

# Safety Quick-Guide

**For Arc  
Welding  
and Cutting  
the  
Safe Way!**



Visit our websites at  
[www.MillerWelds.com](http://www.MillerWelds.com)  
[www.HobartWelders.com](http://www.HobartWelders.com)



Be sure this guide reaches the operator.

***Thank you*** for using Miller or Hobart arc welding and cutting equipment.

We ask you to work like a pro — and pros weld and cut safely. Please read and comply with the sample safety procedures outlined in this guide and the equipment Owner's Manual.

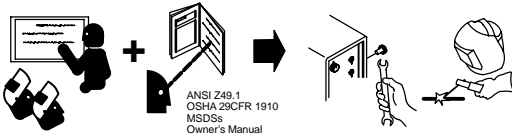
Always read and follow the Owner's Manual, the safety labels on the product, and all applicable safety standards, especially ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes* (we recommend you get a copy and keep it handy). A list of the safety standards and where to get them is located in Section 7 of this guide.

*Thank you for working safely.*

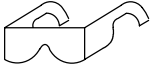
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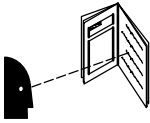
# 1. General Safe Practices



Become trained and read the instructions before working on the machine or welding or cutting. Read Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for metals, consumables, and coatings.



Wear approved safety glasses with side shields under your welding helmet or face shield and at all times in the work area.



Read the equipment Owner's Manual for more complete safety information.

Wear a safety harness if working above floor level.

Keep children away from all equipment and processes.

Do not install or place machine on or over combustible surfaces.

Have only qualified persons install, use, or service all equipment.

# 2. Arc Welding Hazards



**Electric shock from welding electrode or wiring can kill.**

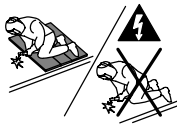
Wear dry, hole-free insulating gloves and body protection. Do not touch electrode with bare hand. Do not wear wet or damaged gloves.

Do not touch live electrical parts.

Do not use AC weld output in damp, wet, or confined spaces, or if there is a danger of falling.

Use AC output ONLY if required for the welding process.

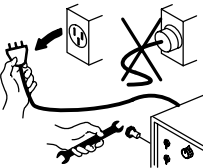
If AC output is required, use remote output control if present on unit.



Protect yourself from electric shock by insulating yourself from work and ground. Use non-flammable, dry insulating material if possible, or use dry rubber mats, dry wood or plywood, or other dry insulating material big enough to cover your full area of contact with the work or ground, and watch for fire.

Disconnect input plug or power before working on machine.

Do not make input connections if color blind.



Frequently inspect input power cord for damage or bare wiring — repair or replace cord immediately if damaged. Be sure input ground wire is properly connected to a ground terminal in disconnect box or receptacle.

Properly install and ground all equipment according to its Owner's Manual and national, state, and local codes.



## Breathing welding fumes can be hazardous to your health.



Keep your head out of the fumes. Do not breathe the fumes. Use enough ventilation, exhaust at the arc, or both, to keep fumes and gases from your breathing zone and the general area.

Read Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for metals, consumables, and coatings.



Use enough forced ventilation or local exhaust (forced suction) at the arc to remove the fumes from your breathing area.

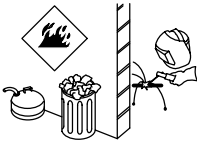


Use a ventilating fan to remove fumes from the breathing zone and welding area.

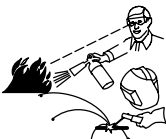
If adequacy of ventilation or exhaust is uncertain, have your exposure measured and compared to the Threshold Limit Values (TLV) in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).



## Welding can cause fire or explosion.



Do not weld near flammable material. Move flammables at least 35 feet (11 meters) away or protect them with flame-proof covers (see NFPA 51B listed in Section 7).



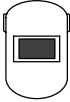
Welding sparks can cause fires. Have a fire extinguisher nearby, and have a trained fire watcher ready to use it.



Do not weld on drums, tanks, or any closed containers unless a qualified person has tested it and declared it or prepared it to be safe (see AWS F4.1 listed in Section 7).



