

Underwater Wet-Welding Trials

Surface Quality Class "A" Wet Welding
to
AWS D3.6M: 2010

Topic

Examination and Testing of
Barracuda Gold Electrodes
(Evaluation of mechanical & weld quality properties)
In accordance with
AWS D3.6M: 2010

Class A

(Comparable properties and testing requirements with above water welding)

by
George Maroudas
(Marex Overseas Contractors)

Examination and Certification conducted
by



General Applications of Technology &
Science Testing Laboratories

60 Karamanli ave. Acharne
136-71 Attica, Greece
Tel: +30 (210) 24 42
411-13
Fax: +30 (210) 24 42 415
Email:
info@gatsndt.g

PASS ☒

FAIL ☐

DECEMBER 2012

Contents

Introduction →	<i>Page, 3</i>
Brief History →	<i>Page, 4</i>
Acknowledgements →	<i>Page, 5</i>
Comments →	<i>Page, 6</i>
pWPS →	<i>Page, 8</i>
Detailed dwg →	<i>Page, 9</i>
RT Report (BW) →	<i>Page, 11</i>
WWRS → (AW) →	<i>Page, 12 to 15</i>
RT Report (AW) →	<i>Page, 18</i>
Tensile Test Report →	<i>Page, 22</i>
WPS →	<i>Page, 23</i>
References →	<i>Page, 24</i>

Introduction

Underwater wet welding has been employed for many years now, with varying degrees of success; from excellent to very poor, since the early 1900. The success of underwater wet welding has in part been due to a number of interacting factors. Perhaps first and foremost are improvements in training, together with improvements in electrode development, better understood welding techniques as well as improved steel manufacturing, which provides for steels having improved properties and lower carbon equivalent values. However, most class societies still regard wet welding as a 'temporary' repair methodology.

Previous studies ^[1-6] have shown that underwater wet welding can, with correct training and appropriate skill, produce AWS D3.6M class 'B' quality wet welds, but until now no published reports have shown that class 'A' weld quality has been achieved for welding in the wet.

The purpose of this investigation was to identify if underwater wet-welding could now be performed, using the electrode Barracuda Gold, to deliver weld metal quality in accordance with AWS D3.6M: 2010 Class 'A', therefore moving this process out of temporary to permanent repair methodologies.

Under the AWS D3.6M underwater welding specification Class 'A' welds are intended to be suitable for applications and design stresses that are comparable to their conventional surface welding counterparts, by virtue of specifying comparable properties and testing requirements.

For the purposes of these trials, welding was conducted at -3M water depth in a freshwater training tank. Water temperature was 7C⁰ and visibility was good. All welding was performed by Mr. George Maroudas of Marex.

Barracuda Gold is an underwater C/Mn welding electrode, with added nickel, manufactured by Speciality Welds Ltd. Although no standard/specification exists for any underwater welding electrode, the nearest equivalent may be taken from BSEN ISO 2560: 2009 for covered welding electrodes. The nearest code being E4221NiRR (AWS A5.1, E7014); the specification of which is detailed on table 1

Chemistry:

Element	C	Mn	Si	Ni	P	S
Min	0.06	0.45	0.40	0.25		
Max	0.09	0.60	0.50	0.35	0.025	0.020

Table 1

Brief History (personal)

During my career, especially in the regions around Greece and the waters of the Balkans and North Africa, I have met many Engineers looking for permanent underwater welding repairs for steel structures. All of them, without exception, had little confidence in underwater wet welding qualities.

As an experienced Welder-diver with many years exposure to wet welding, I was determined to provide evidence that wet welding can provide for high quality permanent repairs. However, it was very clear from the start that if I wanted to achieve this result, then it was essential that a quality wet welding electrode was used. Therefore, I undertook a number of early performance trails to select the best commercially available wet welding electrode. Following these trails, my final decision was for Barracuda Gold.

As a former student of the Weldcraft-Pro™ underwater welding course and having had the opportunity to meet David Keats (author), his enthusiasm, knowledge and professional commitment to strive and always do better, inspired me to the same ends. I therefore, undertook these trails to demonstrate that not only can high quality wet welding be achieved underwater, but also to show the quality of the Barracuda Gold welding electrode to produce high quality weld metal that meets permanent repair quality.

With a determination to succeed, I hope this report demonstrates the achievable quality possible from wet welding and that such achievements prove of value to industry.

P.S.: Dedicated to my family..

George A. Maroudas

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my personal thanks and gratitude to Mr. D. Keats of Specialty Welds Ltd for his kind assistance and enthusiasm shown throughout these trials, without whom this task would have been much more difficult.

I would also like to offer my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mr. George Fyrigos of GATS Ltd, whose knowledge and expertise proved most valuable.

