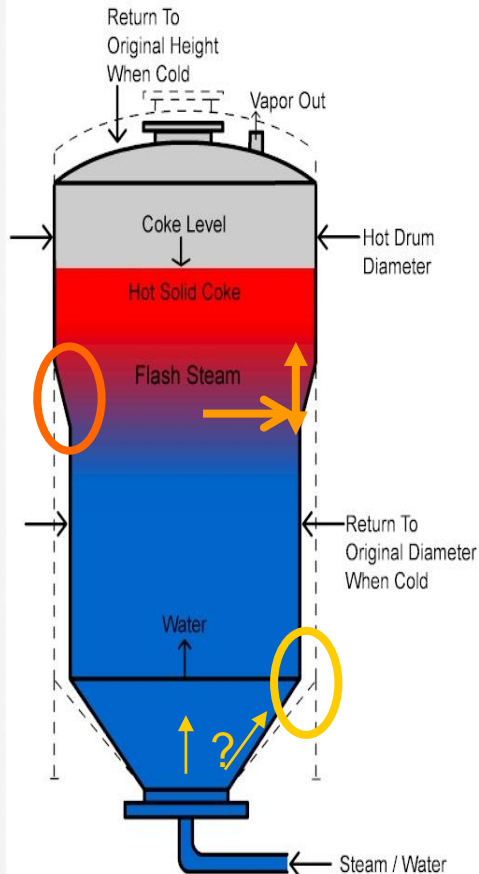


Field Modification of DCU Support Skirt-to-Vessel Attachment Weld Geometry

*By: Pedro E. Amador – VP Business Development & Technology
Darren Barborak PhD. – Director of Materials & Welding
Patrick Lester BSWE CWI – Senior Welding Engineer*

Typical DCU Vessel Failure Modes



- Coker Vessels are known to be susceptible to low cycle fatigue damage
- Delayed Coking requires cyclic operation and the cyclic changes in temperature cause significant stress intensities
- Over time, as operating cycles accumulate, vessels start to experience a variety of failure modes

Typical DCU Vessel Failure Modes



Bulging



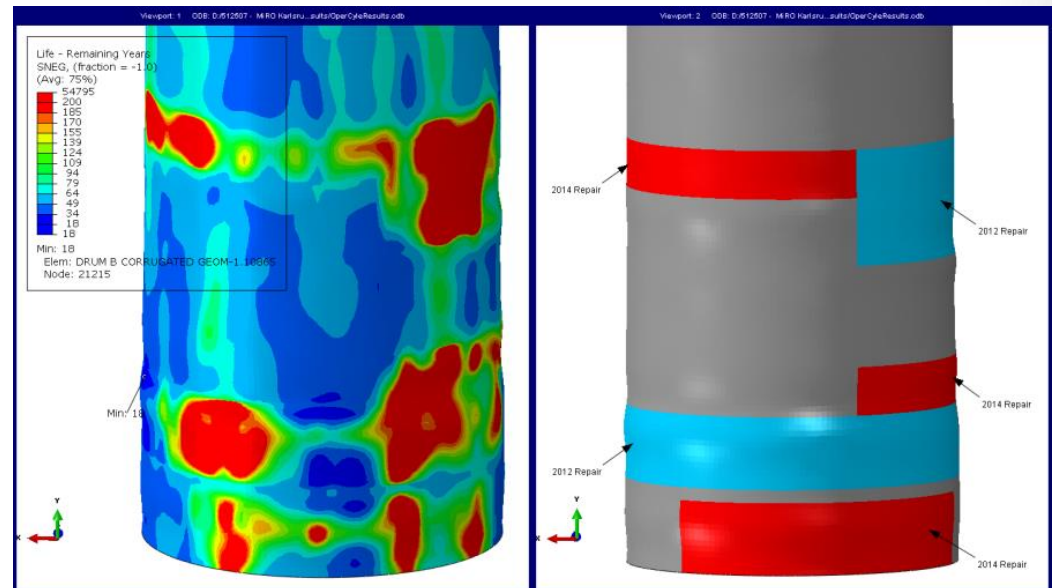
**Skirt
Attachment
Cracking**



**Pressure
Boundary
Cracking**

Established Practice For Shell Bulging/Cracking

- Map vessel to collect deformation data
- Evaluate stress/strain intensities with analytical tools
- Characterize highly affected areas
- Design “Structural Overlays” to address critical regions