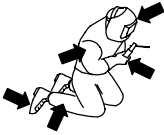
**Arc rays can burn eyes and skin.**



Use welding helmet with correct shade of filter (see Section 8 to choose the correct shade).



Wear welders cap and safety glasses with side shields. Use ear protection when welding out of position or in confined spaces. Button shirt collar.

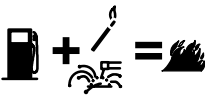


Wear complete body protection. Wear oil-free protective clothing such as leather gloves, heavy shirt, cuffless pants, and high boots.

### 3. Engine Hazards



**Fuel can cause fire or explosion.**



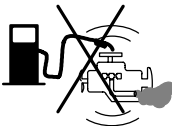
Engine fuel plus flames or sparks can cause fire or explosion.

Do not weld near engine fuel.

Do not spill fuel. If fuel is spilled, clean it up and do not start engine until fumes are gone.



Do not smoke while fueling or if near fuel or fumes.



Stop engine before fueling.

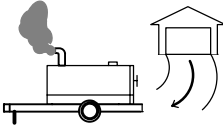
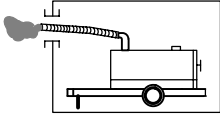


Do not fuel a hot engine. Stop engine and let it cool off before checking or adding fuel.



## Engine exhaust gases can kill.

Vent exhaust outside and away from any building air intakes.



Use unit outside in open, well ventilated areas.



## Moving parts can cause injury.

Keep hands, hair, loose clothing, and tools away from moving parts such as fans, belts, and rotors. Keep all doors, panels, and guards closed and secured.



## Battery explosion can blind.

Sparks can cause battery gases to explode.

Do not smoke and keep matches and flames away from battery.

Wear a face shield or safety glasses when working near or on a battery.



## Battery acid can burn skin and eyes.

Do not spill acid.

Wear rubber gloves and a face shield or safety glasses when working on a battery.



## Steam and hot coolant can burn.

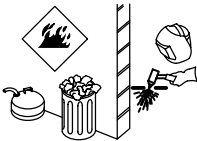
Check coolant level when engine is cold to avoid scalding.

If the engine is warm and checking is needed, wear safety glasses and gloves and put a rag over radiator cap. Turn cap slightly and let pressure escape slowly before completely removing cap.

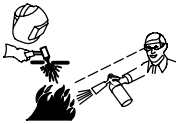
**Exhaust sparks can cause fire.**

Use approved engine exhaust spark arrestor in required areas — see applicable codes.  
Keep exhaust and exhaust pipes away from flammables.  
Do not locate unit near flammables.

## 4. Plasma Arc Cutting Hazards

**Cutting sparks can cause fire or explosion.**

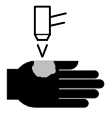
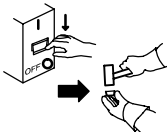
Do not cut near flammable material. Move flammables at least 35 feet (11 meters) away or protect them with flame-proof covers (see NFPA 51B listed in Section 7).



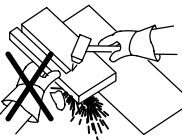
Cutting sparks can cause fires. Have a fire extinguisher nearby, and have a trained fire watch ready to use it.



Do not cut on drums, tanks, or any closed containers unless a qualified person has tested it and declared it or prepared it to be safe (see AWS F4.1 listed in Section 7).

**Plasma arc can cause injury and burns.**

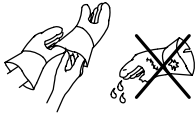
Turn off power before disassembling torch.



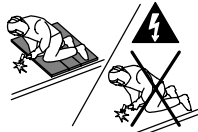
Do not grip material near cutting path.  
Do not touch hot parts bare-handed.



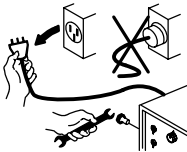
**Electric shock from torch or wiring can kill.**



Wear dry insulating gloves. Do not wear wet or damaged gloves.  
Do not touch live electrical parts.



Protect yourself from electric shock by insulating yourself from work and ground. Use non-flammable, dry insulating material if possible, or use dry rubber mats, dry wood or plywood, or other dry insulating material big enough to cover your full area of contact with the work or ground, and watch for fire.



