### AWS D1.1 Interpretation

**Subject:** Shelf Bars for Horizontal Column Splice Welds  
**Code Edition:** D1.1-84  
**Code Provision:** Subsection 3.6.2  
**AWS Log:** D1-85-018

**Inquiry:** During the welding of column splices in the horizontal position, it appears to be standard practice in building construction to provide a shelf to facilitate completely filling the joint. The shelf, attached to the lower member (similar to a weld tab), supports the excess weld metal the joint.  
(1) Is the use of a shelf for welding column splices in the horizontal position permitted by the Code?  
(2) Does the use of a shelf in column splices welded in the horizontal position violate the 1/8 in. maximum reinforcement permitted by 3.12.2?

**Response:**  
(1) Yes. The use of a shelf or weld tab is acceptable when welding compression members. For removal, see 3.12.2.  
(2) No. The 1/8 in. reinforcement refers to face of unsupported weld metal only; when a shelf or welded tab is used this requirement does not apply.