

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

AISC Advises Members on Impacts of Trade Expansion Act

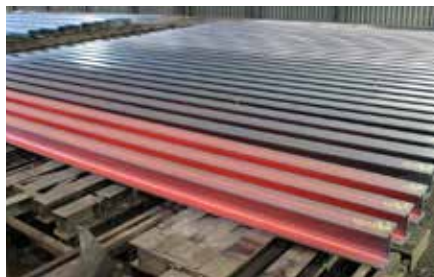
Following the March 1 announcement by President Trump that the Administration intends to impose a 25% tariff on imported steel, AISC has received many questions about the potential impacts on the structural steel fabrication and construction markets. Here is what AISC sees at this point:

- The proposed tariff arises out of recommendations made by the Department of Commerce at the conclusion of a nine-month investigation into the effects of imported steel on national security. Based on its findings, Commerce recommended a 24% tariff on a wide range of steel products that would affect many industries, not just construction. On March 1, the President announced his intention to impose a 25% tariff and to issue an Executive Order implementing the tariff shortly. As reported in the media, many industries and countries that would be impacted by this tariff have been attempting to influence the final language of the Executive Order, which has not yet been disclosed. So while the President has set the broad parameters of the tariff plan, it is possible that the final language will be modified, either with respect to its scope or the tariff rate.
- As for the precise impact of a tariff on steel projects, the answer is that it will depend. However, a 25% tariff on imports would not mean a 25% increase in the overall cost of a project. First, the cost of material is just one of several components in the cost of a steel structure. And while percentages vary from project to project, even if the full impact of a 25% tariff on material cost was passed on to a project, it would likely impact the cost of the steel package by 5% to 10% and the total project cost by less than 2%. But ultimately, whatever percentage of a tariff-based cost increase is passed on to the market will be determined by the market itself. And of course, AISC is never involved in individual pricing decisions, and has no control over marketplace pricing. Engineers and contractors with specific pricing questions should contact an AISC member fabricator to discuss individual projects.

- It is also important to put any discussion of construction material costs in context, as the factors that affect costs have never been static. For example, over the past four years, the index cost of ready-mix concrete has increased by 17%, while the index cost for steel has declined. And to the extent a tariff applies to rebar imports as well as structural products, it will also affect overall costs for concrete. So on any individual project, the actual impact of a tariff will need to be evaluated against overall market factors, just like any other volatility in material costs.
- Finally, the cost of steel construction is responsive to market forces, and the structural steel industry operates in a competitive environment. AISC has long believed that the best way to increase the utilization of domestic steel is to increase the size of the market, and has advocated for market-building activities that keep structural steel as the material of choice for America's great buildings, bridges and infrastructure projects.

AISC has also sent a letter to the White House urging the Administration to protect the American steel industry through the inclusion of fabricated structural steel in the products covered by the planned tariffs under the process described in Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act. See the related March 2 news release at www.aisc.org for a link to the letter. You can also visit www.aisc.org/tradetalk to view a webinar and handout on how tariffs and trade issues will impact your steel projects.

As events unfold, we will continue to monitor developments and report back to our membership and our customers as quickly as we can. For questions, please contact Brian Raff, AISC director of government relations, at raff@aisc.org.



People and Firms

- **SmithGroupJJR** has added structural engineering to the integrated design services provided by its Chicago team. **Martin J. Sterr, SE, AIA**, and **John D. Rushing, Jr. SE**, recently joined the firm and will coordinate structural engineering design efforts for its work in the healthcare, higher education, science and technology, workplace and urban design markets. In other SmithGroupJJR news, the firm recently acquired **TRO**, a Boston-based, multidisciplinary healthcare design firm. The move increases the company's resources to 1,300 employees and 12 offices across the U.S. and China.
- **JQ** has announced the promotion of **Josh Bronstad, PE**, and **Jennifer Ridd, PE** to associates in the engineering firm's Dallas office. Bronstad is an eight-year veteran with JQ and serves as a senior project manager in the Infrastructure group. Ridd joined JQ in 2014 and serves as a senior project manager in the Buildings Group.
- **George Kevgas, PE**, has been named vice president of infrastructure for the Atlantic region of architecture, engineering and planning firm **Bergmann**. Kevgas has been with Bergmann in the Conshohocken, Pa., office for six years. He served as a project manager and Rail Practice leader, coordinating both design and construction infrastructure projects from inception to completion. In his new role, Kevgas oversees all road and highway, bridges, rail and transit practices in the Atlantic region. He will remain based in the Conshohocken office, one of Bergmann's two offices in the Philadelphia region.

SAFETY

AISC Announces 2017 Safety Award Winners

More than 60 structural steel facilities are being honored with AISC Safety Awards for their excellent records of safety performance in 2017. Awards are given in the categories of Fabricator and Erector and include the Safety Award of Honor—AISC's top safety award, presented for a perfect safety record of no disabling injuries—as well as the Safety Award of Merit and Safety Award of Commendation.

“AISC's annual Safety Awards program recognizes excellent records of safety performance, and we commend these facilities for their effective accident prevention programs,” said Tom Schlafly, AISC's director of safety. “Periodic recognition of safety in the workplace has been demonstrated to provide worker incentive and a reminder of the importance of safe practices.”