Disconnect input plug or power before working on machine.

Do not make input connections if color blind.

Frequently inspect input power cord for damage or bare wiring — repair or replace cord immediately if damaged. Be sure input ground wire is properly connected to a ground terminal in disconnect box or receptacle.

Properly install and ground this equipment according to its Owner's Manual and national, state, and local codes.

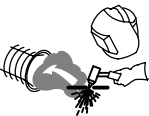


**Breathing cutting fumes can be hazardous to your health.**

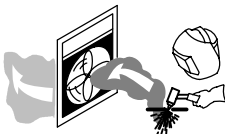


Keep your head out of the fumes. Do not breathe the fumes. Use enough ventilation, exhaust at the arc, or both, to keep fumes and gases from your breathing zone and the general area.

Read Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for metals, consumables, and coatings.



Use enough forced ventilation or local exhaust (forced suction) at the arc to remove the fumes from your breathing area.



Use a ventilating fan to remove fumes from the breathing zone and cutting area.

If adequacy of ventilation or exhaust is uncertain, have your exposure measured and compared to the Threshold Limit Values (TLV) in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).





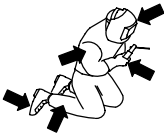
**Arc rays can burn eyes and skin.**



Use welding helmet or face shield with correct shade of filter (see Section 8 to choose the correct shade).



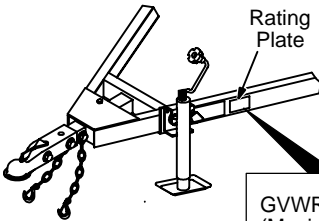
Wear welders cap and safety glasses with side shields. Use ear protection when cutting out of position or in confined spaces. Button shirt collar.



Wear complete body protection. Wear oil-free protective clothing such as leather gloves, heavy shirt, cuffless pants, and high boots.

## 5. Trailer Safety

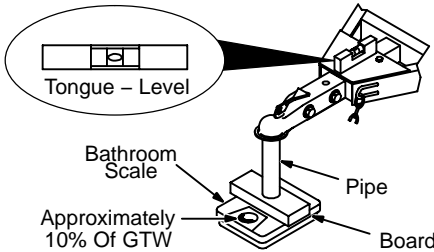
**Overloading can cause serious injury or equipment damage.**



Know the capacity of the trailer.  
Do not overload the trailer.  
Select a proper towing vehicle.

GVWR – Gross Vehicle Weight Rating  
(Maximum Total Trailer Weight Including Its Load)  
GAWR – Gross Axle Weight Rating  
VIN NO – Vehicle Identification Number

## Incorrect tongue weight can cause fishtailing and loss of control of towing vehicle resulting in serious injury and equipment damage.



Install generator according to Owner's Manual with engine end toward hitch end of trailer.

Ground generator frame to trailer frame — see Owner's Manual.

Distribute weight so that trailer tongue weight is approximately 10% of the gross trailer weight (GTW).

Do not let tongue weight exceed coupler and hitch rating.

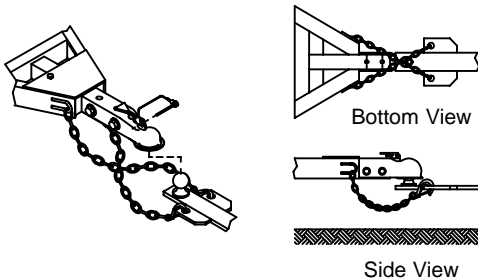
Trailer And Coupler Class <sup>1</sup>	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating GVWR <sup>2</sup> lb (kg)	Gross Trailer Weight GTW <sup>2</sup> lb (kg)	Maximum Tongue Weight <sup>3</sup> lb (kg)
1	Up to 2000 (Up to 910)	1000 (455) 2000 (910)	100 (45) 200 (90)
2	2000 to 3500 (910 to 1590)	2000 (910) 3500 (1590)	200 (90) 350 (158)
3	3500 to 5000 (1590 to 2270)	3500 (1590)	350 (158)