Engineered Structural Overlays

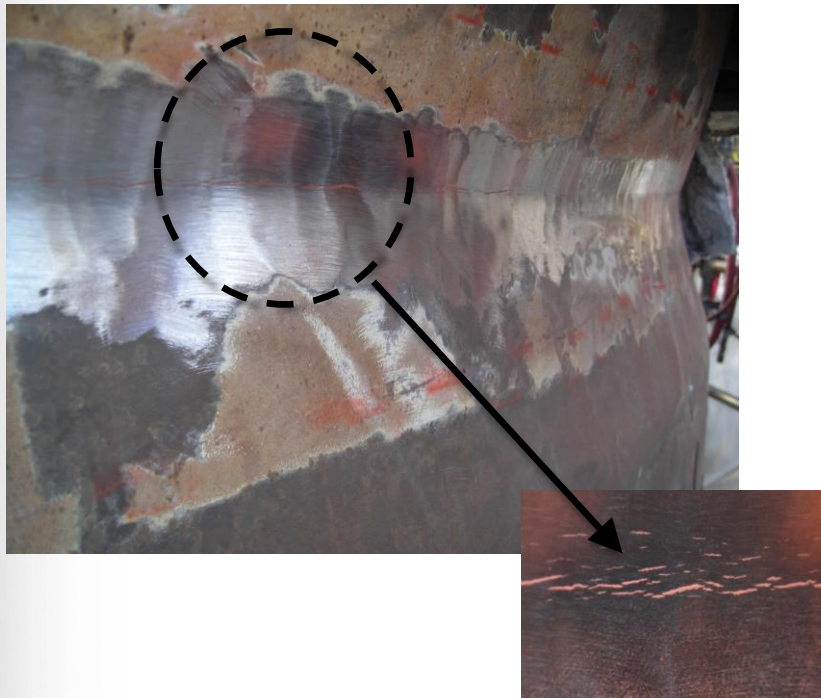
Established Practice For Shell Bulging/Cracking

- Install structural overlay(s) in accordance with design criteria
- Utilize automated welding processes to provide homogeneous mechanical properties and minimize volumetric and surface imperfections

