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**Friction stir welding — Aluminium —  
Part 5:  
Quality and inspection requirements**

*Soudage par friction-malaxage — Aluminium —  
Partie 5: Exigences de qualité et de contrôle*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by IIW, *International Institute of Welding*, Commission III, *Resistance Welding, Solid State Welding and Allied Joining Process*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 121, *Welding and allied processes*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 25239-5:2011), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the concept of three different acceptance levels for the assessment of weld quality has been added to [Annex A](#);
- the following imperfections have been added to [Table A.1](#): angular misalignment, joint area deformation, surface breaking cavity, solid inclusion, joint remnants and multiple imperfections;
- the requirements for personnel performing non-destructive testing and visual testing have been aligned with ISO 17637

A list of all parts in the ISO 25239 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Welding processes are widely used in the fabrication of engineered structures. During the second half of the twentieth century, fusion welding processes, wherein fusion is obtained by the melting of parent material and usually a filler metal, dominated the welding of large structures. In 1991, Wayne Thomas at TWI invented friction stir welding (FSW), which is carried out entirely in the solid phase (no melting).

The increasing use of FSW has created the need for this document in order to ensure that welding is carried out in the most effective way and that appropriate control is exercised over all aspects of the operation. This document focuses on the FSW of aluminium because, at the time of publication, the majority of commercial applications for FSW involved aluminium. Examples include railway carriages, consumer products, food processing equipment, aerospace structures, and marine vessels.



# Friction stir welding — Aluminium —

## Part 5: Quality and inspection requirements

### 1 Scope

This document specifies a method for determining the capability of a manufacturer to use the friction stir welding (FSW) process for the production of products of the specified quality. It specifies quality requirements, but does not assign those requirements to any specific product group.

In this document, the term “aluminium” refers to aluminium and its alloys.

This document does not apply to friction stir spot welding which is covered by the ISO 18785 series.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3452-1, *Non-destructive testing — Penetrant testing — Part 1: General principles*

ISO 4136, *Destructive tests on welds in metallic materials — Transverse tensile test*

ISO 9015-1, *Destructive tests on welds in metallic materials — Hardness testing — Part 1: Hardness test on arc welded joints*

ISO 9015-2, *Destructive tests on welds in metallic materials — Hardness testing — Part 2: Microhardness testing of welded joints*

ISO 9017, *Destructive tests on welds in metallic materials — Fracture test*

ISO 9712, *Non-destructive testing — Qualification and certification of NDT personnel*

ISO 17636 (all parts), *Non-destructive testing of welds — Radiographic testing*

ISO 17637, *Non-destructive testing of welds — Visual testing of fusion-welded joints*

ISO 17640, *Non-destructive testing of welds — Ultrasonic testing — Techniques, testing levels, and assessment*

ISO 25239-1, *Friction stir welding — Aluminium — Part 1: Vocabulary*

ISO 25239-3, *Friction stir welding — Aluminium — Part 3: Qualification of welding operators*

ISO 25239-4, *Friction stir welding — Aluminium — Part 4: Specification and qualification of welding procedures*

ISO/TR 25901 (all parts), *Welding and allied processes — Vocabulary*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 25239-1 and ISO/TR 25901 (all parts) apply.