

Standard Welding Terms and Definitions

Including Terms for Additive
Manufacturing, Adhesive
Bonding, Brazing, Soldering,
Thermal Cutting, Thermal
Spraying, and Nondestructive
Examination



AWS A3.0M/A3.0:2025
An American National Standard

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Including Terms for Additive Manufacturing, Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, Thermal Spraying, and Nondestructive Examination

14th Edition

Revises AWS A3.0M/A3.0:2020

Prepared by the
American Welding Society (AWS) A2 Committee on Definitions and Symbols

Under the Direction of the
AWS Technical Activities Committee

Approved by the
AWS Board of Directors

Abstract

This standard is a glossary of the technical terms used in the welding industry. Its purpose is to establish standard terms to aid in the communication of information related to welding and allied processes. Since it is intended to be a comprehensive compilation of welding terminology, nonstandard terms used in the welding industry are also included. All terms are designated as either standard or nonstandard and are arranged in word-by-word alphabetical sequence.



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Foreword

This foreword is not part of this standard but is included for informational purposes only.

The A2 Committee on Definitions and Symbols was formed by the American Welding Society to establish standard terms and definitions to aid in the communication of welding information. This publication is the major product of work done by the Subcommittee on Definitions in support of that purpose.

The evolution of AWS A3.0M/A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Additive Manufacturing, Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, Thermal Spraying, and Nondestructive Examination*, is shown below:

January 18, 1940	<i>Tentative Definitions of Welding Terms and Master Chart of Welding Processes;</i>
May 7, 1942	<i>Definitions of Welding Terms and Master Chart of Welding Processes;</i>
A3.0-49	<i>Standard Welding Terms and Their Definitions;</i>
A3.0-61	<i>AWS Definitions, Welding and Cutting;</i>
A3.0-69	<i>Terms and Definitions;</i>
A3.0-76	<i>Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Spraying, and Thermal Cutting;</i>
A3.0-80	<i>Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Spraying, and Thermal Cutting;</i>
ANSI/AWS A3.0-85	<i>Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Spraying, and Thermal Cutting;</i>
ANSI/AWS A3.0-89	<i>Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Spraying, and Thermal Cutting;</i>
ANSI/AWS A3.0-94	<i>Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Spraying, and Thermal Cutting;</i>
AWS A3.0:2001	<i>Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Spraying, and Thermal Cutting;</i>
AWS A3.0M/A3.0:2010	<i>Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Spraying, and Thermal Cutting;</i>
AWS A3.0M/A3.0:2020	<i>Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Spraying, and Thermal Cutting; and</i>
AWS A3.0M/A3.0:2025	<i>Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Additive Manufacturing, Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, Thermal Spraying, and Nondestructive Examination</i>

The present publication, AWS A3.0M/A3.0:2025, Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Additive Manufacturing, Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, Thermal Spraying, and Nondestructive Examination, defines over 1500 terms, with numerous illustrations to support and clarify the definitions, as well as classification charts and corollary information related to welding and allied processes. This latest revision includes significant enhancements to:

- Additive manufacturing
- GMAW process variations
- Hybrid welding
- Nondestructive examination
- Plastic welding
- Qualification – procedure and performance
- SAW process variations
- Temper bead welding
- Waveform-controlled welding
- Welding test positions

New terms and definitions have been introduced, and existing terms and definitions have been modified in these and other areas. Of significance are new/modified terms and definitions for surfacing weld test positions, procedure and performance qualification for brazing, soldering, and welding, gas metal arc welding transfer modes and process electrical variations, submerged arc welding process variations with multiple electrodes, nondestructive examination methods and their application, and measurement of arc energy for waveform-controlled welding. The term design effective throat has been added, as has the term contact tip-to-work distance. Table A1 has been modified to include ISO 4063 numeric process designations. Figure A7—Plastic Welding Classification Chart has been added. Users are encouraged to refer to summaries of the various changes in this edition found in Tables D1, D2, D3, D4, and D5.

Revisions to the 2025 edition are identified by underlines as well as vertical lines in the margin next to the text (see Clause 1, General Requirements).

Figures in this edition are identified in Annex B and are not intended to represent all possible conceptual variations; they are examples only and are not intended to illustrate acceptable or rejectable conditions.