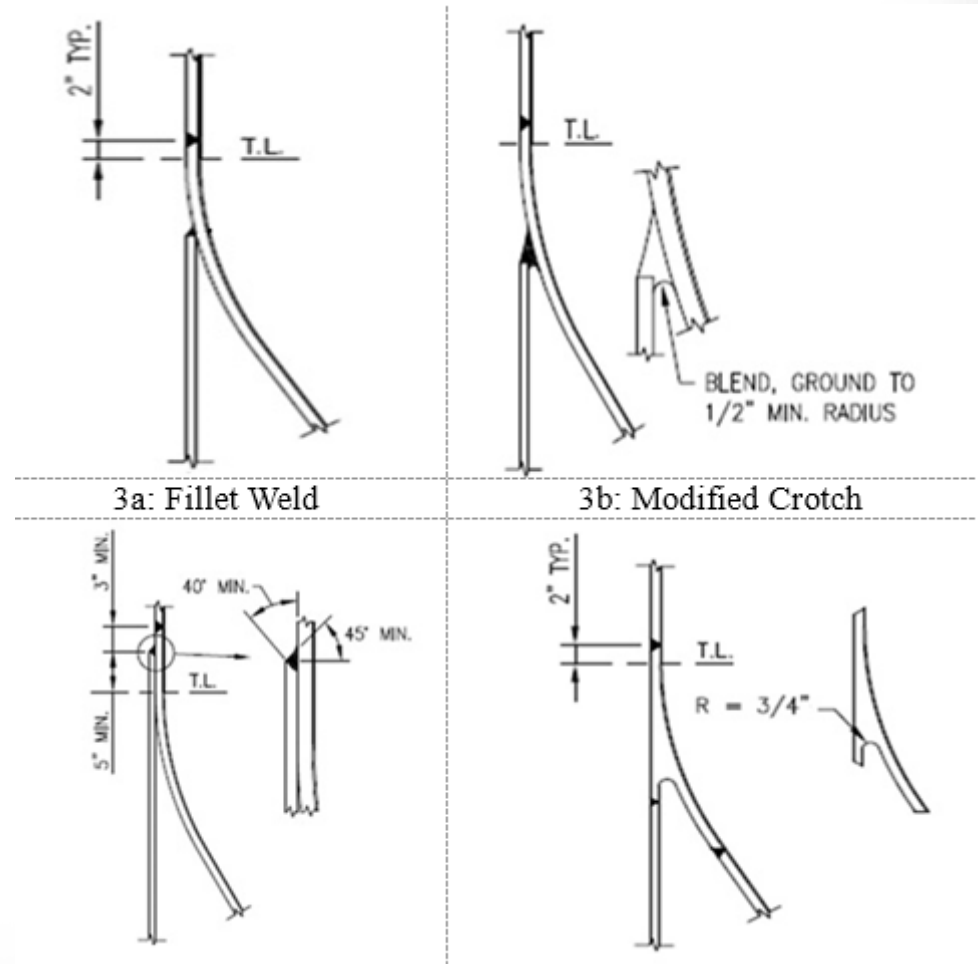


Engineered Structural Overlays

Issues at the Skirt to Vessel Interface



Cracking At Top of Skirt Attachment Weld

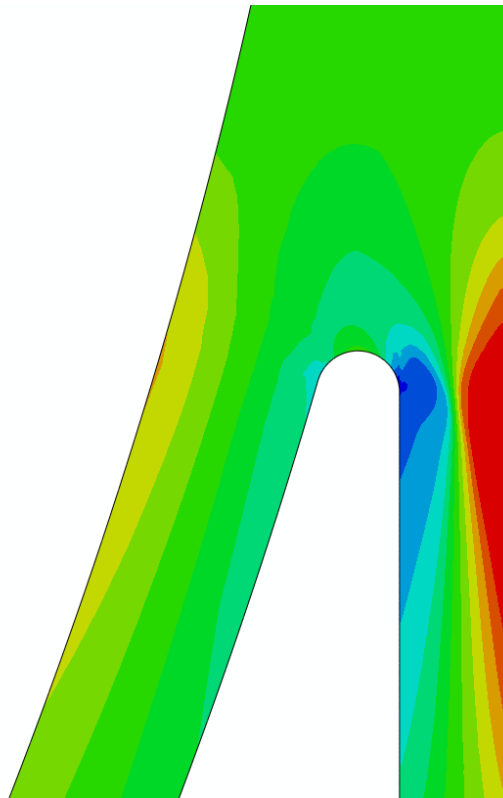


Typical Skirt Attachment Geometries¹

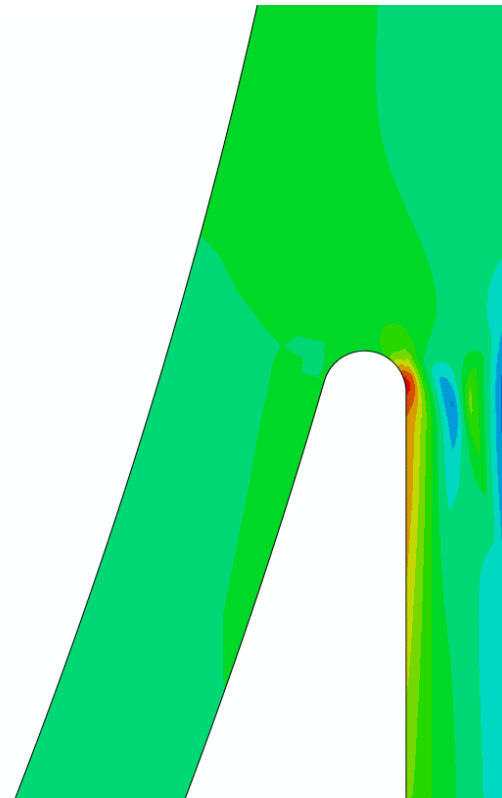
Field Attachment Weld Geometry Modification