Since 1970 GATS Ltd. has been solely occupied with the inspection of materials, trials, measurements and the supervision of technical work (mechanical engineering) with a view to improving the quality of the work. For the service of its clients, GATS Ltd. runs two laboratories, one in Athens and the other in Thessaloniki, both of which are fully equipped and staffed by competent technicians and scientists who have been trained on the specific subjects required, both in Greece and abroad. GATS Ltd. Company has worked for a number of years in various foreign countries, as Iraq, S. Arabia, Libya etc. GATS Ltd has received the certificate of approval for **ISO 9002** from Bureau Veritas Quality International Ltd. (BVQI) since 1991 for Inspections, Destructive and Non Destructive Testing and Thermal Heat Treatment. And the accreditation certificate for **ISO 17025** and **EN 45004** from the Hellenic Accreditation Council (ESYD). Scope of accreditation for:

- ▣ ISO 17025: -Nondestructive and Mechanical testing
- ▣ EN 45004: -Welding process
- ▣ Periodic and intermediate inspection of vehicles used in the transportation of dangerous goods by road (ADR)

Furthermore GATS Ltd is a recognized third party organization for the approval of permanent joining procedures and personnel under Annex I, 3.1.2 of the Pressure Equipment Directive 97/23/EC.

Comments

From the evidence supported in this report, utilising careful control for welding operations and attention to detail, the evidence from the NDT and destructive examination and testing **has shown that class A wet welds has been achieved.**

During these trials the only piece of equipment that was used, which may have differed from other trials, was the way in which each weld pass was cleaned during welding. This was carried out using a cleaning system which operates with the principles of cavitation.

Research & Development



WELDING TRIALS

GROOVE (BUTT) WELD SAMPLES

CONDUCTED DECEMBER 2012

FOR



AS WELDED

BY

GEORGE A. MAROUDAS

preliminary **WELDING PROCEDURE SPECIFICATION (pWPS)**

Date: Tuesday, Dec18, 2012

Welding Specification: AWS D3.6M-2010-CLASS A ▼

Manufacturer/Client: Marex U.C.

pWPS: #8

Welder's Name: Maroudas, George



Weld Test Details	Pass	Amps	Volts	ROL (mm/min)
Welding Process: MMA/SAW (111)	1-8	160-170A ▼	29-31V ▼	220-230 KJ ▼
Plate or Pipe: Plate	9-45	170-180A ▼	29-31V ▼	210-220 KJ ▼
Material Thickness: 20mm ▼	46-54	160-170A ▼	29-31V ▼	220-230 KJ ▼

Parent Metal Group: S355J2+N

Type of Joint: Groove Weld with Backing

Method of Preparation: Point Welded

Test Dimensions: 400X320X20

Welding Position: 1G ▼

Filler Material: Barracuda Gold, 3.2mm ▼

Electrode Type: E 422 (AWS 7014)

Waterproof Coating: Special Formula Acrylic Lac

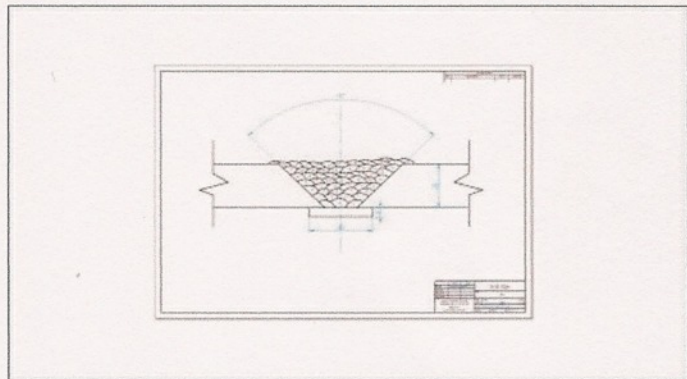
Storage of Electrodes: Use directly from box

Method of Trans/tation: Wet Quiver

Total Immersion Time: 60 min. max. ▼

Cleaning Method: CavitCleaner

Joint Fit-up Tolerance: 10mm



Date of Exam: 18 December 2012

Location: Aharnai

Test House: G.A.T.S. Lab

Welding Parameters	Type of Test	Results
Polarity: DCSP (-) ▼	Visual:	PASS ▼
Techniques Used: Drag & Step Back ▼	Radiography:	PASS ▼
Visibility & Depth: Good @ test depth (3m) ▼	MPI:	N/A ▼
Water Type & State: ▼	Macro:	N/A ▼
Machine Model: Telwin Inverter	Fracture:	N/A ▼
	Bend:	N/A ▼
	Tensile:	PASS ▼