As was the case for previous editions, numerous terms and definitions related to brazing are included in this edition. The intent is to include in AWS A3.0 those brazing terms and definitions corresponding with those for soldering and welding. It must be understood other important terms and definitions related to the description and application of brazing exist but are beyond the scope of AWS A3.0. For additional information and details, users are encouraged to refer to the AWS *Brazing Handbook*.

It must be understood that the Definitions Subcommittee cannot be the ultimate judge in terms of the preferability, acceptability, or correctness of any term for a specific situation. Such determinations are left to the discretion and opinion of the welding terminology user. There is one exception: when the use of a nonstandard term may endanger personal safety, that term is defined as both nonstandard and incorrect. The Definitions Subcommittee has neither the authority nor the desire to dictate welding terminology but considers it within its province to establish standard terms and nonstandard terms.

Table of Contents

	Page No.
<i>Personnel</i>	v
<i>Foreword</i>	vii
<i>List of Tables</i>	x
<i>List of Figures</i>	x
1. General Requirements	1
1.1 Scope	1
1.2 Units of Measurement	1
1.3 Safety	2
2. Normative References	3
3. Terms and Definitions	4
4. Glossary	5
Annex A (Normative)—Processes, Classifications, and Designations	75
Annex B (Informative)—Figures	91
Annex C (Informative)—Principles of <u>AWS</u> A3.0M/A3.0 Style	169
Annex D (Informative)—Modifications to <u>AWS</u> A3.0M/A3.0 from <u>AWS</u> A3.0M/A3.0:2020	177
Annex E (Informative)—Terminology from Other Sources	185
Annex F (Informative)—Requesting an Official Interpretation on an AWS Standard	187
List of AWS Documents on Definitions and Symbols	189

List of Tables

Table		Page No.
A1	Letter Designations of Welding, Joining, and Allied Processes	75
A2	Alphabetical Cross-Reference to Table A1 by Process	79
A3	Alphabetical Cross-Reference to Table A1 by Letter Designation	81
A4	Suffixes for Application Modes of Welding, Joining, and Applied Processes	83
A5	Obsolete or Seldom Used Processes	83
D1	New Terms <u>and</u> Definitions	178
D2	Modified Terms <u>and</u> Definitions	180
D3	Terms <u>with Editorially Revised</u> Definitions	183
D4	Term Revised from Nonstandard to Standard	184
D5	Deleted Terms	184

List of Figures

Figure		Page No.
A1	Master Chart of Welding and Joining Processes	84
A2	Master Chart of Allied Processes	85
A3	Joining Method Chart	85
A4	Fusion Welding Classification Chart	86
A5	Solid-State Welding Classification Chart	87
A6	Brazing and Soldering Classification Chart	88
<u>A7</u>	<u>Plastic Welding Classification Chart</u>	89
B1	Joint Types	92
B2	Flanged Joints	93
B3	Spliced Butt Joints	94
B4	Joint Root	95
B5	Groove Face, Root Edge, and Root Face	96
B6	Bevel Angle, Bevel Face, Bevel Depth, Groove Angle, Groove Depth, Bevel Radius, and Root Opening	97
B7	Edge Shapes	100
B8	Single-Groove Weld Types	101
B9	Double-Groove Weld Types	104
B10	Welds in Flanged Joints	106
B11	Butting and Nonbutting Workpiece or Workpieces	107
B12	End Dam, Shelf, Split Pipe Backing, <u>Riser</u> , Sump, Starting Weld Tab, and Runoff Tab	108
B13	Edge Weld, Scarf Groove, Joint Mismatch, Root Face Extension, Consumable Insert, and Preplaced Filler Metal in a Brazed Joint	109
B14	Seam and Spot Weld Types	110
B15	Various Weld Types	111
B16A	Welding Position Diagram for Groove Welds and Surfacing Welds in Plate	112
B16B	Welding Position Diagram for Fillet Welds in Plate	113
B16C	Welding Position Diagram for Groove Welds and Surfacing Welds in Pipe	114

