

1 AN ACT relating to welding safety.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 198B IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 (a) "Accredited testing facility" means a facility that tests and certifies welders
7 and welding inspectors, and which has been accredited by the AWS;

8 (b) "ASME" means the American Society of Mechanical Engineers;

9 (c) "AWS" means the American Welding Society;

10 (d) "Certified welding inspector" means a person who has been certified by the
11 AWS to inspect structural steel welding projects and is independent of a
12 Kentucky building program having jurisdiction;

13 (e) "D1.1" means the current version of the Structural Welding Code-Steel,
14 approved American National Standard from the AWS;

15 (f) "D1.5" means the current version of the Bridge Welding Code, approved
16 American National Standard from the AWS jointly with the American
17 Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials;

18 (g) "Structural steel welding" means structural welds, weld repair, the
19 structural system, and the welding of all primary steel members of a
20 structure per D1.1 and D1.5 established by AWS. Where ASME work is
21 required, it shall be done by ASME certified welders; and

22 (h) "Welding standards" means the specifications, guidelines, tests, and other
23 methods used to develop a system of quality control to ensure that welding is
24 conducted in such a manner that all welds must meet, at a minimum, D1.1
25 and D1.5 standards established by the AWS.

26 (2) To ensure the safety, quality, and integrity of structural steel welding and that all
27 welding standards are met, the following requirements shall be mandated by

1 general contractors, project managers, contractors, and subcontractors in all
2 projects involving structural steel welding where the design professional
3 responsible for the project includes the D1.1 or D1.5 in the job specifications:

4 (a) Welders performing structural steel welding on a project shall have been
5 tested and certified by:

6 1. An accredited testing facility; or

7 2. An individual who has been accredited by the AWS to test and certify
8 welders and welding inspectors. This individual could be anyone who
9 has been certified by the AWS to inspect structural steel welding
10 projects; and

11 (b) Structural steel welding performed on a project shall meet welding
12 standards.

13 (3) This section shall not apply to welding projects performed or requested by a
14 homeowner or farmer on the premises of the homeowner or farmer.

15 ➔Section 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.