
**Friction stir welding — Aluminium —
Part 3:
Qualification of welding operators**

*Soudage par friction-malaxage — Aluminium —
Partie 3: Qualification des opérateurs soudeurs*





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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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by IIW, *International Institute of Welding*, Commission III, *Resistance Welding, Solid State Welding and Allied Joining Process*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 121, *Welding and allied processes*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 25239-3:2011), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the qualification of the welding operator has been changed for reference to the acceptance levels of ISO 25239-5;
- the definitions for testing and acceptance levels of test welds have been updated;
- NDT is no longer accepted as an alternative to bend test to qualify welding operator;
- the period of welding operator qualification has been extended to three years with possible prolongation for another three years;
- [Annex A](#) has been reworded to focus on the knowledge of the welding unit and its operation;
- [Annex B](#) has been reworded to focus on the knowledge of the welding technology;
- [Annex C](#) has been modified to fit to the extended validity of the qualification.

A list of all parts in the ISO 25239 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Welding processes are widely used in the fabrication of engineered structures. During the second half of the twentieth century, fusion welding processes, wherein fusion is obtained by the melting of parent material and usually a filler metal, dominated the welding of large structures. In 1991, Wayne Thomas at TWI invented friction stir welding (FSW), which is carried out entirely in the solid phase (no melting).

The increasing use of FSW has created the need for this document in order to ensure that welding is carried out in the most effective way and that appropriate control is exercised over all aspects of the operation. This document focuses on the FSW of aluminium because, at the time of publication, the majority of commercial applications for FSW involved aluminium. Examples include railway carriages, consumer products, food processing equipment, aerospace structures, and marine vessels.

Friction stir welding — Aluminium —

Part 3: Qualification of welding operators

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the qualification of welding operators for friction stir welding (FSW) of aluminium. In this document, the term “aluminium” refers to aluminium and its alloys.

This document does not apply to “operators” as defined in ISO 25239-1.

This document does not apply to friction stir spot welding which is covered by the ISO 18785 series.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 25239-1, *Friction stir welding — Aluminium — Part 1: Vocabulary*

ISO 25239-4:2020, *Friction stir welding — Aluminium — Part 4: Specification and qualification of welding procedures*

ISO 25239-5:2020, *Friction stir welding — Aluminium — Part 5: Quality and inspection requirements*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 25239-1 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

4 Requirements

4.1 Welding operator qualification

Welding operators shall be qualified by one of the following tests, as detailed in [4.3](#):

- standard welding test, see [4.3.1](#);
- welding procedure test, see [4.3.2](#);
- pre-production welding test or production welding test, see [4.3.3](#);
- production welding sample test, see [4.3.4](#).

In addition, the welding operator's knowledge of the welding unit to be used for the qualification test and the knowledge of the welding technology shall be tested and documented as shown in [Annexes A](#) and [B](#).