

A Standard is Born

Certification standard development is a delicate balancing act.

BY BOBBI MARSTELLAR, P.E.

THE AISC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM WALKS A FINE LINE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF SPECIFIERS AND OWNERS AND THE CAPABILITIES OF FABRICATORS AND ERECTORS. If the program is too weak, structural engineers won't specify or defend it. If it is too strict, fabricators and erectors won't participate. It's critical that the program provide real value to specifiers, owners, and participants.

The trick for the standard development body is to mediate between the reasonableness of the marketplace expectations and the reality of what the participants can deliver. Program criteria based on standards that align the voice of the marketplace with industry capabilities gain ready acceptance by enterprising program participants. Strong program participation and support provide opportunity and value for everyone in the construction industry and reduce restraint of trade concerns for the organization developing the standard.

AISC Certification standards are developed under the watchful eye of the AISC Committee on Certification. This industry-balanced committee meets twice each year and is comprised of fabricators, erectors, structural engineers, inspectors, department of transportation representatives, detailers and more. David Harwell, President of Central Texas Iron Works in Waco, Texas and AISC Board member chairs the committee. The diagram on the next page outlines the certification committee structure and their standard development process. **MSC**

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QUALITY EXCHANGE

AISC and the Committee on Certification welcome your feedback on standards, industry challenges and requirements, as well as auditing practices. So we created the Quality Exchange—a place to voice your opinions and provide suggestions to strengthen the AISC Quality Certification Program. We are always looking to improve our service to our program participants as well as the steel design and construction industry. Please share your comments and ideas with us online at www.aisc.org/qualityexchange.

All comments will be compiled by the AISC Certification Committee secretary and forwarded to the Committee for review and comment. Responses will be issued by the committee chair no later than the next, semi-annual committee meeting as some comments and suggestions may serve as meeting agenda items. We look forward to hearing from you.

COMMITTEE ACCESS

All **committee meetings** are open to the public. Notices of upcoming meetings are posted at www.aisc.org.

Inquiries to the committee should be directed to the secretary and can be made at www.aisc.org/qualityexchange.



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MAIN COMMITTEE

The AISC Committee on Certification is an industry-balanced consensus body comprised of three professional categories:

- **producers** (fabricators, erectors, etc.)
- **users** (structural engineers, DOT representatives, etc.)
- **general interest** (detailer, bolting experts, welding experts, etc.)

nomination

The committee chair, vice-chair, and secretary add, terminate, and renew memberships. Nominations and applications for membership should be addressed to the secretary. The following are considered when reviewing candidates:

- professional category balance
- willingness to actively participate
- professional qualifications

term

Membership is for a two-year term.

Members cannot be added during a balloting cycle.

voting

Ballots are required for all new standards and substantive provision changes to existing standards. Each committee member can vote one of following positions:

- Affirmative**
- Affirmative, with comment**
- Negative**, with reasons
- Abstain**

Committee members have 35 days to cast their votes.

A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the committee and $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of those voting are required for approval of new standards and provision changes.

resolution of objections

Negative votes, including those from public review will be reviewed by the committee chair and TG chair and ultimately resolved by the committee.

Negative votes deemed as "non-persuasive" by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the committee and $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of those voting are open to an appeal process.

Objections submitted without suggested wording or action which would resolve the objection are not considered.

TASK GROUPS

Task groups (TG) develop new standards and advise the committee on changes to existing provisions. The TG Chair is a member of the committee, but other TG members need not be main committee members. Members are appointed by the Secretary at the request of the main committee chair.



THE PUBLIC

The proposed standard will be announced in *Modern Steel Construction*, on the AISC web site, and other appropriate channels for comment, including ANSI Standards Action if applicable.

Written comments will be accepted for 45 days. Substantive changes made in response to public review must be rebaloted by the committee.

AISC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The proposed standard or substantive provision change is submitted to the Board for approval. The Board may accept or reject the standard, but may not make any changes to it. If applicable, it is sent to ANSI for review.

New Standard

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