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## Influence Factors on Mechanical Characteristics of Underwater GMAW Joints

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## **ABSTRACT**

The paper presents the influence of the factors pressure, cooling rate and the presence of water vapors on the mechanical characteristics of underwater GMAW joints. The influence factors were separately simulated. The results of separated tests were compared with the results of real underwater GMAW. The supposition was that underwater GMAW cumulates these influences. The tests were performed for several levels of deep (different values of hydrostatic pressure). One simulating laboratory stand was designed, manufactured and used to determine the welded joint cooling rate influence. In order to do the rest of the tests, two special stands (pressured chambers) were achieved. This hyperbaric equipment can simulate depths by 100 m. Special mechanised devices ensure the welding and the wire filler speed. In case of GMAW, special welding torches were developed. The tests were performed both in air (with controlled atmosphere) and underwater. The samples were mechanical tested (including hardness tests). Several conclusions are finally presented.

## References

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