Structural Steel lead Paint Removal Question and Answer

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Question:
When must paint be removed from structural steel prior to heating, welding, or flame cutting?

Answer:
Lead based paint must be removed 100 mm (4") on each side of the centerline of cut, bolt row, rivet row, or weld from structural steel prior to any heating, welding, or flame cutting, unless it can be clearly demonstrated through exposure monitoring that other work practices and engineering controls under the oversight of a certified industrial hygienist can effectively maintain actual worker exposure below the permissible lead exposure level.

Moreover, the contractor's lead safety and health plan and lead exposure control plan under the oversight of a certified industrial hygienist shall clearly define the engineering controls and work practices, as well as exposure monitoring ensuring worker exposure is below the permissible lead exposure level. The contractor shall provide copies of documentation to demonstrate full compliance maintaining worker exposure while welding, or flame cutting structural steel is below the permissible lead exposure level including applicable completed worker training, completed respirator programs, air monitoring results, exposure monitoring results, worker medical monitoring results, and other necessary records to documents.

References:
Standard Specification §107-05 L (2) - The removal of lead-based paint from structural steel shall be required to reduce worker exposure below the PEL...The Contractor shall provide to the Engineer copies of documentation, as they are completed, to demonstrate full compliance...the completed worker lead training, completed respirator programs, air monitoring results, exposure monitoring results, worker medical monitoring results and other such records...

Standard Specification §589-3.01 - If the steel is painted, then prior to the beginning of any steel removal operations, the paint shall be removed for a minimum distance of 100 mm on each side of the centerline of cut, bolt row, rivet row, or weld as applicable.

Standard Specification §202-3.05 - Prior to the beginning of any steel removal operations, the paint shall be removed for a minimum distance of 100 mm (4") on each side of the centerline of cut, bolt row, or weld as applicable.

Standard Specification §741 Construction Details - all existing paint shall be removed for a minimum distance of 100 mm on each side of the centerline of cut, bolt row, rivet row, or weld, as applicable. If the steel is to be heated prior to straightening, or other similar operation, the minimum removal limits shall be 100 mm beyond the direct heat application area or as shown on the plans.