

FIELD WELDING NEAR BEARING PADS

Subject: Field welding of bridge structures in areas where nonmetallic materials such as elastomeric bearing pads are used.

Structural details which require field welding close to the bearing pads shall be avoided whenever possible because of the potential of overheating of the pads.

Welds have been made on $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch plate without damage to pads on the opposite side. However, if preheating is required, the preheating, rather than the welding, may cause overheating of the pads.

When welding or preheating adjacent to bearing pads cannot be avoided, (see Table 603.1 of the *Standard Specifications for Welding Structural Steel*), the designer shall notify the Specification Section so that appropriate clauses may be included in the special provisions. The success of welding near bearing pads will depend on geometry, plate thickness, and proper welding procedures.



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Supersedes Memo to Designers 12-17 dated January 1983