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**Welding Equipment and Plasma Cutters; Parts, Service and Automation**

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OSHA

**Section 1910.255 (e)** requires that a periodic inspection of resistance welding equipment be made by qualified maintenance personnel, and that a certification record be generated and maintained. The certification shall include the date of the inspection, the signature of the person who performed the inspection and the serial number, or other identifier, for the equipment inspected. The record shall be made available to an OSHA inspector upon request. The maintenance inspection ensures that welding equipment is in safe operating condition while the maintenance record provides evidence to workers and Agency compliance officers that employers performed the required inspections.

FAQ’s on page 2.

Rules and guidelines we follow, page 3.

Suggestions on page 4.

**Frequently asked questions.**

**How often do we need to inspect our machines?**

O.S.H.A. requires annual inspections by a third party, (like your car inspection) and recommends the operator or other trained and qualified person to inspect it before each use!

**Will our machines pass inspection?**

Most machines fail to pass inspection due to cuts in the cables, safety stickers that are not 100% readable, missing hardware, dry rotten cables and hoses, cylinder restraint chain attachments, leaking hoses, missing or damaged covers. Most items are visible to the operator!

**Do you take machines out of service for major or minor violations?**

No, we indicate or mark machines with problems and notify the customer. It is the customer’s responsibility to lock out/ tag out the machines.

**Do you impose large fines on our company?**

No, we help prevent that from happening! The average fine per OSHA’s website is $2,300.00 per violation, with some machines frequently having 8 or 9 violations!

**How long does it take to do the inspections?**

Typical OSHA inspections take about 2 hrs. per machine with approx. 60 to 65% of the time physically inspecting the machine, cables and attachments with the balance of the time verifying codes pertaining to that particular make, model and serial number, verifying the latest changes have been checked, and of course the recording and paperwork for everyone’s records. Most customers also choose to have the machines serviced during the inspection process which adds about 1 hour on average per machine and costs slightly more.

**How much does it cost to make our machines pass inspection?**

 Costs to bring machines into OSHA compliance has averaged around ($100.00) per machine that we maintain on a regular basis. For machines that have not been regularly maintained the price has averaged about ($200.00) per machine. Some are higher and some are lower. Follow up inspections annually or semi annually is averaging less than ($100.00) per machine. We also offer some basic training classes for the operators and company owners to help keep these costs low and reduce repeat problems.

**Can we get a copy of the inspector’s findings?**

Photo copies of the inspector’s work sheets with notes may be obtained upon request for a small fee, ($5.00 per page). Please request them before the inspection starts!

**Can we get an estimate of repairs?**

Deficiencies noted with estimates of repairs can be provided for $50.00 per machine.

\*\* Metal and twist lock input power plugs create lots of confusion, so we do not recommend them or inspect them. In our opinion they will not pass the latest OSHA or NEMA rules.

**Rules from different agencies we follow during our inspections: (Partial listing).**

ANSI: American National Safety Institute.

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations.

CGA: Compressed Gas Association.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency.

GHS: Globally Harmonized System for elements.

IEEE: Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers.

MSDS: Material Safety Data Sheets.

NEMA: National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

NFPA: National Fire Protection Association.

NIOSH: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

UL: Underwriters Laboratories.

VEQ: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Common Sense!

**Suggestions to make the process faster, easier and cheaper for all involved.**

**Plan ahead:** Get information such as the make, model, serial number and general location of each machine to Arc Welders before the on-site portion so we can pre fill out the forms and research the codes and requirements for the odd ball or older machines you may have.

**Coming through:** Clear out the clutter around machines, make space for us to inspect every inch of your machine including the input cable, output cables, gas hose, tank mounting, and wheels.

**Save money:** Let Arc Welders train your maintenance person while they work with us during the on-site inspections. We can train them to perform the required monthly and quarterly inspections for your OSHA logs and pre inspect the machines before we come back next time which will reduce your costs greatly.

**Timing:** Have Arc Welders perform the OSHA inspections during your busy time to help prevent injuries and increase your productivity. After the initial inspection each successive one goes a little faster and only slightly disturbs your production. Have Arc Welders perform annual maintenance during your slow period each year. This takes a little longer and may disturb your production.(Hopefully these will be approximately 6 months apart.)

**Lock out and Tag out equipment:** Have several ready for anything we might find during our inspection.