Author of pWPS

George Maroudas

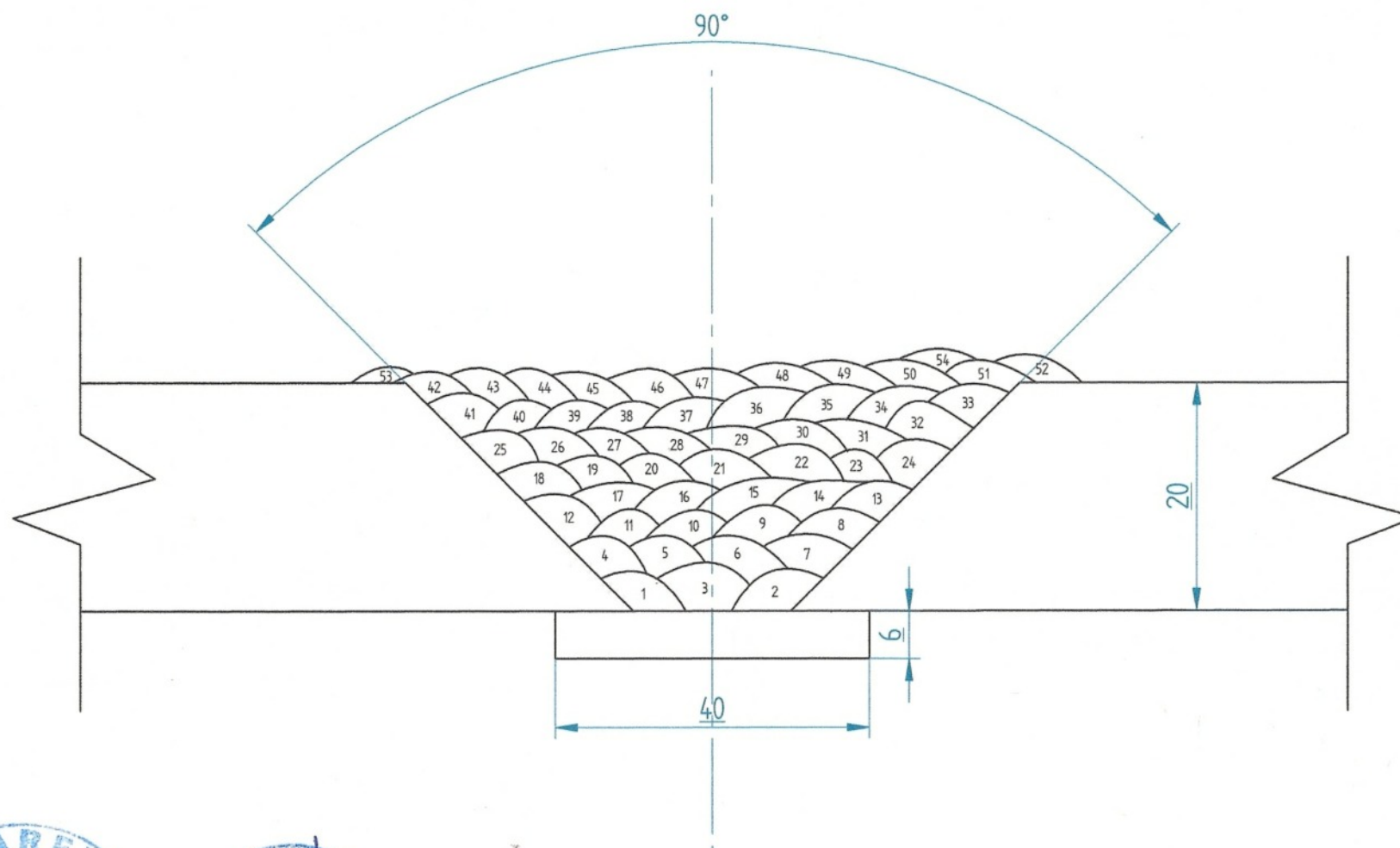
Witnessing Body

Ilias Pouleas (G.A.T.S.)

GEORGE A. MAROUDAS
HSE DIVER 88/38466/98



REVISION HISTORY			
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED



DRAWN	NAME	DATE	Solid Edge	
CHECKED	George Mar	04/28/13		
ENG APPR			TITLE	
MGR APPR				
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS ANGLES ±XX° 2 PL ±XXX 3 PL ±XXXX			SIZE	REV
			A2	
			FILE NAME: Multipass Weld Class Adit	
			SCALE:	WEIGHT: SHEET 1 OF 1



Fig 1: Test piece prepared prior to welding, general view.



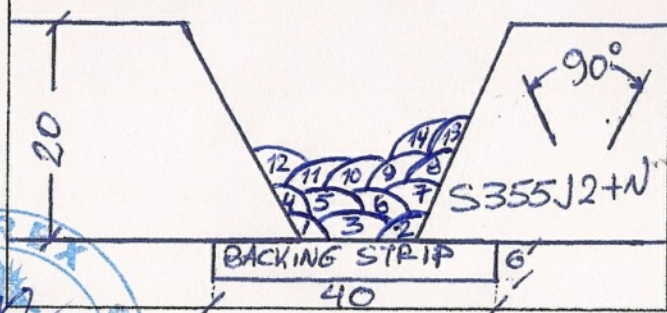
Fig 2: Test sample before welding, showing prep detail.

UNDERWATER WET-WELDING RECORD SHEET

TESTING BARRACUDA ELECTRODE GOLD 3.2mm
PROJECT NAME/CODE: UNDER AWS.D3.6N-2010 CLASS A OF WELDS.

DATE: 13.12.2012
 MATERIAL TYPE: S335J2+N
 THICKNESS: 20mm
 JOINT TYPE: GROOVE WELD WITH BACKING STRIP
 WELDING POSITION: FLAT PA (IG)
 ELECTRODE SIZE / TYPE: BARRACUDA GOLD 3.2mm
 WELDING DIRECTION: AWAY FROM EARTH.
 WELDING SPECIFICATION: AWS.D3.6N-2010-CLASS A
 CABLE SIZE / LOCATION: 50mm²
 CLEANING METHOD: CAVITCLEANER
 WHITENESSING: NP. ILIAS DOULEAS
 CLASS: G.A.T.S. LTD
 WELDERS NAME: GEORGE MAROUDAS
 COMPANY: NAREX U.C.
 OPERATOR'S NAME: VANNAKOUSIS NECTARIOS
 COMPANY: NAREX U.C.

WELD DRAWING DETAILS:



Pass No	Technique	Earth Location	Amps	Volts	Duration sec	Length mm	ROL (mm/sec)	ARC ENERGY (KJ/mm)
1	DRAG	AWAY	165	30	110	430		1,27
2	—u—	—u—	165	30	104	—u—		1,20
3	—u—	—u—	165	30	112	—u—		1,29
4	—u—	—u—	165	30	113	—u—		1,30
5	—u—	—u—	165	30	113	—u—		1,30
6	—u—	—u—	165	30	111	—u—		1,28
7	—u—	—u—	165	30	114	—u—		1,31
8	—u—	—u—	165	30	109	—u—		1,25
9	STEP BACK	—u—	177	30	121	—u—		1,49
10	—u—	—u—	177	30	119	—u—		1,47
11	—u—	—u—	177	30	115	—u—		1,42
12	—u—	—u—	177	30	122	—u—		1,51
13	—u—	—u—	177	30	120	—u—		1,48
14	—u—	—u—	177	30	124	—u—		1,53

First Welding Seam end on No: —

Second Welding Seam end on No: —

Third Welding Seam end on No: —

Welder's Signature: —

Operator's Signature: —

Class Stamp & Signature: —

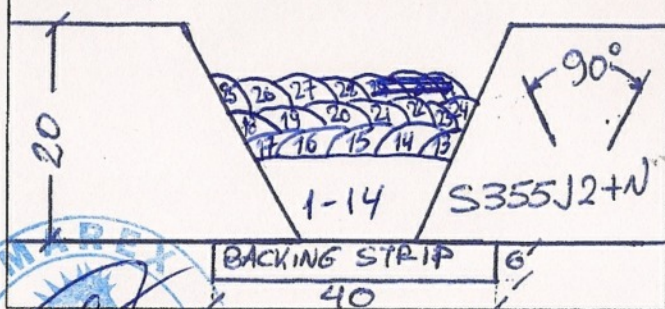
GEORGE A. MAROUDAS
HSE DIVER SS/28466/98

UNDERWATER WET-WELDING RECORD SHEET

TESTING BARRACUDA ELECTRODE GOLD 3.2mm
UNDER AWS.D3.6N-2010 CLASS A OF WELDS.

DATE: 13.12.2012
 MATERIAL TYPE: S335J2+N
 THICKNESS: 20mm
 JOINT TYPE: GROOVE WELD WITH BACKING STRIP FLAT PA (IG)
 WELDING POSITION: BARRACUDA GOLD 3.2mm
 ELECTRODE SIZE / TYPE: AWAY FROM EARTH.
 WELDING DIRECTION: AWS.D3.6N:2010-CLASS A
 WELDING SPECIFICATION: 50mm²
 CABLE SIZE / LOCATION: CAVITY CLEANER
 CLEANING METHOD: MR. ILIAS DOULEAS
 WHITENESSING: G.A.T.S. LTD
 CLASS: GEORGE MAROUDAS
 WELDERS NAME: NAREX U.C.
 COMPANY: VANVAKOUSIS. NECTARIOS
 OPERATOR'S NAME: NAREX U.C.
 COMPANY:

WELD DRAWING DETAILS:



PROJECT NAME/CODE: UNDER AWS.D3.6N-2010 CLASS A OF WELDS.

Pass No	Technique	Earth Location	Amps	Volts	Duration sec.	Length mm	ROL (mm/sec)	ARC ENERGY (KJ/mm)
15	STEPBACK	AWAY	177	30	119	430		1,47
16	—	—	177	30	122	—		1,51
17	—	—	177	30	114	—		1,41
18	—	—	177	30	117	—		1,44
19	—	—	177	30	122	—		1,51
20	—	—	177	30	116	—		1,43
21	—	—	177	30	122	—		1,51
22	—	—	177	30	124	—		1,53
23	—	—	177	30	127	—		1,57
24	—	—	177	30	122	—		1,51
25	—	—	177	30	119	—		1,47
26	—	—	177	30	121	—		1,49
27	—	—	177	30	126	—		1,56
28	—	—	177	30	121	—		1,49

First Welding Seam end on No: —

Second Welding Seam end on No: —

Third Welding Seam end on No: —

Welder's Signature:

Operator's Signature:

Class Stamp & Signature:

GEORGE A. MAROUDAS
 HSE DIVER SSB466/98
 NAREX
 UNDERWATER CONTRACTORS



UNDERWATER WET-WELDING RECORD SHEET

TESTING BARRACUDA ELECTRODE GOLD 3.2mm

PROJECT NAME/CODE: UNDER AWS.D3.6N-2010 CLASS A OF WELDS.

DATE: 13.12.2012

MATERIAL TYPE: S335J2+N

THICKNESS: 20mm

JOINT TYPE: GROOVE WELD WITH BACKING STRIP

WELDING POSITION: FLAT PA (IG)

ELECTRODE SIZE / TYPE: BARRACUDA GOLD 3.2mm

WELDING DIRECTION: AWAY FROM EARTH.

WELDING SPECIFICATION: AWS.D3.6N:2010-CLASS A

CABLE SIZE / LOCATION: 50mm²

CLEANING METHOD: CAVITCLEANER

WHITNESSING: MR. ILIAS POULEAS

CLASS: G.A.T.S. LTD

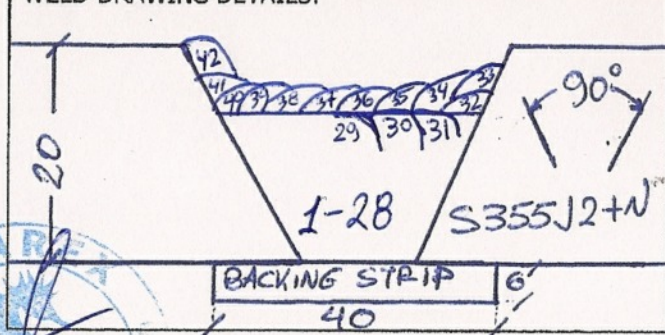
WELDERS NAME: GEORGE MAROUDAS

COMPANY: NAREX U.C.

OPERATOR'S NAME: VANVAKOUSIS, NECTARIOS

COMPANY: NAREX U.C.

WELD DRAWING DETAILS:



Pass No	Technique	Earth Location	Amps	Volts	Duration	Length	ROL (mm/sec)	ARC ENERGY (KJ/mm)
29	STEPBACK	AWAY	177	30	121	430		1,49
30	—	—	177	30	118	—		1,46
31	—	—	177	30	122	—		1,51
32	—	—	177	30	117	—		1,44
33	—	—	177	30	116	—		1,43
34	—	—	177	30	122	—		1,51
35	—	—	177	30	117	—		1,44
36	—	—	177	30	116	—		1,43
37	—	—	177	30	122	—		1,51
38	—	—	177	30	123	—		1,52
39	—	—	177	30	126	—		1,56
40	—	—	177	30	117	—		1,44
41	—	—	177	30	115	—		1,42
42	—	—	177	30	121	—		1,49

First Welding Seam end on No: —

Second Welding Seam end on No: —

Third Welding Seam end on No: —

Welder's Signature:

Operator's Signature:

Class Stamp & Signature:

GEORGE A. MAROUDAS
HSE DIVER SS/38466/98
NAREX
UNDERWATER CONTRACTORS



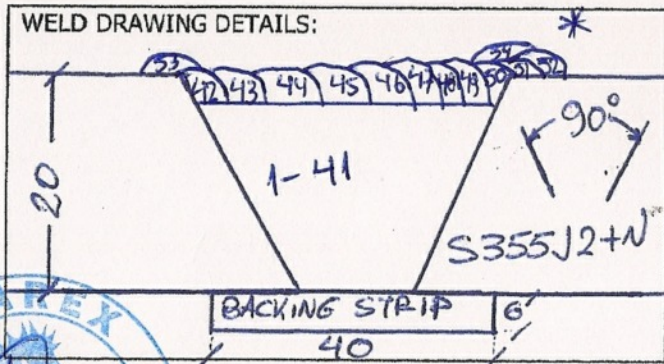
UNDERWATER WET-WELDING RECORD SHEET

TESTING BARRACUDA ELECTRODE GOLD 3.2mm

PROJECT NAME/CODE: UNDER AWS.D3.6N-2010 CLASS A OF WELDS.

