



AASHTO/AWS D1.5M/D1.5, *Bridge Welding Code*  
Official Interpretation

**Subject:** Period of Effectiveness  
**Code Edition:** D1.5M/D1.5:2020  
**Code Provisions:** 12.7.4 and C-12.7.4  
**AWS Log:** D1.5-20-I01

**Inquiry:** Once a Fracture Critical (FC) project is finished and an FC groove weld PQR exceeds the 60-month duration, are the FC WPSs supported by the expired FC groove weld PQR also to be considered expired for FC work even if the qualified FC WPS date has not exceeded 60 months?

**Response:** Yes

Fracture Critical WPSs with a supporting FC groove weld PQR expire when the supporting FC groove weld PQR exceeds its 60-month duration. However, per C-12.7.4, authorized WPS's that would exceed the 60-month period may be used for the duration of the project so long as the initial authorization occurred during the duration of the project.

---

AWS standards are prepared by AWS technical committees. Because many AWS standards are written in the form of codes or specification, they cannot present background material or discuss the committee's intent.

The nature of inquiries directed to the American Welding Society and their technical committees have indicated that there are some requirements in AWS standards that are either difficult to understand or not sufficiently specific.

It should be recognized that the fundamental premise of AWS standards is to provide general stipulations applicable to any situation and to leave sufficient latitude for the exercise of engineering judgment. Another point to be recognized is that AWS standards represent the collective experience of AWS technical committees; and, while some provisions may seem overly conservative, they have been based on sound engineering practice.