

Notes from the Editor's Desk



Editorial Contacts

Editor & Publisher:

Scott Melnick
ph: 312/670-8311
melnick@blacksquirrel.net

Senior Editor:

Keith A. Grubb, P.E., S.E.
ph: 312/670-8318
grubb@blacksquirrel.net

Assistant Editor:

Karen Thornton
ph: 312/670-8310
thornton@blacksquirrel.net

Production Editor:

Elizabeth Phillips
ph: 312/670-8315
phillips@blacksquirrel.net

Editorial Offices:

One East Wacker Dr.,
Suite 2406
Chicago, IL 60601
fax: 312/670-0341

Advertising Contact

Account Manager:

John Byrne
ph: 847/699-6049
fax: 847/699-8681
jabber10@ix.netcom.com

Advertising Offices:

2400 E. Devon Ave.,
Suite 380
Des Plaines, IL 60018

To receive a media kit, call, fax or email **John Byrne** or view advertising information on Modern Steel Construction's web site at:

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American Institute of Steel
Construction, Inc.
One East Wacker Dr.,
Suite 3100
Chicago, IL 60601-2001
ph: 312/670-2400

Wow. It's not often that a press release hits my desk that makes me sit up and take notice, but Nucor-Yamato Steel Company's latest information sure got my attention:

"Effective immediately, Nucor-Yamato is establishing a \$10/ton grade extra on ASTM A36 for wide flange sections only.

"Also, we will no longer provide A36 as a part of the current A992, A572-50 and CSA 50W multiple certification.

"ASTM A36 will still be available at no extra charge in H-piling and standard sections. As stated, this change applies to wide flange only."

Similarly, TXI-Chaparral Steel has recently excluded A36 from its multiple certification grade and is also charging an extra \$10/ton for A36. According to Marilee A. Robertson, general sales manager of Wide Flange Products at TXI-Chaparral, "The new grade will be designated as A992/A572-50, which will include Canadian Specifications of 44W and 50W." For more information, see TXI-Chaparral's website at www.chaparralsteel.com.

For the past year, AISC has been recommending that designers specify A992 Gr. 50 instead of either A572 Gr. 50 or A36.

The rationale for the emphasis on A992 is that it has a better material definition. A992 has an upper limit on yield strength of 65 ksi, a minimum tensile strength of 65 ksi, a specified maximum yield-to-tensile ratio of 0.85 and a specified maximum carbon equivalent of

0.47%. Now, Nucor-Yamato and TXI-Chaparral have added a financial reason to specify A992 instead of A36.

"At NYS, based on a look at recent numbers, the mix of grade 50 to grade 36 beams is about 94% to about 6%, and you can tell from today's price announcement that the emphasis at NYS is on ASTM A992 beams—and this has been our industry goal," explained Nucor-Yamato representative Mike Engstrom.

"The traditional 'base price' used to be on the ASTM A36 grade, but the base price has evolved to section size as the basis rather than grade," Engstrom reports. More information on Nucor-Yamato prices can be found at their website, www.nucoryamato.com.

"One of the inherent benefits in adding an 'extra' to low volume ASTM A36 beams is to help recover the cost associated with the loss of cross application. A beam can be downgraded but it may not be able to be upgraded, and the industry hasn't made ASTM A7 since the 1960s. Project specifications should include ASTM A992 for their grade 50 beam requirements. Remember, this is a W-shape specification only for buildings," he added.

Before ASTM approved the new A992 designation, the material was referred to as A572 with Special Requirements as per AISC Technical Bulletin #3. A copy of Technical Bulletin #3 can be viewed on AISC's website, www.aisc.org.