

practice guide



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Code of Standard Practice for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing

Committee on Framing Standards

2006 EDITION

with Commentary

Endorsed by Association of the Wall and
Ceiling Industries, Steel Framing Alliance,
and Steel Stud Manufacturers Association



Steel Framing Alliance™



Code of Standard Practice for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing

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Practice Guide CF06-1**

Committee on Framing Standards

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DISCLAIMER

The material contained herein has been developed by the American Iron and Steel Institute Committee on Framing Standards. The Committee has made a diligent effort to present accurate, reliable, and useful information on trade practices for fabrication and installation of cold-formed steel structural framing. The Committee acknowledges and is grateful for the contributions of the numerous engineers, manufacturers, contractors and others who have contributed to the body of knowledge on the subject. Specific references are included in the *Code of Standard Practice* document.

With anticipated improvements in understanding of the behavior of cold-formed steel framing and the continuing development of new technology, this material will become dated. It is anticipated that AISI will publish updates of this material as new information becomes available, but this cannot be guaranteed.

No conflict between this *Code of Standard Practice* and any legal building regulation is intended. This *Code of Standard Practice* is intended only to supplement and amplify such legal building regulations and laws.

The materials set forth herein are for general purposes only. They are not a substitute for competent professional advice. Application of this information to a specific project, particularly if included as part of a contract, should be reviewed by competent legal counsel. Anyone making use of the information set forth herein does so at their own risk and assumes any and all liability arising there from.

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PREFACE

The American Iron and Steel Institute Committee on Framing Standards has developed this *Code of Standard Practice for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing* [*Code of Standard Practice*] to address trade practices for design, fabrication and installation of *cold-formed steel structural framing* products.

This *Code of Standard Practice*, as revised to date, defines and sets forth accepted norms of good practice and has been developed and reviewed by a peer committee of the *cold-formed steel structural framing* industry. The practices defined in this *Code of Standard Practice* are the commonly accepted standards of custom and usage for *cold-formed steel structural framing* fabrication and installation. This voluntary document is intended to be used by *owner's representatives, design professionals, contractors, construction managers, suppliers, manufacturers, installers* and others on individual projects that utilize *cold-formed steel structural framing*.

This *Code of Standard Practice* is not applicable to *non-structural members*, including but not limited to interior drywall framing, which is addressed by ASTM C645 and C754, or *structural steel*, structural steel joists, steel deck, *metal building systems* or rack structures, which are addressed by AISI, SJI, SDI, MBMA and RMI, respectively.

The Committee acknowledges and is grateful for the numerous engineers, manufacturers, contractors and others who have contributed to the body of knowledge on the subject. The Committee wishes to also express their appreciation for the support of the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries (AWCI) International, Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) and Steel Stud Manufacturers Association (SSMA).

The first edition of this *Code of Standard Practice* was published in 2005. This 2006 Edition includes new provisions on *revisions*, the *RFI* process, contract price adjustment and scheduling. A non-mandatory commentary, shown in gray boxes throughout the document, is also added to provide background and further explanation for the corresponding provisions.

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CODE OF STANDARD PRACTICE FOR COLD-FORMED STEEL STRUCTURAL FRAMING

A. GENERAL

A1 Scope

In the absence of specific instructions to the contrary in the *contract documents*, the trade practices that are defined in this *Code of Standard Practice* shall govern the design, fabrication and installation of *cold-formed steel structural framing*.

Commentary:

The practices defined in this *Code of Standard Practice* are the commonly accepted standards of custom and usage for the fabrication and installation of *cold-formed steel structural framing*, which generally represent the most efficient approach. This *Code of Standard Practice* is not intended to define a professional standard of care for the *owner's representatives* or change the duties and responsibilities of the *owner, contractor, design professionals* (i.e., architect or *structural engineer-of-record*) from those set forth in the *contract documents*. Nor does it assign to the *owner* or *design professionals* any duty or authority to undertake responsibility inconsistent with the provisions of the *contract documents*.

Commentary:

This *Code of Standard Practice* is not applicable to *non-structural members*, including but not limited to interior drywall framing, which is addressed by ASTM C645 and C754, or *structural steel*, structural steel joists, steel deck, *metal building systems* or rack structures, which are addressed by AISC, SJI, SDI, MBMA and RMI, respectively. An extended list of non-applicable items is given in Section B2.

A2 Definitions

Where the following terms appear in this *Code of Standard Practice* in italics they shall have the meaning herein indicated. Where terms are not included, such terms shall have ordinary accepted meaning in the context for which they are intended.

AISC. American Institute of Steel Construction.

AISI. American Iron and Steel Institute.

Applicable Building Code. Building code under which the building is designed.

Approved. Approved by a building official or *design professional*.

Base Steel Thickness. The thickness of bare steel exclusive of all coatings.

Blocking. C-shaped track, break shape, or flat strap material attached to *structural members*, flat strap or sheathing panels to transfer shear forces.

Bracing. Structural elements that are installed to provide restraint or support (or both) to other framing members so that the complete assembly forms a stable structure.

CASE. Council of American Structural Engineers.