to all welding/brazing processes

The International Standards for specification of welding procedures require some data, which are common to all welding processes. Calibration, verification, or validation requirements are detailed in [Table 1](#) to [Table 8](#).

Table 1 — Related to the parent material and filler metals

Designation	Need for calibration, verification, or validation	Instruments and techniques
Material dimension	Instruments used for measurement and/or verification of material dimensions shall be calibrated, as necessary. Requirements depend on the specified tolerances, etc.	Measuring instruments such as vernier callipers, micrometer callipers, gauge blocks, rulers and straightedges, etc. are covered by several EN-, ISO- and national standards.

Table 2 — Related to the joint

Designation	Need for calibration, verification, or validation	Instruments and techniques
Joint design	Instruments used for measurement and/or verification of joint dimension shall be validated.	See ISO 17637.
Welding position	Requirements for determination of welding position are, as a general rule, not very exacting. Instruments used for measurement and/or verification of welding position (e.g. spirit levels and instruments used for measurements of angles) do not have to be calibrated, verified or validated unless damaged, and after having been repaired.	See ISO 6947.
Joint preparation	Instruments used for measurement and/or verification of joint dimension and outline shall be validated.	See ISO 17637.

Table 3 — Welding machine

Designation	Need for calibration, verification, or validation	Instruments and techniques
Characteristic dimensions, shape and configuration of welding machine and working conditions such as the following: — number and configuration of wire electrodes; — diameter of shielding gas nozzles and fixtures; — distance contact tip nozzle to the surface of the workpiece; — diameter of electrodes and wire electrodes; — dimensions, shape, position, etc. of back and front support.	Instruments used for measurement and/or verification of dimensions, shape, position, etc. shall be calibrated, verified or validated, as appropriate.	Measuring instruments such as vernier callipers, micrometer callipers, gauge blocks, rulers and straight-edges, etc. are covered by several EN-, ISO- and national standards.

Table 4 — Jigs, fixtures and tooling

Designation	Need for calibration, verification, or validation	Instruments and techniques
Jigs and fixtures	Instruments used for measurement and/or verification of dimensions, shape, position, etc. of jigs, fixtures and tooling shall be calibrated, verified or validated, as appropriate.	Measuring instruments such as vernier callipers, micrometer callipers, gauge blocks, rulers and straight-edges, etc. are covered by several EN-, ISO- and national standards.
Manipulators, x-y tables, etc.	Instruments used for control of movements shall be calibrated, verified or validated, as appropriate.	ISO 14744-5 and ISO 15616-2 may be used for general guidance (although the application is formally limited to beam welding).

Table 5 — Pre-welding cleaning

Designation	Need for calibration, verification, or validation	Instruments and techniques
Surface conditions	Instruments used for control of surface conditions shall be validated.	Specific to instrument and surface characteristics. Appropriate standards for the equipment shall be consulted.
Practice	Instruments used for process control shall be calibrated, verified or validated, as appropriate, depending on the nature of the cleaning practice: Washing, pickling, abrasive blasting, etc.	Appropriate standards for the equipment shall be consulted.

5.2 Requirements specific to several welding/brazing processes

Table 6 — Gas backing

Designation	Need for calibration, verification, or validation	Instruments and techniques
Gas flow rate	Instruments shall be validated. Required accuracy $\pm 20\%$ of gas flow rate.	Validated against master instrument.
Gas backing purity (oxygen content)	Instruments shall be validated. Required accuracy is $\pm 25\%$ of actual value. However, the purity can also be controlled by inspection of colour of protected side of weld in the area where heat may have an influence of the surface.	Calibration by reference gases of known composition, covering at least the interval from 10 ppm to 30 ppm for argon and 50 ppm to 150 ppm for forming gas.

Table 7 — Consumables

Designation	Need for calibration, verification, or validation	Instruments and techniques
Condition of storage	Instruments used, for example, for control of storage conditions (temperature, humidity, etc.), shall be calibrated, verified or validated. Requirements $\pm 5\%$ for the instruments concerning humidity and $\pm 5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for thermometer.	Appropriate standards for the equipment shall be consulted. Validated against master instrument.
Baking oven, holding oven and quiver	Instruments for temperature control. Thermometers and other temperature indicators shall be validated. Requirement, e.g. max. $\pm 10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.	Appropriate standards for the equipment shall be consulted.
Treatment prior to welding/brazing	Instruments used for process control shall be calibrated, verified or validated, as appropriate, depending on the nature of the treatment: Drying, cleaning, etc.	Appropriate standards for the equipment shall be consulted.

Table 8 — Shielding gases

Designation	Need for calibration, verification, or validation	Instruments and techniques
Shielding gas flow	Flow meters shall be validated. Requirement max. $\pm 20\%$ of actual value.	Appropriate standards for the equipment shall be consulted.