Unique Implementation Case Study

Skirt Attachment Weld Stress Model

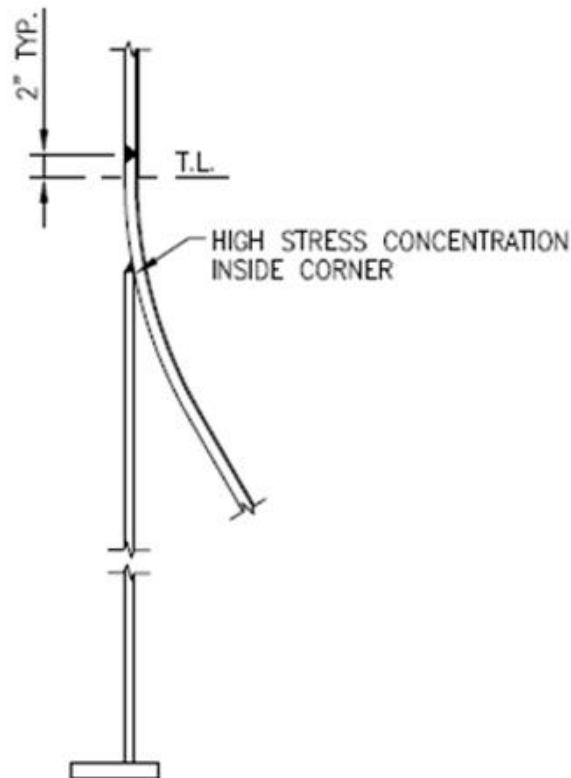


Fill

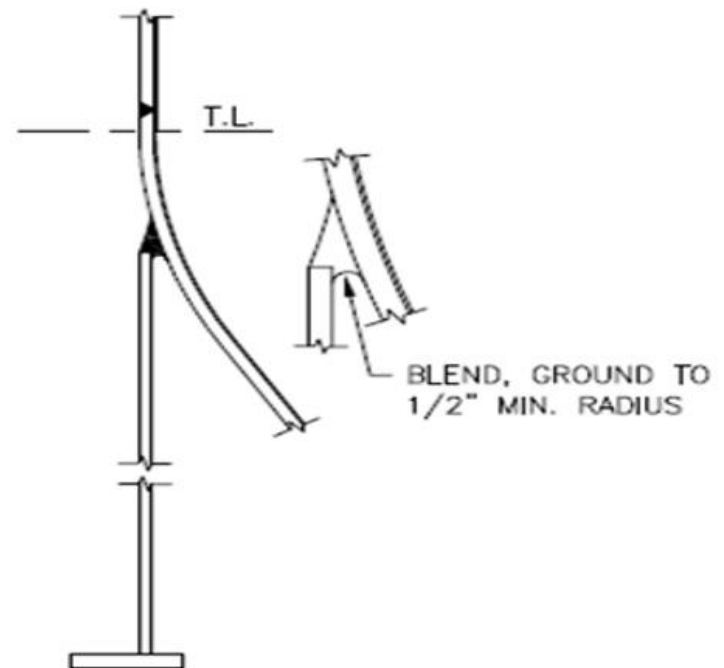


Quench

Customer Issues at the Skirt to Vessel Interface



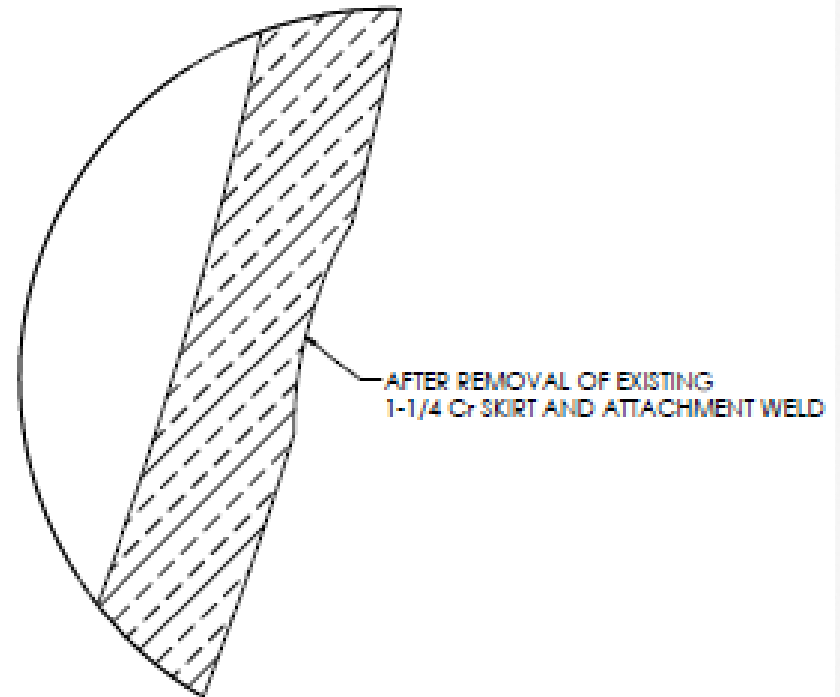
Original Geometry¹



Improved Geometry¹

Step 1 – Original Skirt Removal

- Remove portions of the existing skirt using track mounted torch cutting system
- Remove remaining skirt to vessel connection weld metal and grind flush
- Repair performed in segments around the vessel to avoid need for crane support



Step 2 – Base Metal Inspection



**Magnetic Particle Inspection of Coker Vessel Base Material
(Showing Vertically Aligned Crack)**

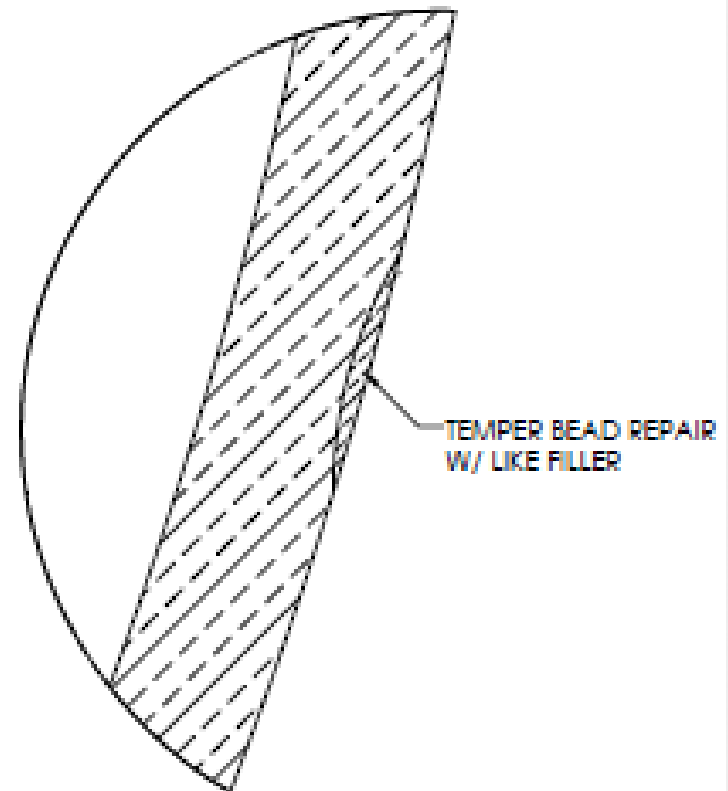
Step 3 – Removal of Damaged Areas



Removal of Flaws Detected with Magnetic Particle and LPAUT

Step 4 – Base Material Repair Welding

- The 2-1/4 Cr Cone Base material repaired/restored to nominal using NBIC Alternative Welding Method 2 repair (Temper Bead)
- 2-1/4 Cr filler material ER80S-B3L
- After welding, the surface of the cone was ground flush



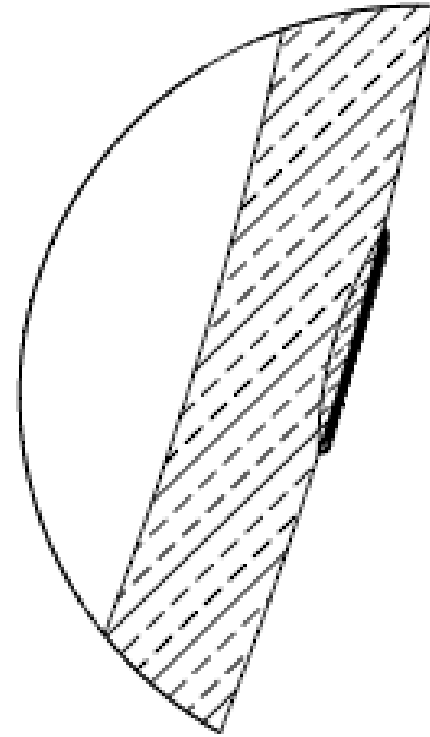
Step 4 – Base Material Repair Welding



**Repair Welding of Cone Base Material
(2 Layers Required to Achieve Tempering)**

Step 5 – Initial Knuckle Build-Up

- A build-up/structural overlay was deposited on the restored and unrestored surface of the cone using NBIC Alternative Welding Method 2
- Machine GMAW process and a 1-1/4 Cr filler material ER70S-B2L was used
- Two layers were applied to ensure proper bead placement and overlap



