

I'm QC manager of Cosco shipyard, when we carried out the structural test of No.3 cargo hold of a 57k BC, the owner want to remove the protective coating of all welding seam in the cargo hold, and we check the IACS rules there is one description of the test method of structural testing in Chapter 11, Section 3, 2.1.2, as:

STRUCTURE TESTING MAY BE CARRIED OUT AFTER PROTECTIVE COATING HAVE BEEN APPLIED, PROVIDED THAT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO CONDITION IS SATISFIED:

-ALL THE WELDS ARE COMPLETED AND CAREFULLY INSEPECTED VISUALLY TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE SURVEYOR PRIOR TO THE APPLICTION OF PROTECTIVE COATING.

-LEAK TEST IS CARRIED OUT PRIOR TO THE APPLICTION OF PROTECTIVE COATING.

From this sentence, we can draw a conclusion that we need not to remove the protective coating because all the welds is checked by ABS surveyor and found satisfaction prior application of protective coating.

But in the following, 2.1.3, it say as:

IN ABSENCE OF LEAK TESTING, PROTECTIVE COATING SHOULD BE APPLIED AFTER THE STRUCTURAL TESTING OF

-ALL ERECTION WELDS, BOTH AUTOMATIC AND MANUAL.

-ALL MANUAL FILLET WELDS CONNECTIONS ON TANK BOUNDARIS AND MANUAL PENETRATION WELDS.

which conflict with each other.

So, please give a explanation if it's compulsory to remove the protective coating prior structural testing if all welds were accepted by surveyor but leak testing is absence(because the cargo hold is impractical for leak test).