

CERTIFICATION

AISC to End Sponsorship of Metal Building Certification Program

The American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) and the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) have jointly decided to end AISC's sponsorship of the Metal Building Certification Program effective December 31, 2008, or 12 months from the date of the final participant's 2008 audit, whichever comes later.

"AISC is focusing its certification efforts on its revitalized fabrication, erection, and bridge certification programs," explained Roger Ferch, president of AISC. The termination of this program is not a reflection its quality or importance, but rather reflects a concentration by AISC on its core market and participants. "The timing of the transition is designed to give MBMA time to transition to a new sponsor," Ferch explained.

"MBMA is currently in the process of selecting a new sponsor/administrator for the program, and anticipates that the transition to the revised metal building certification program under this new

sponsor will be seamless, and that there will be no interruption in a company's certification," explained Bill Savitz, chairman of MBMA.

The Metal Building Certification Program began in 1989. The program is often referenced in project specifications and is designed to assure that certified companies have the manufacturing and engineering capabilities necessary to design and fabricate a quality metal building system.

Both Ferch and Savitz stressed that the two organizations have valued their relationship and expect to continue working together on a variety of future projects. Currently, the two organizations are working jointly on a tapered member design guide as well as seismic research.

For more information on the current program and a list of participants, please visit www.aisc.org/metalbuilding. For more information on metal buildings, please visit www.mbma.com.

BOOKS

New Handbook for Civil and Environmental Engineers Addresses Risk and Reliability Analysis

When it comes to the planning, design, construction, and management of engineering systems, risk and uncertainty are unavoidable. The consideration of the risk involved in any situation, project, or plan becomes an integral part of the decision-making process. *Risk and Reliability Analysis: A Handbook for Civil and Environmental Engineers* presents key concepts of risk and reliability that apply to a wide array of problems in civil and environmental engineering.

The authors begin with an overview of the art of making decisions in the presence of uncertainty and then explain the fundamentals of probability that will be applied throughout the book. In the second part of the book, the authors discuss various techniques used in probability distributions and parameter estimation. A third section of the book considers different aspects of uncertainty analysis, especially risk analysis and risk management, providing instructive examples. The final group of chapters

addresses reliability analysis and design, focusing particularly on the important area of water distribution networks.

Ample illustrations and detailed real-life examples make *Risk and Reliability Analysis* essential reading for present and future engineers in the fields of civil, environmental, biological, and agricultural engineering, as well as the watershed sciences.

To order, call 800.548.ASCE (2723) or visit www.pubs.asce.org. The ASCE member price is \$120.00.

Correction

The detailer for the Springwater Trail (McLoughlin Blvd.) Pedestrian Bridge in Portland, Ore. (November, p. 75) was AISC Member Graphics for Steel Structures, Inc. AISC Member Fought & Company, Inc. was the fabricator for the project. We regret any confusion caused by the error.

CONFERENCES

Register Now for The Steel Conference!

Register now for the 2008 North American Steel Construction Conference! More than 3,000 engineers, fabricators, erectors, and detailers are expected to register for The Steel Conference, which will take place April 2-5 in Nashville, Tenn. See the advance program in this issue or visit www.aisc.org/nascc for a complete schedule of conference events and instructions for pre-registration.

With nearly 90 technical sessions, The Steel Conference is the industry's premier education event. It provides structural engineers, steel fabricators, erectors, and detailers with practical information and the latest design and construction techniques. The conference is a key networking opportunity. Its extensive trade show features products and services ranging from fabrication machinery, galvanizing, and connection products to detailing and engineering software. The conference also incorporates the Structural Stability Research Council's Annual Stability Conference. Online registration is available through March 27, 2008. After March 27, registrations will be taken on-site, but at higher rates.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Annual Meeting Presentations Online

In response to a large number of requests by attendees, the speaker presentations from the 2007 AISC Annual Meeting are now available for download by AISC members. The presentations include:

- ✓ *Attracting and Retaining A Quality Workforce* (Andrew Patron from FMI Management)
- ✓ *Immigration Reform Update* (Patrick Cont from Strum & Cont)
- ✓ *Four Generations* (Cam Marston from Marston Communications)
- ✓ *Moving Your Business a Generation Ahead* (Wayne Rivers from the Family Business Institute)

The downloads are only available to members. To access the files, visit www.aisc.org and click on the Membership tab, then click on the Annual Meeting Sessions link.

news & events

AWARDS

Walterio Lopez and Rafael Sabelli Win 2008 T.R. Higgins Award

Buckling-restrained braced frames (BRBFs) are an increasingly popular new steel seismic load resisting system that has demonstrated efficiency and exceptional seismic performance. Based on their groundbreaking paper "Seismic Design of Buckling-Restrained Braced Frames," Walterio Lopez and Rafael Sabelli are being honored with the T.R. Higgins Lectureship Award. "BRBFs have the potential to significantly impact the structural steel market in seismic regions," explained Louis F. Geschwindner, AISC's vice president of Engineering and Research.

A new paper based on the work will be presented for the first time at the 2008 NASCC: The Steel Conference in Nashville April 2-5, 2008. For more information on the conference, visit www.aisc.org/nascc.

Their work has already been published by the Structural Steel Education Council and has helped BRBFs to be accepted in

ANSI/AISC 341-05 Seismic Provisions for Structural Steel Buildings and in the International Building Code. Included in their paper is a detailed component design of two typical BRFB configurations and the development of testing protocols. In addition, a discussion of gusset-plate design and its influence on acceptable frame behavior is provided.

The T.R. Higgins Lectureship Award, which includes a \$10,000 cash prize, is presented annually to an outstanding lecturer(s) and author(s) whose technical paper or papers are considered an outstanding contribution to the engineering literature on fabricated structural steel. For more information on the T.R. Higgins Award, visit www.aisc.org/higgins.

letters

Weight vs. Cost

Scott Melnick's recent comments about weight vs. cost invoke a long-standing sore point with me. It has often taken hours of discussion and many design alternatives to prove the point.

One argument that I have not been able to get much traction with is the concept of pounds per *cubic* foot of building volume: As floor-to-floor heights increase, whether they are trading floors in high-rises or roofs over warehouses, weight per square foot will increase since the columns are longer with no increased floor area to compensate. In very tall buildings this can easily add one pound per square foot.

Now that I am on the developer's side of the table, I have been able to defend the consultant when he/she gets beaten up on the pounds per square foot numbers.

It would be interesting to learn whether others have considered this concept. Maybe we can start something. Keep up the good work.

Irwin Cantor
Tishman Speyer