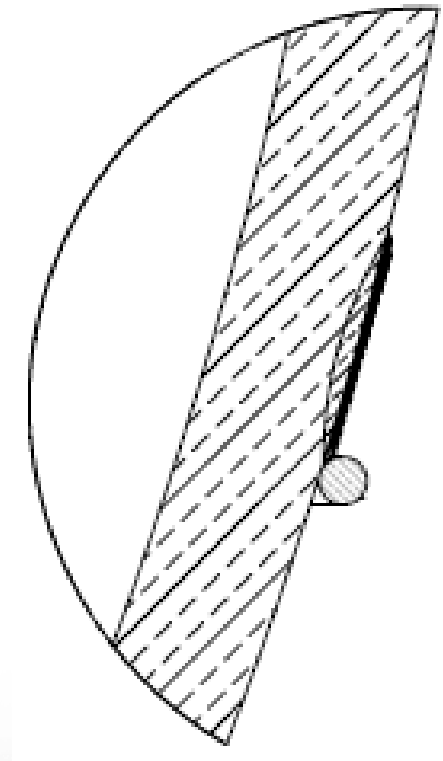
Step 5 – Initial Knuckle Build-Up



**Appearance of ER70S-B2L Deposit
(Two Layers)**

Step 6 – Installation of Proprietary Insert

- A Casting Insert was installed to create the desired knuckle radius
- A temporary welding shelf was installed to support the Casting Insert and provide a bottom surface for weld tie-in



Step 6 – Installation of Proprietary Insert



Casting Insert (White) and Welding Shelf

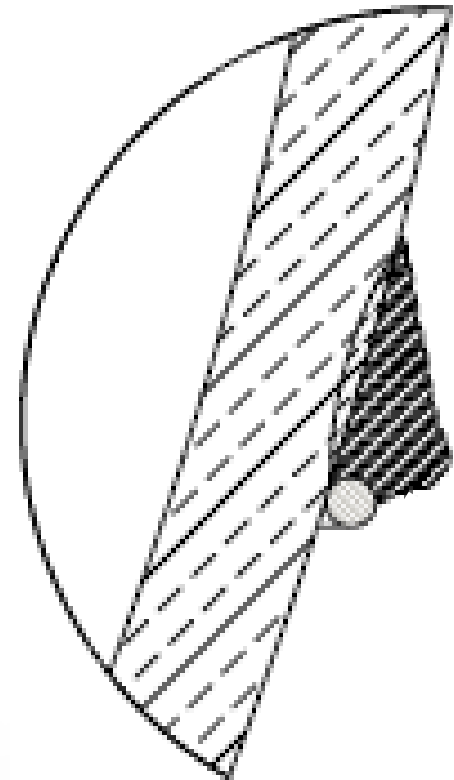
Step 6 – Installation of Proprietary Insert



Casting Insert (White) and Welding Shelf

Step 7 – Weld Build Up of Knuckle

- With the Casting Insert the weld build-up was completed with ER70S-B2L
- NBIC Alternative Method 2 was used for this portion of the weld
- The final deposited weld metal was considered a 1-1/4Cr, P4, base metal for the remainder of the repair



Step 7 – Weld Build Up of Knuckle



**Machine Applied Knuckle Weld Deposit
Completely Covering Casting Insert**

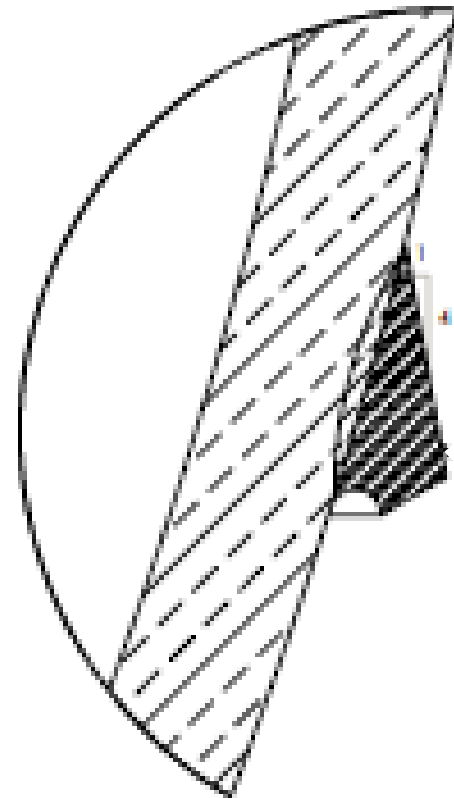
Step 7 – Weld Build Up of Knuckle



Surface Shaping of Deposited Knuckle Weld

Step 7 – Weld Build Up of Knuckle

- After sufficient build-up was deposited:
 - The Welding Shelf Was Removed
 - The Casting Insert was removed
 - The bottom radius was polished by grinding
 - The front of the build-up was blended to the cone and a bevel prep was cut for the skirt attachment weld