B17	Welding Test Positions and Their Designations for Groove Welds, <u>Stud Welds</u> , and Surfacing Welds in Plate.	115
B18	Welding Test Positions and Their Designations for Fillet Welds in Plate	117
B19	Welding Test Positions and Their Designations for Groove Welds and Surfacing Welds in Pipe.	119
B20	Welding Test Positions and Their Designations for Fillet Welds in Pipe.	121
B21	Position of Beam, Filler Material, Gun, or Torch	123
B22	Weld Bead Types	124
B23	Welding Application Nomenclature.	125
B24	Parts of a Weld	128
B25	Weld Sizes	134
B26	Groove Weld Size and Joint Penetration	138
B27	Melt-Through and Root Surface Profile	141
B28	Complete Fusion	142
B29	Incomplete Fusion	143
B30	Fusion Welds	144
B31	Joining Without Fusion	146
B32	Weld Discontinuities	147
B33	Crack Types	150
B34	Welding Current Polarity	151
B35	Plasma Arc Torch Nomenclature	152
B36	Gas Tungsten Arc Welding Torch Nomenclature.	152
B37	Electroslag Welding Process Nomenclature	153
B38	Gas Metal Arc <u>Welding Gun</u> and Flux Cored Arc Welding Gun Nomenclature	154
B39	Metal Transfer in Gas Metal Arc Welding	155
B40	Oxyacetylene Flame Types	156
B41	Oxygen Cutting	157
B42	Filler Metal Packaging.	157
B43	Thermal Spraying Surface Preparation	158
B44	Generalized Diagram of Inertia Friction Welding	159
B45	Generalized Diagram of Direct Drive Friction Welding	160
B46	Schematic of the Friction Stir Welding Process.	161
B47	Typical Arrangements for Multiple Spot Welding	162
B48	Typical Arrangements for Single Spot Welds	163
B49	Example of a Pulsation Welding Waveform for Resistance Spot Welding	164
B50	Example of a Single-Pulse Resistance Spot Welding Waveform.	164
B51	Electro-Mechanical Synchronization in a Typical Flash Welding Cycle.	165
B52	High-Frequency Resistance Welding.	166
B53	An Example of a Welding Cycle for Pulsed Welding	168
B54	Typical GMAW, FCAW, and SAW Welding Cycle	168

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Standard Welding Terms and Definitions

Including Terms for Additive Manufacturing, Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, Thermal Spraying, and Nondestructive Examination

1. General Requirements

1.1 Scope

The purpose of this document is to establish standard terms and definitions to aid in the communication of information related to welding, additive manufacturing, adhesive bonding, brazing, soldering, thermal cutting, thermal spraying, and nondestructive examination. The standard terms and definitions published in this document should be used in the oral and written language associated with these related processes.

Whenever AWS A3.0 is mentioned in this document, it refers to the latest edition, AWS A3.0M/A3.0:2025.

When terms from AWS A3.0 are used in other AWS standards, it is intended that the AWS A3.0 definitions apply, unless a more specific meaning is intended or necessary. AWS standards may provide alternative definitions where a process-specific definition improves understanding, or when specific limits of acceptance, applicability, or performance are incorporated.

It is one of the goals of the Definitions Subcommittee that AWS A3.0 encompass all terms, not adequately defined in the dictionary, directly related to welding or allied fields. Both standard and nonstandard jargon, as well as dialect and vernacular terms, are accepted for inclusion in AWS A3.0. Nonstandard terms are primarily included to direct the user to preferred standard terms.

As this document is a comprehensive compilation of terminology, nonstandard terms are included with cross-references to the corresponding standard terms. **Boldface** type indicates standard terms, lightface type indicates nonstandard terms. Terms for standard welding processes and for standard welding process variations are followed by their standard letter designations.

For the user's convenience, all new text is underlined. Additionally, a single vertical line in the margin next to a term denotes a minor change to an existing definition. A double line denotes a new term or a major change. Terms for standard processes and standard process variations are followed by their standard letter designation. All terms are arranged in word-by-word alphabetical sequence.

The principles applied by the Definitions Subcommittee for the creation of terms and definitions in AWS A3.0 are described in Annex C.

1.2 Units of Measurement

This standard makes use of both the International System of Units (SI) and U.S. Customary Units. The latter are shown within brackets ([]) or in appropriate columns in tables and figures. The measurements may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently.