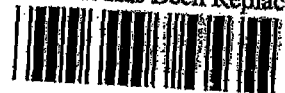


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A welding management apparatus for use with a tube production machine. A workpiece fed from a roll of metal strip is formed in a tubular formation having side surfaces opposite to each other. An upsetting pressure is applied to joint the opposite side surfaces of the workpiece at a jointing point. A high frequency power is supplied to the workpiece to weld the opposite side surfaces at the jointing point so as to produce a metal tube member. The welding management apparatus comprises a camera positioned to have a visual field including the jointing point for producing a video signal indicative of an image including an area luminous with a pre-arc produced in the visual field. An image processor converts the video signal into a luminance distribution pattern. An inference unit is provided for inferring a defective welding condition based upon the luminance distribution pattern. The inference unit includes an alarm unit for producing an alarm when a defective welding condition is inferred.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced



THIS SHEET HAS BEEN
REPLACED