Step 7 – Weld Build Up of Knuckle

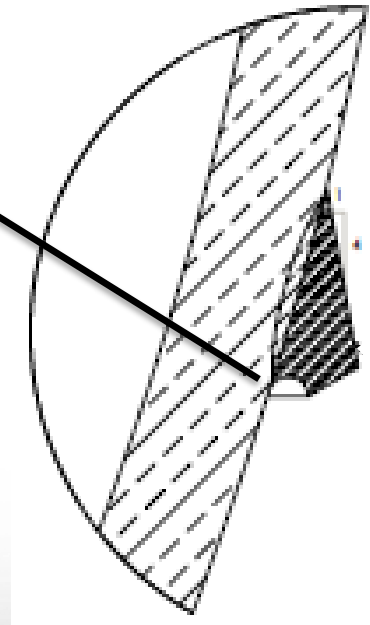


Machine Torch Cutting of the Weld Bevel

Step 7 – Weld Build Up of Knuckle



Knuckle Radius Bottom of Weld Deposit



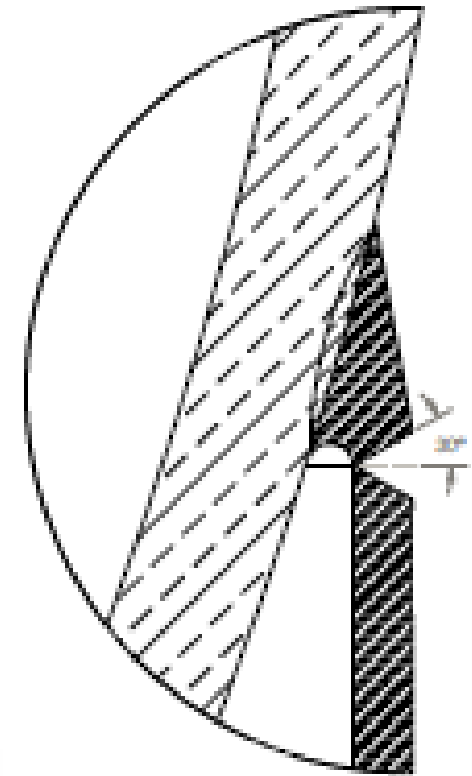
Step 7 – Weld Build Up of Knuckle



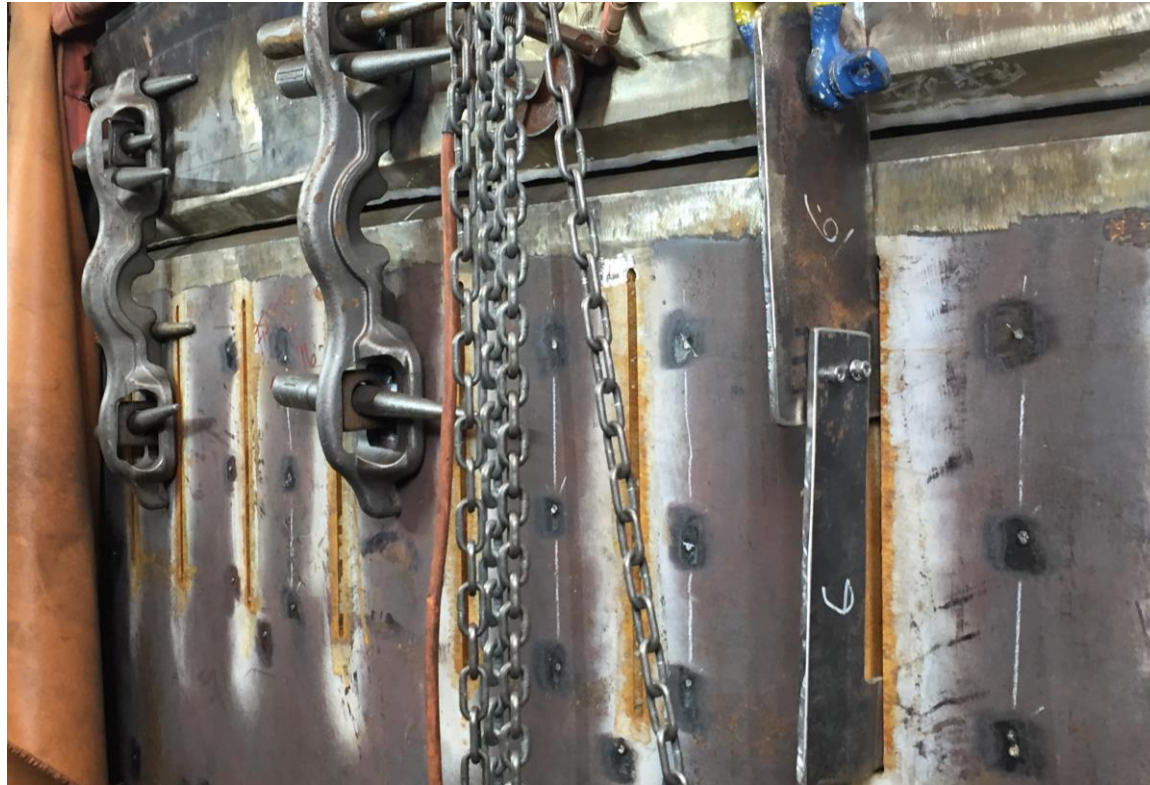
**Front Surface of Knuckle Weld Deposit
(After Blending and Surface Profiling)**

