



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 127

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Perales and Dever, Ashford, Henne, Lipps, Rezabek, Lepore-Hagan, Celebrezze, Romanchuk, West

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Board of Building Standards to adopt, as part of the building codes, rules that certain standards related to welding and welding inspections be met in all construction projects involving structural steel welding.
 - Exempts from the Board's standards welding that is required by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers to have its own certification.
 - Requires general contractors, project managers, contractors, and subcontractors to mandate the Board's standards in all projects involving structural steel welding.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Welding and inspection standards

The bill requires the Board of Building Standards, when adopting Ohio's Residential and Nonresidential Building Codes, to adopt rules mandating that each of the following requirements be met in all construction projects involving structural steel welding (see "**Scope of standards**," below):

- All welders performing structural steel welding for the project have been tested by and hold a valid certification from a facility that has been accredited by the American Welding Society (AWS) to test and certify welders and welding inspectors.
- All structural steel welding performed for the project meets, specifications, guidelines, tests, and other methods used to ensure that all structural steel and bridge welds meet, at minimum, the codes and

standards for such welds established in the AWS Structural Steel Welding Code D1.1, AWS Bridge Welding Code D1.5, and Ohio Building Code (which governs commercial buildings).

- All structural steel welding inspections listed in the project's job specifications are completed by a certified welding inspector (a person who has been certified by AWS to inspect structural steel welding projects and conduct welder qualification tests).¹

Scope of standards

The standards above apply to all construction projects that involve structural steel welding which, under the bill, is structural welds, weld repair, the structural system, and the welding of all primary steel members of a structure in accordance with the AWS structural steel (D1.1) and bridge welding (D1.5) codes. The standards adopted under the bill do not apply to welding that is required by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) to have its own certification.² For example, ASME provides its own certification governing the design, fabrication, assembly, and inspection of boiler and pressure vessel components.³

Intent and mandate

The bill states that it is intended to ensure the safety, quality, and integrity of structural steel welding and that all welding standards are met. The bill requires general contractors, project managers, contractors, and subcontractors to mandate these requirements in all projects involving structural steel welding.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-14-17

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¹ R.C. 3781.21(A) and (B).

² R.C. 3781.21(A)(5).

³ American Society of Mechanical Engineers, *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Certification*, <https://www.asme.org/shop/certification-accreditation/boiler-and-pressure-vessel-certification> (accessed April 25, 2017).

⁴ Section 2.

