AWS D1.3 Interpretation

Subject: Rust and Moisture
Code Provision: Subclause 5.2
AWS Log: D1.3-08-109b

Inquiry: The second sentence in 5.2 reads:

Surfaces to be welded and surfaces adjacent to a weld shall also be free from loose or thick scale, slag, rust, moisture, grease, or other foreign material that would prevent proper welding or produce objectionable fumes.

When applying this sentence specifically to rust and moisture, may we perform production welding (i.e., arc spot welding to structural steel) in the presence of rust and moisture so long as there isn’t enough rust and moisture to prevent proper welding?

Response: No, see subclause 5.2.