Step 8 – Fit-Up of Replacement Skirt Windows

- Replacement skirt windows were installed and fit to achieve proper weld geometry
- The joint to be welded 1-1/4 Cr, P4 to P4



Step 8 – Fit-Up of Replacement Skirt Windows



Section Alignment Fixturing

Step 8 – Fit-Up of Replacement Skirt Windows



Proper Root Opening for Welding

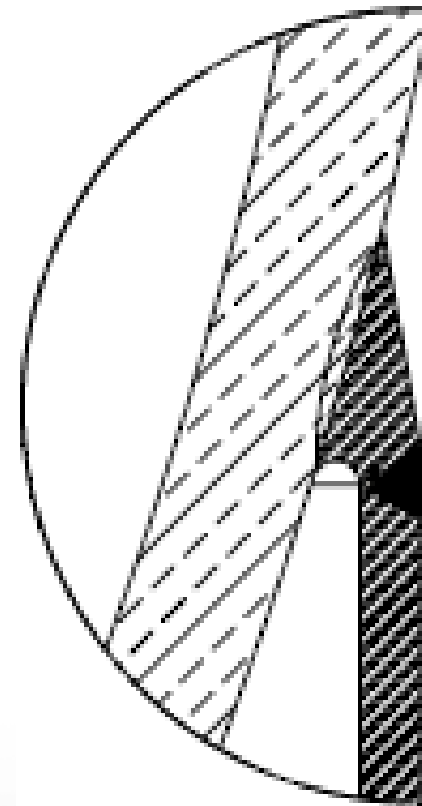
Step 8 – Fit-Up of Replacement Skirt Windows



Final Fit-Up after Tacking

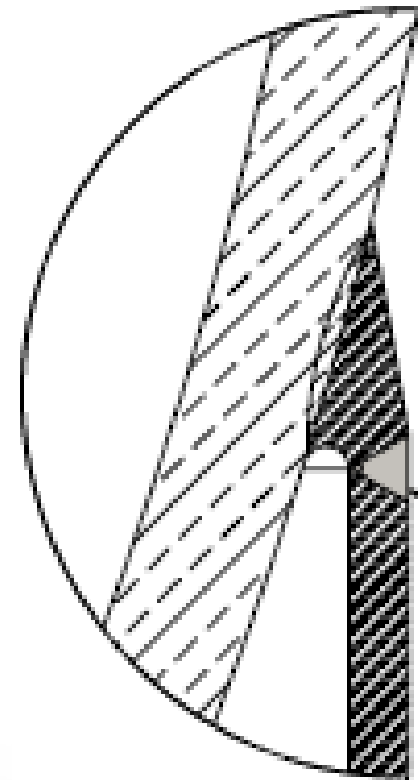
Step 9 – Final Window Tie-In Weld

- Weld out completed using “Controlled Deposition” which is similar to temper bead but per API-510, not NBIC
- A proprietary GTAW HotPulse process was used for this weld



Step 9 – Final Window Tie-In Weld

- After completing the weld out of the build-up to skirt weld:
 - The backside of the joint will be cleaned up and blended with a pencil grinder
 - Contour grinding will be performed on the cap to blend with taper of build-up.

