

What is AISC Certification?

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You may have heard of AISC Quality Management Systems (QMS) Certification, but you may not know exactly what's involved. AISC's certification programs set the quality standard for the structural steel industry and are the most recognized national quality certification program for the industry. Our programs focus on the entire process of fabrication and erection. Our goal is to build quality structures from the start by focusing on error prevention rather than error correction.

Certified companies have been through a rigorous initial evaluation and are subject to annual audits. These evaluations require a comprehensive administrative review, a documentation audit, and an on-site audit of the firm's quality management system. This is significantly different than "product inspection," since inspection does not focus on the root cause of the error and preventing it from happening again. An initial certification may take up to six months to complete but the annual cost is relatively moderate at less than \$5,000 for an AISC-member fabricator with fewer than 99 employees.

During the on-site audit, a company's day-to-day operations are compared with the documented procedures from its quality management system, and a general list of core quality-criteria is shown below for both fabricators and erectors. The program requires the company to be accountable for all facets of its organization, from management responsibility to employee training to material purchasing and handling to project specific erection plans. For a complete list of requirements and criteria, please visit aisc.org/certification.

A key feature of our program is that we require participants to set goals so that they continually improve over time. Even the best and brightest firm—regardless of size—can benefit from having its quality procedures reviewed on a regular basis.

Core Quality Criteria for Fabricators and Erectors

Management Responsibility	Corrective Action
Contract and Spec Review	Handling & Storage
Detailing (<i>Fabricators only</i>)	Training
Document and Data Control	Internal Audit
Control of Quality Records	Project Specific Erection Plans (<i>Erectors only</i>)
Purchasing	Crane operators are CCO certified or equivalently trained and/or experienced. (<i>Erectors only</i>)
Material Identification	Project-specific erection plans with hoisting and erection requirements are communicated and implemented in the field. (<i>Erectors only</i>)
Process Control (bolting, welding, etc.)	
Inspection and Testing	
Calibration of Equipment	
Control of non-conformance	

If you have additional questions about our program, please contact us at 312.670.7520 or certification@aisc.org.



**CERTIFICATION
PROGRAMS**