<sup>1</sup> Information From SAE J684 May 1987

<sup>2</sup> Gross Trailer Weight (Actual Loaded Weight)

<sup>3</sup> 10% Of GTW Recommended

## Safety chains can prevent runaway trailer in case hitch/coupler fails.

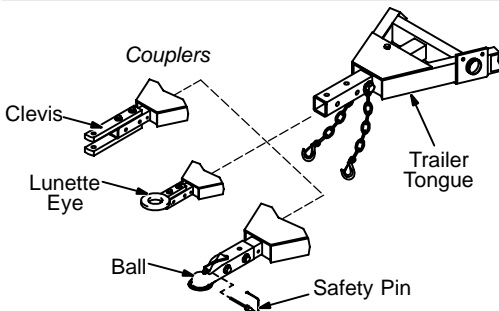


Always use safety chains when towing.

Cross safety chains under coupling to prevent tongue from dropping to ground.

Allow only enough slack for tight turns.

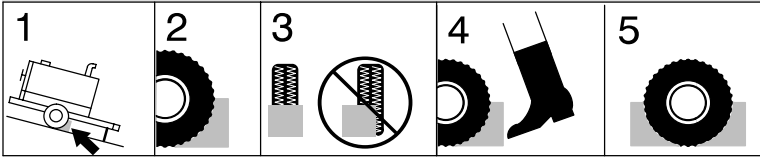
## Incorrect size or rating of hitch can cause trailer to break loose from towing vehicle.



Make sure hitch and ball are properly sized, match each other, and are fully engaged.

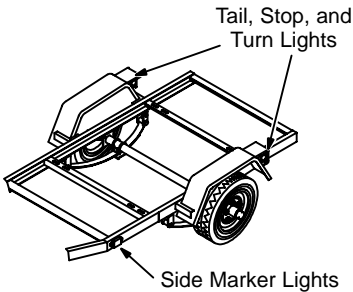
On optional ball couplers, always insert hitch safety pin before towing.

## Wheels must be chocked when trailer is uncoupled from vehicle.



1. Chock in direction of grade.
2. Position chock snugly behind tire.
3. Place chock square to the tire.
4. Tap chock into place.
5. For added protection, chock both sides of tire.

## Incorrectly working lights can cause accidents.

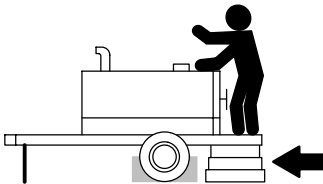


Be sure vehicle and trailer light connectors match and are securely pushed together.

Check all lights for proper operation before using the trailer.

Check condition of wiring harness leads, plugs, bulbs, and connections regularly. Repair or replace damaged bulbs, parts, or wires.

## Unexpected tilting of trailer can cause injury and damage.

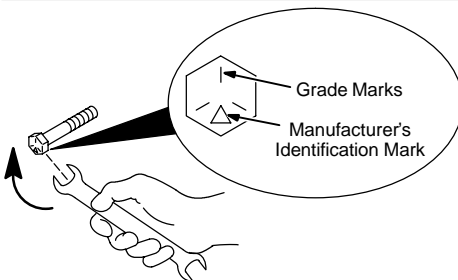


When trailer is uncoupled from towing vehicle, use jack on front and blocks under rear to prevent tilting.

Use proper blocks that are large enough and able to support the necessary weight.

Always chock the wheels when uncoupled.

## Loose or incorrect hardware and fasteners can cause injury and damage.



Periodically double-check all nuts and bolts for tightness and condition.

If necessary, always replace any fastener with one of equal size, grade, and type.

Be sure the grade marks on replacement fastener match the original bolt. The manufacturer's identification mark is not critical and does not matter for the replacement fastener.

## 6. Special Situations & Equipment



### Confined spaces can be hazardous.

Confined spaces are areas which lack room for full movement and often lack ventilation, such as storage tanks, vats, tunnels, boilers, pipes, hold of a ship, corners of a room, near a ceiling or floor corner, or in a pit. Gases can collect and form dangerous concentrations.