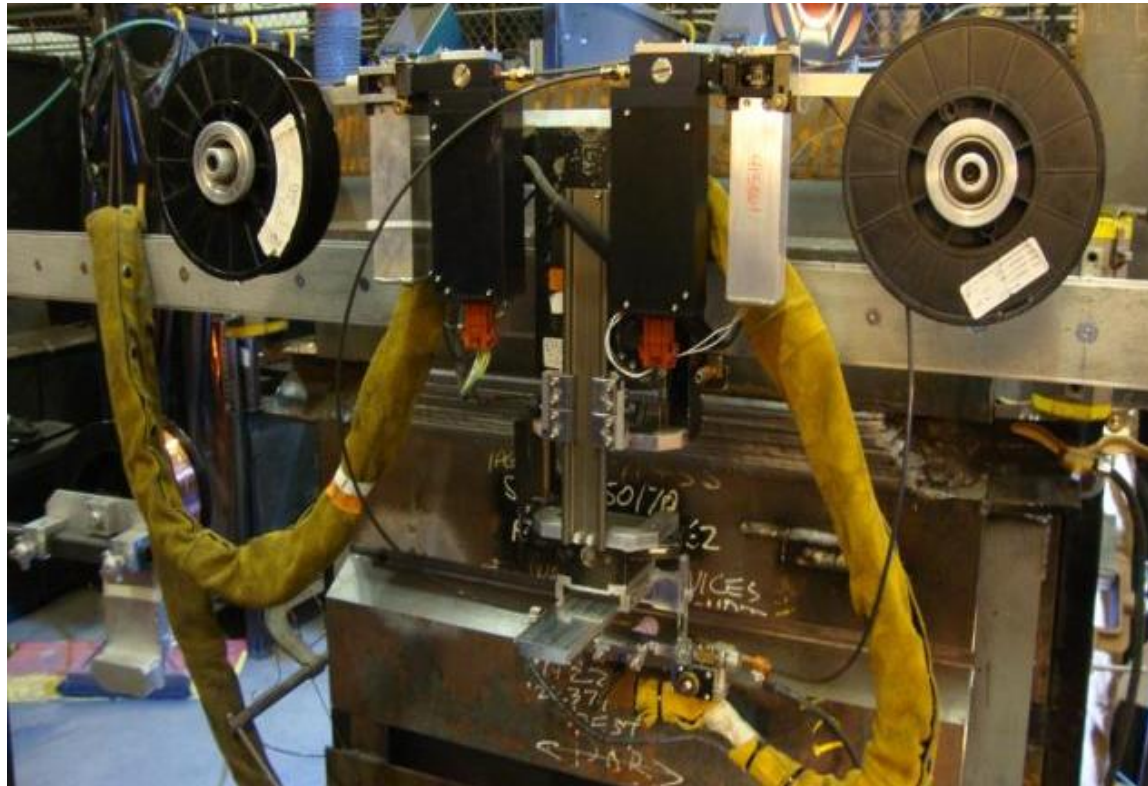


Step 9 – Final Window Tie-In Weld



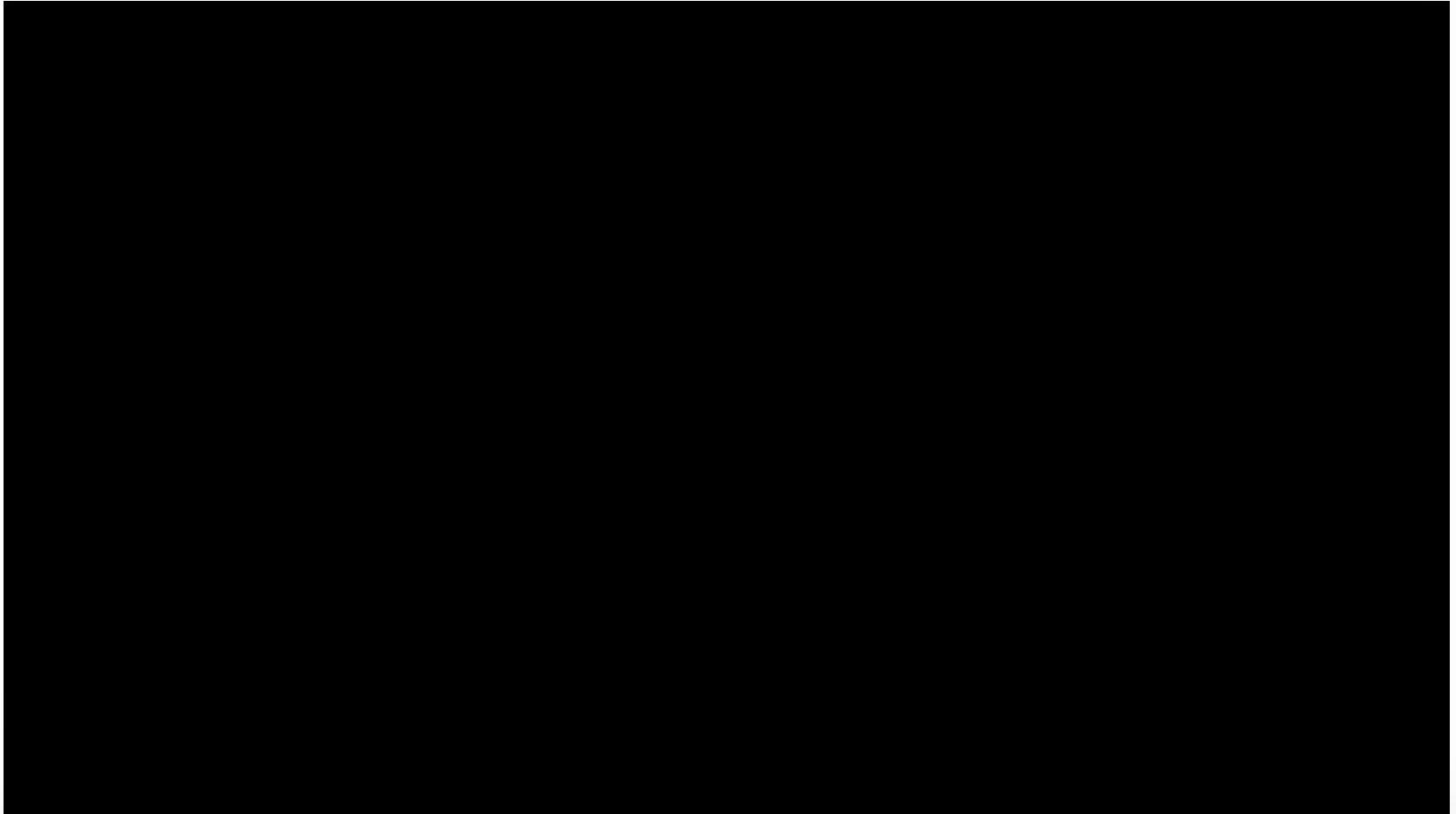
GTAW Hot Pulse Welding System Installed

Step 9 – Final Window Tie-In Weld



Better Photo of GTAW Hot Pulse on Mockup

Step 9 – GTAW HotPulse Welding In Process



Step 10 – Final Assembly after Inspection



Final Appearance after Installation
(Inspection: Liquid Penetrant Inspection and Linear Phased Array)

Thank You!



Pedro Amador
VP Business Development & Technology
pamador@azz.com

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BUDAPEST
2-5 Oct 2017