DATE: 13.12.2012
 MATERIAL TYPE: S335J2+N
 THICKNESS: 20mm
 JOINT TYPE: GROOVE WELD WITH BACKING STRIP
 WELDING POSITION: FLAT PA (IG)
 ELECTRODE SIZE / TYPE: BARRACUDA GOLD 3.2mm
 WELDING DIRECTION: AWAY FROM EARTH.
 WELDING SPECIFICATION: AWS.D3.6N-2010-CLASS A.
 CABLE SIZE / LOCATION: 50mm²
 CLEANING METHOD: CAVITCLEANER
 WHITENESSING: MR. ILIAS POULEAS
 CLASS: G.A.T.S. LTD
 WELDERS NAME: GEORGE MAROUDAS
 COMPANY: NAREX U.C.
 OPERATOR'S NAME: VAVVAKOUSIS NECTARIOS
 COMPANY: NAREX U.C.

WELD DRAWING DETAILS:



Pass No	Technique	Earth Location	Amps	Volts	Duration	Length	ROL (mm/sec)	ARC ENERGY (KJ/mm)
43	STEPBACK	AWAY	177	30	123	430		1,52
44	—u—	—u—	177	30	119	—u—		1,47
45	—u—	—u—	177	30	115	—u—		1,42
46	—u—	—u—	177	30	122	—u—		1,51
47	—u—	—u—	177	30	121	—u—		1,49
48	DRAG	—u—	165	30	116	—u—		1,34
49	—u—	—u—	165	30	112	—u—		1,29
50	—u—	—u—	165	30	109	—u—		1,25
51	—u—	—u—	165	30	114	—u—		1,31
52	—u—	—u—	165	30	109	—u—		1,25
53	—u—	—u—	165	30	107	—u—		1,23
54	—u—	—u—	165	30	111	—u—		1,28

First Welding Seam end on No: —

Second Welding Seam end on No: —

Third Welding Seam end on No: —

Welder's Signature:

Operator's Signature:

Class Stamp & Signature:

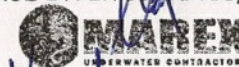
GEORGE A. MAROUDAS
HSE DIVER 55/88466/98



Fig 3: Test Piece as welded, looking side "A" to "B".

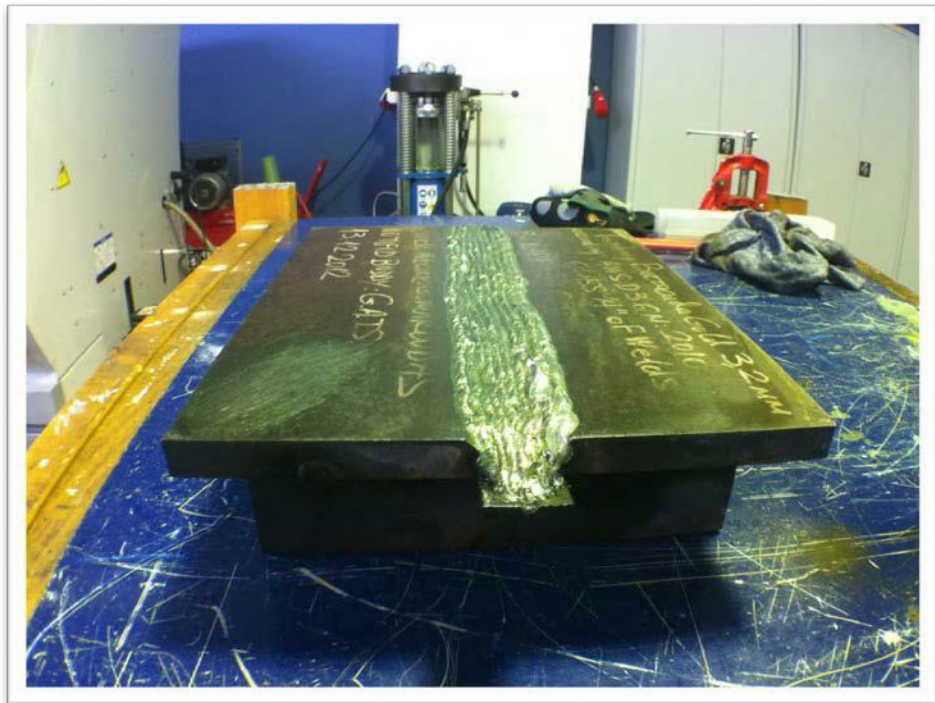


Fig 4: Test Piece as welded, looking longitudinally.



Fig 5: Mr. **George FYRIGOS** & **Ilias POULEAS** of **G.A.T.S. Ltd** (General Applications Technology & Science – Testing Laboratories) during specimen's examination.



Fig 6: The cleaning system we used during the trial, called “**Cavicleaner**”.



Fig 7: G.A.T.S. Ltd Laboratories. Tensile Machine, model DMG-T4284.