Always open all covers, remove any hazardous or toxic materials, provide forced ventilation, and provide a means to turn off power and gas from the inside.

Never work alone — have constant communication with someone outside who can quickly turn off power and gas, is trained in rescue procedures, and is able to pull you out in case of emergency.

Do not use AC weld output in confined spaces.

Insulate yourself from work and ground using non-flammable, dry insulating material if possible, or use dry rubber mats, dry wood or plywood, or other dry insulating material big enough to cover your full area of contact with the work or ground, and watch for fire.

Always check and monitor the air quality in the space. Welding or cutting fumes and gases can displace air and lower the oxygen level — use ventilation and, if needed, an air-supplied respirator. Be sure the breathing air is safe.

Always remember: All normal arc welding and cutting hazards are amplified in confined spaces (see ANSI Z49.1 listed in Section 7).



### Cylinders can explode if damaged.

Shielding gas cylinders contain gas under high pressure. If damaged, a cylinder can explode. Since gas cylinders are normally part of the welding process and may be part of the cutting process, be sure to treat them carefully.

Protect compressed gas cylinders from excessive heat, mechanical shocks, slag, open flames, sparks, and arcs.

Install cylinders in an upright position by securing them to a stationary support or cylinder rack to prevent falling or tipping.

Keep protective cap in place over valve except when cylinder is in use or connected for use.

Cylinders can be heavy — use lifting device and proper methods to prevent back injury.

Read and follow instructions on compressed gas cylinders, associated equipment, and CGA publication P-1 listed in Safety Standards (see Section 7).



### Magnetic fields can affect pacemakers.

Pacemaker wearers keep away from arc welding and cutting operations and equipment.

Wearers should consult their doctor before going near arc welding, gouging, arc cutting, or spot welding operations.



### Hot parts can cause severe burns.

Do not touch hot welded or cut parts with bare hand. If handling is needed, use proper tools and/or wear heavy, insulated welding gloves to prevent burns.

Allow cooling period before handling parts or working on gun or torch.

## 7. Principal Safety Standards

*Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*, ANSI Standard Z49.1, from American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Rd, Miami FL 33126 (phone: 305-443-9353, website: [www.aws.org](http://www.aws.org)).

*Recommended Safe Practices for the Preparation for Welding and Cutting of Containers and Piping*, American Welding Society Standard AWS F4.1, from American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Rd, Miami, FL 33126 (phone: 305-443-9353, website: [www.aws.org](http://www.aws.org)).

*National Electrical Code*, NFPA Standard 70, from National Fire Protection Association, P.O. Box 9101, 1 Battery March Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101 (phone: 617-770-3000, website: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org)).

*Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Cylinders*, CGA Pamphlet P-1, from Compressed Gas Association, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1004, Arlington, VA 22202-4102 (phone: 703-412-0900, website: [www.cganet.com](http://www.cganet.com)).

*Code for Safety in Welding and Cutting*, CSA Standard W117.2, from Canadian Standards Association, Standards Sales, 178 Rexdale Boulevard, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada M9W 1R3 (phone: 800-463-6727 or in Toronto 416-747-4044, website: [www.csa-international.org](http://www.csa-international.org)).

*Practice For Occupational And Educational Eye And Face Protection*, ANSI Standard Z87.1, from American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036-8002 (phone: 212-642-4900, website: [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)).

*Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work*, NFPA Standard 51B, from National Fire Protection Association, P.O. Box 9101, 1 Battery March Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101 (phone: 617-770-3000, website: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org)).

OSHA, Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry, Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1910, Subpart Q, and Part 1926, Subpart J, from U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250 (there are 10 Regional Offices—phone for Region 5, Chicago, is 312-353-2220, website: [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)).

Booklet, *TLV's, Threshold Limit Values...*, from American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), 1330 Kemper Meadow Drive, Suite 600, Cincinnati, OH 45240-1634 (phone: 513-742-2020, website: [www.acgih.org](http://www.acgih.org)).

