

**AWS B2.1-22-015:2011  
An American National Standard**

**Approved by the  
American National Standards Institute  
July 7, 2010**

**Standard Welding Procedure Specification (SWPS) for  
Gas Tungsten Arc Welding of Aluminum (M/P-22 to  
M/P-22), 18 through 10 Gauge, ER4043 or R4043, in  
the As-Welded Condition, with or without Backing**

**3rd Edition**

**Supersedes AWS B2.1-22-015:2002**

Prepared by the  
American Welding Society (AWS) B2 Committee on Procedure and Performance Qualification

Under the Direction of the  
AWS Technical Activities Committee

Approved by the  
AWS Board of Directors

## **Abstract**

This standard contains the essential welding variables for aluminum in the thickness range of 10 through 18 gauge using manual gas tungsten arc welding. It cites the base metals and operating conditions necessary to make the weldment, the filler metal specifications, and the allowable joint designs for fillet welds and groove welds.



**American Welding Society**

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International Standard Book Number: 978-0-87171-778-8  
American Welding Society  
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Printed in the United States of America

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## Foreword

This foreword is not part of AWS B2.1-22-015:2011, *Standard Welding Procedure Specification (SWPS) for Gas Tungsten Arc Welding of Aluminum (M/P-22 to M/P-22), 18 through 10 Gauge, ER4043 or R4043, in the As-Welded Condition, with or without Backing*, but is included for informational purposes only.

The American Welding Society and the Welding Research Council have joined in a cooperative effort to generate standard welding procedures for industry. The need for pretested welding procedures that are supported by adequate test data and that satisfy the technical requirements for the commonly used construction codes and specifications has been expressed by many individuals and organizations. The purpose of a welding procedure qualification is to provide test data for assessing the properties of a weld joint.

This Welding Procedure Specification is an outgrowth of the coordinated work of the Welding Procedures Committee of the Welding Research Council and the AWS B2 Committee on Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification. The Welding Procedures Committee has provided the test data documented by a Summary of Procedure Qualification Records.

The welding terms used in this specification shall be interpreted in accordance with the definitions given in the latest edition of AWS A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions, Including Terms for Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, and Thermal Spraying*. Welding symbols shall be those shown in the latest edition of AWS A2.4, *Standard Symbols for Welding, Brazing, and Nondestructive Examination*.

The AWS Committee on Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification was formed in 1979 to provide welding standards concerning the subject of qualification. The primary document developed by this committee is AWS B2.1, *Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification*. This document established the foundation and framework for Standard Welding Procedure Specifications.

This standard was revised to correct the amperes under Electrical Characteristics and to delete all references to ASME “S” material numbers.

Comments and suggestions for the improvement of this standard are welcome. They should be sent to the Secretary, AWS B2 Committee on Procedure and Performance Qualification, American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, FL 33126.

# Standard Welding Procedure Specification (SWPS)

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## Gas Tungsten Arc Welding of Aluminum (M/P-22 to M/P-22), 18 through 10 Gauge, ER4043 or R4043, in the As-Welded Condition, with or without Backing

Welding Research Council—Supporting PQR Numbers: 152A, 153A,  
154A, 155A, 156A, 157A, 158A, 159A, 160A, 161A, 162A, 163A

### Requirements for Application of SWPSs

**Scope.** The data to support this Standard Welding Procedure Specification (SWPS) have been derived from the above listed Procedure Qualification Records (PQRs) which were reviewed and validated under the auspices of the Welding Research Council. This SWPS is not valid using conditions and variables outside the ranges listed. The American Welding Society considers that this SWPS presents information for producing an acceptable weld using the conditions and variables listed. The user needs a significant knowledge of welding and accepts full responsibility for the performance of the weld and for providing the engineering capability, qualified personnel, and proper equipment to implement this SWPS.

**Application.** This SWPS is to be used only as permitted by AWS B2.1, Specification for Welding Procedure and Performance Qualification, and the applicable fabrication document(s) [such as code, specification, or contract document(s)]. The fabrication document(s) should specify the engineering requirements such as design, need for heat treatment, fabricating tolerances, quality control, and examination and tests applicable to the end product.

**User's Responsibility.** An SWPS does not replace or substitute for fabrication codes, specifications, contract requirements, or capability and judgment

on the part of the user. An SWPS is to be used only as permitted by the applicable fabrication code, specification, or contract document.

The ability to produce production welds having properties suitable for the application depends upon supplementing the SWPS with appropriate performance qualification tests and sound engineering judgment. The user is responsible for the quality and performance of the final product in accordance with the provisions of the fabrication document(s).

**Supplementary Instructions.** To adapt this SWPS to a specific application, a user may issue supplementary instructions. Such instructions may consist of tighter fit-up tolerances, higher minimum preheat temperature, or any other instructions necessary to produce a weldment that meets the requirements of the fabrication document(s). These instructions shall not be less restrictive than provided in the SWPS.

**Safety.** Safety precautions shall conform to the latest edition of ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*, published by the American Welding Society.

This specification may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. The specification does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices. The user should determine the applicability of any regulatory limitations prior to use.