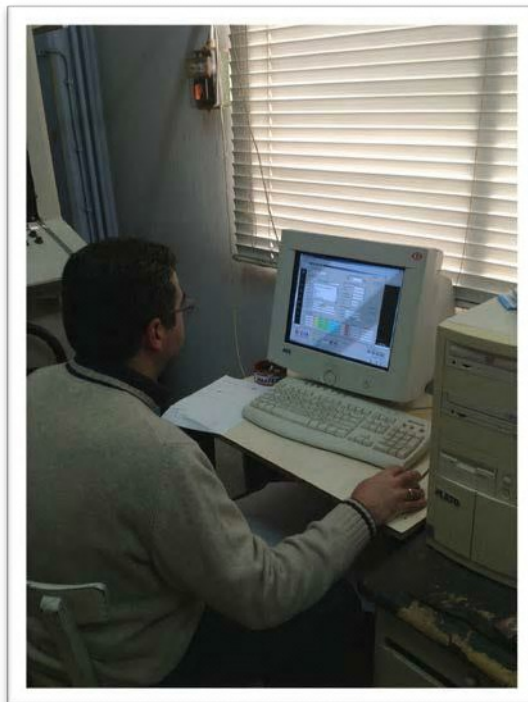


Fig 8: G.A.T.S. Ltd Laboratories. Operator fills in data before starts tensile.



Fig 9: General plan of specimen after destructive test. Evident the difference between used one and unused.



Fig 10: Specimen Close Up.



Fig 11: Close up of left specimen's side.



Fig 12: Close up of right specimen's side.



General Applications of Technology and Science Testing Laboratories

60, Karamanli Ave, 13671 Acharne
Attica-Greece
Tel: (010)2442411-4, Fax: (010)2442415
E-mail: gats@ath.forthnet.gr

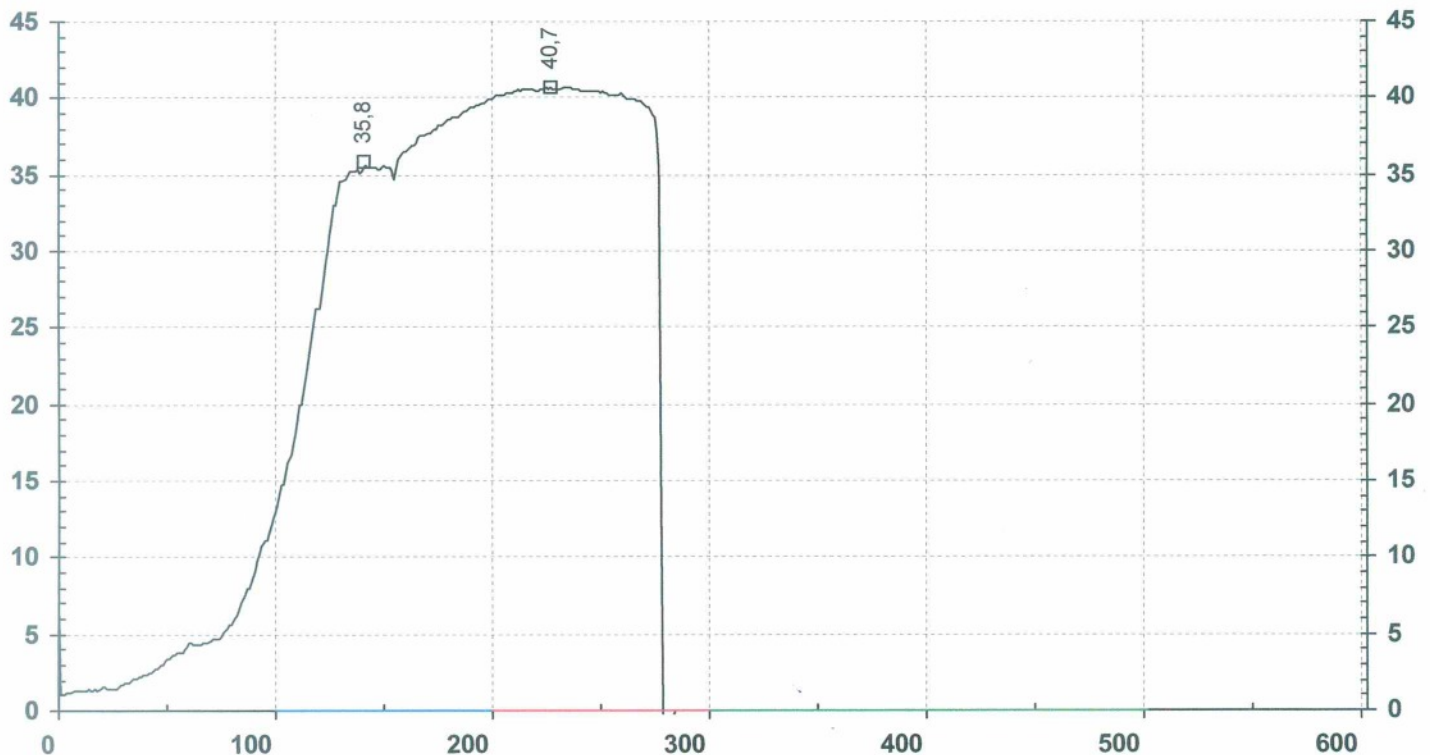
Agrotemaxio 613,570 08-Ionia
Thessaloniki-Greece
Tel: (0310)781747, Fax: (0310)783439
E-mail: gats@internet.gr