# 8. Lens Shade Selector Guide

Operation/Process	Electrode Size in. (mm)	Arc Current (Amperes)	Minimum Protective Shade	Suggested* Shade No. (Comfort)
Shielded metal arc welding (SMAW)	Less than 3/32 (2.5) 3/32–5/32 (2.5–4) 5/32–1/4 (4–6.4) More than 1/4 (6.4)	Less than 60	7	—
		60–160	8	10
		160–250	10	12
		250–550	11	14
Gas metal arc welding (GMAW) and flux cored arc welding (FCAW)		Less than 60	7	—
		60–160	10	11
		160–250	10	12
		250–550	10	14
Gas tungsten arc welding (GTAW)		Less than 50	8	10
		50–150	8	12
		150–500	10	14
Air carbon arc cutting (CAC–A)	(Light) (Heavy)	Less than 500	10	12
		500–1000	11	14
Plasma arc welding (PAW)		Less than 20	6	6 to 8
		20–100	8	10
		100–400	10	12
		400–800	11	14
Plasma arc cutting (PAC)		Less than 20	4	4
		20–40	5	5
		40–60	6	6
		60–80	8	8
		80–300	8	9
		300–400	9	12
		400–800	10	14
Torch brazing (TB)		—	—	3 or 4
Torch soldering (TS)		—	—	2
Carbon arc welding (CAW)		—	—	14
	Plate thickness			
	in.	mm		
Oxyfuel gas welding (OFW)	Light Medium Heavy	Under 3.2		
		3.2 to 12.7		
		Over 12.7		
Oxygen Cutting (OC)	Under 1 1 to 6 Over 6	Under 25		3 or 4 4 or 5 5 or 6
		25 to 150		
		Over 150		

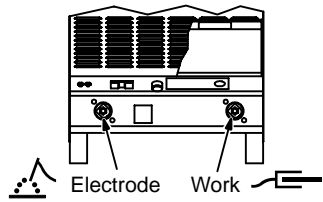
\* As a rule of thumb, start with a shade that is too dark to see the weld or cut zone. Then go to a lighter shade which gives sufficient view of the weld or cut zone without going below the minimum. In oxyfuel gas welding, cutting, or brazing where the torch produces a high yellow light, it is desirable to use a filter lens that absorbs the yellow or sodium line in the visible light of the (spectrum) operation.

Guide adapted from ANSI Z49.1, 1999.  
Low Current Plasma arc cutting (0–80 Amperes) supplied by Miller Electric Mfg. Co.

# 9. Weld Cable Selector Guide\*



- ▲ Turn Off power before connecting to weld output terminals.
- ▲ Do not use worn, damaged, undersized, or poorly spliced cables.



Welding Amperes	Weld Cable Size** And Total Cable (Copper) Length In Weld Circuit Not Exceeding***			
	100 ft (30 m) Or Less		150 ft (45 m)	200 ft (60 m)
	10 – 60% Duty Cycle	60 – 100% Duty Cycle	10 – 100% Duty Cycle	
100	4	4	4	3
150	3	3	2	1
200	3	2	1	1/0
250	2	1	1/0	2/0
300	1	1/0	2/0	3/0
350	1/0	2/0	3/0	4/0
400	1/0	2/0	3/0	4/0
500	2/0	3/0	4/0	2 ea. 2/0
600	3/0	4/0	2 ea. 2/0	2 ea. 3/0
700	4/0	2 ea. 2/0	2 ea. 3/0	2 ea. 4/0
800	4/0	2 ea. 2/0	2 ea. 3/0	2 ea. 4/0
900	2 ea. 2/0	2 ea. 3/0	2 ea. 4/0	3 ea. 3/0
1000	2 ea. 2/0	2 ea. 3/0	2 ea. 4/0	3 ea. 3/0
1250	2 ea. 3/0	2 ea. 4/0	3 ea. 3/0	4 ea. 3/0

\*This chart is a general guideline and may not suit all applications. If cable overheating occurs (normally you can smell it), use next size larger cable.

\*\*Weld cable size (AWG) is based on either a 4 volts or less drop or a current density of at least 300 circular mils per ampere. Contact your distributor for the mm<sup>2</sup> equivalent weld cable sizes.

\*\*\*For distances longer than those shown in this Guide, call a factory applications representative at 920-735-4505.



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