

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.