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Second edition
2005-12-15

Quality requirements for fusion welding of metallic materials —

Part 1: Criteria for the selection of the appropriate level of quality requirements

*Exigences de qualité en soudage par fusion des matériaux
métalliques —*

*Partie 1: Critères pour la sélection du niveau approprié d'exigences de
qualité*



Reference number
ISO 3834-1:2005(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 3834-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 44, *Welding and allied processes*, Subcommittee SC 10, *Unification of requirements in the field of metal welding*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 3834-1:1994), which has been technically revised.

ISO 3834 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Quality requirements for fusion welding of metallic materials*:

- *Part 1: Criteria for the selection of the appropriate level of quality requirements*
- *Part 2: Comprehensive quality requirements*
- *Part 3: Standard quality requirements*
- *Part 4: Elementary quality requirements*
- *Part 5: Documents with which it is necessary to conform to claim conformity to the quality requirements of ISO 3834-2, ISO 3834-3 or ISO 3834-4*

NOTE A Technical Report ISO/TR 3834-6, *Quality requirements for fusion welding of metallic materials — Part 6: Guidance on implementing ISO 3834* is being prepared.

Requests for official interpretations of any aspect of this part of ISO 3834 should be directed to the Secretariat of ISO/TC 44/SC 10 via your national standards body, a complete listing which can be found at <http://www.iso.org>.

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Introduction

Processes such as fusion welding are widely used to manufacture many products. In some companies, they are the key feature of production. Products may range from simple to complex. Examples include pressure vessels, domestic and agricultural equipment, cranes, bridges, transport vehicles and other items.

These processes exert a profound influence on the cost of manufacture and quality of the product. It is important, therefore, to ensure that these processes are carried out in the most effective way and that appropriate control is exercised over all aspects of the operation.

It is emphasised that ISO 3834 is not a quality management system standard replacing ISO 9001:2000. However, it can be a useful tool when ISO 9001:2000 is applied by manufacturers.

Specification of quality requirements for welding processes is important because the quality of these processes cannot be readily verified. Therefore, they are considered to be special processes as noted by ISO 9000:2000.

Quality cannot be inspected into a product, it has to be built in. Even the most extensive and sophisticated non-destructive testing does not improve the quality of the product.

For products to be free from serious problems in production and in service, it is necessary to provide controls, from the design phase, through material selection, into manufacture and subsequent inspection. For example, poor design may create serious and costly difficulties in the workshop, on site, or in service. Incorrect material selection may result in problems, such as cracking in welded joints.

To ensure sound and effective manufacturing, management needs to understand and appreciate the sources of potential trouble and to implement appropriate procedures for their control.

ISO 3834 identifies measures that are applicable for different situations. Typically, they may be applied in the following circumstances:

- in contractual situations: specification of welding quality requirements;
- by manufacturers: establishment and maintenance of welding quality requirements;
- by committees drafting manufacturing codes or application standards: specification of welding quality requirements;
- by organizations assessing welding quality performance, e.g. third parties, customers, or manufacturers.

ISO 3834 can be used by internal and external organizations, including certification bodies, to assess the manufacturer's ability to meet customer, regulatory or the manufacturer's own requirements.