All AISC full fabricator members and erector associate members are eligible and asked to participate, and data for the program is solicited annually. In order to facilitate data collection and to make statistics meaningful in terms familiar to safety professionals, the program uses data that companies also report to OSHA. The program recognizes performance measured in terms of Days Away, Restricted or Transferred Rate (DART). The DART is a measure of the number of recordable lost work cases per 200,000 man hours worked. Only the number of cases (not days) that are required to be reported on the OSHA 300A form and that cause a lost work day as defined by OSHA are reported to AISC along with the hours worked in the year. AISC Safety Awards are given for perfect records (Honor, DART=0), excellent records (Merit, $0 < \text{DART} \leq 1$) and commendable records (Commendation, $1 < \text{DART} \leq 2$).

For more information about the program as well as safety resources available to the fabricated and erected structural steel industry, please visit www.aisc.org/safety.

Here are the 2017 winners:

**Fabricator Honor Award**

Aristeo
Cianbro Fabrication & Coating Corp.,
Georgetown, Mass.
Cianbro Fabrication & Coating Corp.,
Pittsfield, Maine
Cubic Designs, Inc.
Custom Metals
Ducworks, Inc.
Eddy's Welding, Inc.
Environmental Air Systems, LLC
G2 Metal Fab, Inc.
Gayle Manufacturing Company,
Caldwell, Idaho
George Steel Fabricating, Inc.
Gerace Construction Co., Inc.
Hercules Steel Company, Inc.
Highway Systems, Inc.
Hillsdale Fabricators,
an Alberici Enterprise
Indiana Bridge, Inc.
Industrial Mechanical, Inc.
Johnson Machine Works, Inc.
K & T Steel Corporation
Levan Associates, Inc.
M & J Steel, LLC
Metal Pros, LLC
Metal Technologies of Murfreesboro, Inc.
NOVA Group, Inc.
Phoenix Fabrication and Supply, Inc.
Pikes Peak Steel, LLC
Reliance Steel, Inc.
Slay Steel, Inc.
Southern New Jersey Steel Co., Inc.
Steel Service Corporation
Steward Steel, Inc.
Structural Steel & Plate Fabrication
STS Steel, Inc.
Summit Metal Fabricators
The Gateway Company of Missouri, LLC
The Haskell Company
Tipton Structural Fabrication
Trinity Fabricators, Inc.
Tron Mechanical Inc.,
D.b.a. TMI Contractors
Tubal-Cain Industries, Inc.
Universal Steel, LLC

Erector Honor Award

Allied Steel Co., Inc.
Aristeo
Ben Hur Steel Worx, LLC
Clark Steel Fabricators, Inc.
Cooper Steel
Douglas Steel Fabricating Corporation
Eddy's Welding, Inc.
EW Corporation
JPW Structural Contracting, Inc.
Kwan Wo Ironworks, Inc.
Reliance Steel, Inc.
Rochester Rigging & Erectors, Inc.
Tron Mechanical Inc.,
D.b.a. TMI Contractors
Tubal-Cain Industries, Inc.

**Fabricator Merit Award**

Cooper Steel
Covenant Steel Warehouse, Inc.
Kwan Wo Ironworks, Inc.
Shepard Steel Co., Inc.
Steel Fabricators of Monroe, LLC
SteelFab, Inc.

Erector Merit Award

Olson Steel

**Fabricator Safety Commendation**

Dave Steel Company, Inc.
Douglas Steel Fabricating Corporation
Gayle Manufacturing Company,
Nampa, Idaho
Kirk Williams Company
McCombs Steel Company, Inc.
Prospect Steel Company
Sefton Steel, LP
TrueNorth Steel, Fargo, N.D.

Erector Safety Commendation

Lee's Imperial Welding, Inc.
Peterson Beckner Industries, Inc.

JOISTS

Steel Joist Institute Announces 2018 Webinar Series Schedule

The Steel Joist Institute (SJI) has announced its 2018 live webinar schedule. With a new lineup of topics pertaining to the steel joist industry, SJI will present one webinar per month through December (the first webinar took place in April). Participants can earn professional development hours for each webinar they attend.

The live webinar series includes the following topics each month for the rest of the year:

- May – Simple Connections Simplified
- June – Design of Steel Deck for Concentrated and Non-Uniform Loading (presented in partnership with the Steel Deck Institute)
- July – Welding in, on and Around Steel Joists
- August – Bridging: How It Works and What to Work Around
- September – Joist 101: Steel Joists and Girders
- October – Part 1: Evaluation and Modification of Open Web Steel Joists and Joist Girders
- November – Part 2: Evaluation and Modification of Open Web Steel Joists and Joist Girders
- December – Ethics, Laws and Regulations (presented in partnership with Stites and Harbison)

Specific dates and times will be announced prior to each webinar.

The webinar series is geared toward structural engineers, fabricators, detailers and connection design firms responsible for steel joist and joist girder building designs and their connections. Individuals responsible for designing joist girder moment frames that are subjected to gravity and lateral loading—as well as those responsible for auditing, reviewing or approving such designs—will also benefit from these courses.

Individual and site registration options are available. For more information, visit www.steeljoist.org/2018webinars.

letter to the editor

Smoothness Specified Separately

I enjoyed reading the “AESS Comes of Age” article in the March 2018 issue. As an SSPC protective coatings specialist, I would like to make one comment about SSPC-SP 6: Commercial Blast Cleaning. Per the article, “This surface prep level may make the steel too smooth for your particular coating to adhere to the steel...” The SP 6 standard only defines the level of cleanliness. Per SP 6, “When a coating is specified, the cleaned surface shall be roughened to a degree suitable for the specified coating system.” Roughness or surface profile is specified separately, and the typical requirement is to follow the coating manufacturer's recommendation, which is usually published on the product data sheet—so smoothness is not an issue when specifying SP 6.

—*Troy Fraebel, Vice President of Protective Coating Services ABKaelin, LLC*