American Welding Society
550 NW LeJeune Road
Miami, Florida 33126

AWS D1.3 Interpretation

Subject: Low-Hydrogen Electrodes and Welding Sheet Steel to Structural Steel
Code Provision: Subclause 1.1.1, Table 1.1, and Annex A
AWS Log: D1.3-08-I11

Inquiry:
(1) When using SMAW, are low-hydrogen electrodes required when welding sheet steel to structural Group II or higher steels?
(2) When using FCAW, is E71T-GS (exempted in AWS D1.1 Table 3.1) acceptable when welding sheet steel to structural steel?

Response:
(1) Yes. See AWS D1.3:2008 Table 1.2, Note 1 which states “Low hydrogen electrodes shall be used when required by AWS D1.1.” There is an exception for arc spot, arc seam, and arc plug welds used to attach “decking” permitted by Annex A, Note 1.
(2) No. See AWS D1.3:2008 Table 1.2, Note 4.