TENSILE TEST CERTIFICATE

GB/DTR51(20/1/2001)

Test No:	606	Page:	1 from 1
Report No:	A/12/017 - T01 - REV 1 - 20/03/2014 ★	Date:	18/12/2012
Testing machine:	DMG-T4284 SN:24822	Filler metal 1:	AWS E7014
Sample Received Date:	18/12/2012	Filler metal 2:	-
Client:	MAREX U.C.	Diameter:	D=10mm
Client Address:		Thickness:	-
Contractor:	MAREX U.C.	Procedure:	WPS 005 - SMAW - PA (1G)
Project:	Testing Barracuda Gold Φ3,2mm	Test according to:	AWS D3.6M:2010 CLASS A
Material:	TESTED ONLY ELECTRODE ★	Test temperature:	19C
Material Type:	WELDED PLATE S355J2+N ★	Comments:	WELDER "MAROUDAS G. - W01"

Specim. No	Specimen dimensions/ diameter			Yield Point		Tensile strength		Elong Lo=	50	Failure Character Location	Remarks
	(W) mm	(t) mm	Area mm ²	KN	N/mm ² ★	KN	N/mm ² ★	mm	%		
1	10,0	-	78,6	35,8	460,000	40,7	522,000	58,0	16,0		SPECIMEN 1T
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		



Witnessed:

Note: The Test is for:

- ☐ Welding Procedure qualificatio
☐ Welder's Qualificatio
☒ Material

The above results are only valid for the tested samples/items

Partial reproduction of the report is not permitted without the permission of Gats Ltd.

For GATS Ltd:

Test made by.

G. FYRIGOS
 Ioannis Ilias
 Destructive Testing
 Responsible

WELDING PROCEDURE SPECIFICATION (WPS)

Date: Tuesday, Dec18, 2012

Welding Specification: AWS D3.6M-2010-CLASS A

Manufacturer/Client: Marex U.C.

WPS: #3

Welder's Name: **Maroudas, George**



Weld Test Details	Pass	Amps	Volts	ROL (mm/min)
Welding Process: MMA/SMAW (111)	1-8	160-170A	29-31V	220-230 KJ
Plate or Pipe: Plate	9-45	170-180A	29-31V	210-220 KJ
Material Thickness: 20mm	46-54	160-170A	29-31V	220-230 KJ

Parent Metal Group: S355J2+N

Type of Joint: Groove Weld with Backing

Method of Preparation: Point Welded

Test Dimensions: 400X320X20

Welding Position: 1G

Filler Material: Barracuda Gold, 3.2mm

Electrode Type: E 422 (AWS 7014)

Waterproof Coating: Special Formula Acrylic Lac

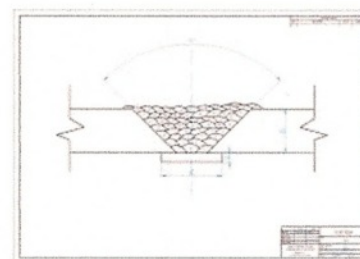
Storage of Electrodes: Use directly from box

Method of Trans/tation: Wet Quiver

Total Immersion Time: 60 min. max.

Cleaning Method: CavitCleaner

Joint Fit-up Tolerance: 10mm



Joint CEV (%): 0.45%

Backing CEV (%): 0.16%

Speciment Temp. (C): 7C

Welding Parameters	Type of Test	Results
--------------------	--------------	---------

Polarity: DCSP (-)

Techniques Used: Drag & Step Back

Visibility & Depth: Good @ test depth (3m)

Water Type & State: Freshwater - Tank 7C

Machine Model: Telwin Inverter

Visual: PASS

Radiography: PASS

MPI: N/A

Macro: N/A

Fracture: N/A

Bend: N/A

Tensile: PASS



References

1. D.J. Keats Underwater Welding – “A Welder’s Mate” – Troubador Publishing – ISBN 1 899293 99 X.
2. D.J. Keats “Professional Divers Manual on Wet-Welding” – Abington Publishing – ISBN 1 85573 006 5.
3. D. J. Keats - published online welding trials – 1998 and 2004 “Barracuda electrodes”
www.specialwelds.com
4. V.R. Santos, M.J. Monteiro, F.C. Rizzo, A.Q. Bracarense, E.C.P. Pessoa, R.R. Marinho & L.A. Viera – Welding Journal Dec 2012 “Development of an Oxyrutile Electrode for Wet Welding.
5. T.C. Gooch – “Properties of underwater welds (Part 1): Procedural Trials – Metal Construction (3): 164-167, 1983.
6. T.C. Gooch – “Properties of underwater welds (Part 2): Mechanical Properties – Metal Construction (3): 206-216, 1983.
7. M.A. Kim – “Study on development of underwater wet welding electrodes”- Journal of Ocean Engineering and Technology 17(4): 52-58.