news & events

CERTIFICATION

AISC Announces New Certification Program for Bridge and Highway Metal Component Manufacturers

AISC is pleased to announce the new Certification Program for Bridge and Highway Metal Component Manufacturers. The "Component Standard" provides a means for component manufacturers to confirm to owners, the design community, and the construction industry that a certified manufacturing firm has the personnel, organization, experience, procedures, knowledge, equipment, and commitment to produce components of the quality required for normal bridge and highway construction.

What should you know about this new standard? The Component Standard describes certification requirements for facilities that manufacture and supply specific components composed primarily of metal to bridge and highway construction projects. These facilities have quality management systems with defined functions and responsibilities. The scope of this new certification does not include installation or erection of the components.

The quality management system of these manufacturing facilities (not products) is certified. The certification should not be interpreted as a product inspection of components. Certification includes all functions of manufacturing and providing components from receipt of contract through final delivery. To maintain certification status, the manufacturer shall follow its quality management system, regardless of whether the requirement for this certification is in the contract documents, and shall supply and be responsible for the entire component.

The certification program is open to all manufacturers of components covered by this standard, regardless of size and regardless of AISC membership status.

Who may become Certified to this standard? Certification to the Component Standard is appropriate for manufacturers of components that include bracing not designed for primary loads (diaphragms, cross frames, and lateral bracing); camera, light, sign, and signal support structures; bridge rail; stairs; walkways; grid decks; drains; scuppers; expansion joints; bearings; ballast plates; and mechanical movable bridge equipment. Manufacturers of camera, light, sign, and signal support structures; high-mast light towers; bridge rail; complex expansion joints; high load multi-rotational (HLMR) bearings; and mechanical movable bridge equipment shall also meet specific supplemental requirements to this standard.

Why you should be interested in the new Certification program? The Certification Standard for Bridge and Highway Metal Component Manufacturers offers assistance to manufacturing and transportation professionals and to owners in assessing manufacturers' capabilities to satisfy component quality needs. It is anticipated that the Bridge Component Manufacturer Certification program will provide a valuable means for qualifying firms and serve as an effective way for steel bridge fabricators and manufacturers participating in the program to communicate their commitment and capability with respect to quality.

When will the Component Program be implemented? The bridge component standard has been finalized and is now available to the industry.

If you have any questions regarding the Component Standard or AISC Certification in general, please call 312.670.7520 or e-mail **certinfo@aisc.org**.

ENGINEERING JOURNAL

New EJ Publication Opportunity—and Editor—and a Continuing Call for Papers

You are invited to submit a design example problem and solution for review and possible publication in the AISC *Engineering Journal*. Accepted submissions will be published in a new feature called "Design Examples." These submissions will undergo the same peer review process currently used for submitted EJ papers.

AISC *Design Examples* are provided on the companion CD accompanying the 13th Edition AISC *Steel Construction Manual*. In general, all current design examples illustrate the use of provisions and other information in the AISC *Specification for Structural Steel Buildings* or *Steel Construction Manual*. Submissions should exemplify topics related to these AISC documents or illustrate the use of the 2005 AISC *Seismic Provisions for Structural Steel Buildings* or the AISC *Seismic Design Manual*. These submissions will be used to help expand upon the currently available set of AISC *Design Examples*.

The successful design example problem and solution will be concise, accurate, and illustrate the use of a provision or concept not already addressed in the AISC *Design Examples* currently included on the CD Companion. Only design examples conforming to the 2005 AISC *Specification for Structural Steel Buildings* and/or 2005 AISC *Seismic Provisions for Structural Steel Buildings* will be considered. Submissions must provide ASD and LRFD solutions in parallel (see the style used on the CD Companion). In addition, the design example must adhere to the EJ author guidelines available via the below link.

If your design example is selected for publication, it will be considered for inclusion in a future edition of the AISC *Steel Construction Manual* CD Companion, and you will receive complimentary admission to an AISC seminar!

Please go to **www.aisc.org/ej** to submit your design example problem according to the format indicated in the author guidelines, which can be accessed at the above page via the submittal-related links.

New EJ Editor

Starting with the second quarter issue, Keith Grubb, AISC's new senior research engineer, will take over the editorial duties at EJ. Keith was formerly an AISC regional engineer and was also MSC's managing editor for several years. Cindi Duncan, AISC's director of engineering and EJ's longtime editor, will continue to focus on AISC's specifications and other publications.

