



Consumable Storage and Handling	January 2008
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INTRODUCTION

These recommendations are based on the normal climate conditions, which would be encountered in the United Kingdom. Direct contact with water should be avoided for all welding consumables. If there are signs of rust or significant water damage, consumables should be scrapped.

MMA PRODUCTS

Covered electrodes are sensitive to the effects of moisture re-absorption and will naturally pick up moisture over time, depending on the ambient conditions.

Rutile mild steel consumables are supplied in cardboard packets, which provide minimal protection against moisture pick up. Normally, electrodes do not require re-drying as the moisture content is part of the normal gas shielding.

Basic Low Hydrogen electrodes are supplied in cardboard packets and should be re-dried to establish a controlled Hydrogen content as detailed on the electrode packaging. Vacuum-packed electrodes do not require re-baking or re-drying and should be used as per handling instructions on the packet.

Acid Rutile Stainless Steel, hard facing consumables and cast iron consumables are supplied in plastic tubes with adequate protection against scattered and start porosity. Should this occur, re-drying will return the consumables to standard usability.

MIG PRODUCTS

Mild steel, Stainless steel, Aluminium, Nickel base and Copper base products are supplied on open spools with a plastic bag cover in cardboard boxes. This provides adequate protection under most circumstances. In site applications or shop floor applications where wires could remain on machines for extended periods, best practise is that these should be returned to stores for visual checking. Any signs of rust make the consumable unusable and the product should be scrapped.

TIG PRODUCTS

Nexus consumables are supplied in plastic tubes to protect against moisture pick up. Generally, mild steel types and Low alloy consumables are copper coated to provide further protection against rusting. As with MIG products, wires remaining on the shop floor for extended periods should be checked visually on returning to stores.

SUBMERGED ARC PRODUCTS

Wire: Mild steel, Stainless steel and Nickel based products are supplied on open formers with a plastic bag cover inside a cardboard box. This provides adequate protection under most circumstances. In site applications or shop floor applications where wires could remain on machines for extended periods, best practise is that these should be returned to stores for visual checking. Any signs of rust make the consumable unusable and the product should be scrapped.

Flux: An inherent feature of all fused and agglomerated fluxes in their tendency to re-absorb moisture and with this in mind the flux is supplied in moisture resistant plastic bags. Re-circulation of flux should be limited to three times through the system, following this, flux should be mixed with twice its volume of new flux prior to use.

GENERAL STORAGE

All consumables should be stored in a warm (>20C⁰ @ <60% Relative Humidity) dry area, which avoids condensation in cold spells.

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