Call For Papers

AISC is always looking for EJ articles on interesting topics pertinent to steel design, research, and fabrication methods, or new products of significance to the uses of steel in construction. We are especially seeking technical articles with practical applications in the steel industry. If you have a new idea or an improvement on an old idea, please submit a paper to AISC for publication in EJ. Send your paper in duplicate to:

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- Two Rice University engineering alumni, John and Ann Doerr, have given their alma mater $15 million via the Benificus Foundation, a private charitable organization they've set up, to fund the new **Rice Center for Engineering Leadership**.
- Carol Post, P.E., S.E., LEED AP, and Thomas Poulos, P.E., S.E., have been promoted from vice president/principal to senior vice president/principal; and Garret Browne, S.E. and David Wiehing, P.E., S.E., LEED AP, were promoted to vice president from senior associate in **Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.**'s Chicago office.
- **The Association of Union Constructors** has named Wayne Creasap as its new director of safety and health. He comes to the association after 13 years with the Construction Employers' Association, where he most recently served as their director of safety and education.
- Jeffrey Knauf, president of Medalist Laserfab, Inc., of Oshkosh, Wis., and Dan McLeod, district manager of A. J. Forsyth in Delta, British Columbia, Canada, were elected to the board of directors of the **Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International (FMA)** at the group's recent annual meeting.
- Brian Turmail has joined the **Associated General Contractors of America** as senior director of public affairs, having just served as director of communications at the U.S. Department of Transportation

Keith Grubb
Editor,
Engineering Journal
AISC
One East Wacker Drive, Suite 700
Chicago, Ill.
60601
grubb@aisc.org

Detailed information on our review process and requirements for submittals can be found on the inside back cover of each issue of EJ.

IN MEMORY

AISC Director of Building Design John Ruddy Passes Away

John Ruddy, AISC's former director of building design, died on December 11, 2008 in Rockville, Md., after a long battle with brain cancer.

"John was a great engineer and a shrewd innovator, who counted all of his colleagues among his friends because he also was a warm and genuine person," said Charles J. Carter, S.E., P.E., AISC vice president and chief structural engineer. "As important as his career as a structural engineer was to him, you could see how much more important his family was to him the moment he began telling you about his four boys and the devotion with which he and his wife Jeanette raised them. I will miss my friend John, but it is comforting to know that he no longer is suffering."

Over the course of his career, John built a strong reputation for innovation and the ability to develop cost-effective structural solutions for buildings. Among his many notable accomplishments, he pioneered work in fire resistance and safety in steel building structures. He also received numerous awards, including the Clemens Hershel Award in 1988 for his lecture "Evaluation of Structural Concepts for Buildings" and the Special Achievement Award in 2008 from AISC for his work in fire resistance and design of steel structures.

John began has career in Cleveland in 1965 with Dalton, Dalton, Little and Newport, a large architectural engineering practice. In addition to project engineer responsibilities, he developed computer applications for structural engineering in the early days of computer use for structural analysis and design. During that same time, he also taught evening courses on structural analysis and design at Cleveland State University. In 1973, he joined John Bowes and Associates, a small structural engineering consulting practice, as an associate.

In 1977, John moved to Bridgeport, Conn. to accept the position of chief structural engineer with Fletcher Thompson, Inc., a 150-person A/E practice. In 1981, he was named vice president of engineering, with responsibility for the

direction and coordination of all in-house engineering disciplines. In 1993, John was elected to the Board of Directors for the company.

In 1998, John relocated to Nashville, Tenn. to become the chief operating officer of Structural Affiliates International, Inc. After almost a decade with SAII, John joined the AISC staff as director of building design. Located in Washington, D.C., he was responsible for AISC seminar development, speaker training, and educational activities.

John received his undergraduate civil engineering degree from the University of Dayton in 1965 and his master's degree in civil engineering from Cleveland State University in 1971.

A devoted husband and steadfast family man, John raised four boys with his wife Jeannette. All four boys attended Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and started their families in the area. When Jeannette died of lung cancer in 2005, John moved from Nashville to Washington to be closer to his sons. John is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, Shawn and Young Mee of New York City, David and Laurie of Washington, D.C., Daniel and Laura and granddaughter Kristen of Silver Spring, Md., and Kevin and Elizabeth of Baltimore.

AISC would like to express our deepest sympathies to the Ruddy family. John will be greatly missed.

JOISTS

SJI Releases Second Edition of Technical Digest No. 8

A second edition of Technical Digest No. 8 has been developed by an ad-hoc group of the Steel Joist Institute's (SJI) Engineering Practice Committee and is an extensive update of the digest originally released in August 1983. *Welding of Open-Web Steel Joists and Joist Girders* details the requirements that SJI member companies must follow in the manufacturing of steel joists and joist girders and provides information on the various types of welding processes and weld types, as well as weld designs currently and previously used by SJI member companies.

Frequent reference has been made throughout the 91-page digest to the American Welding Society Welding Specifications. Compliance with AWS criteria will satisfy the SJI welding requirements, and in many cases the SJI requirement is in compliance with a particular AWS provision. However, there are some differences, and the reasons for SJI to maintain its own specification language for welding is discussed throughout this document.

Technical Digest No. 8 sells for $25, plus $5 per order for regular handling and shipping within the continental United States. To order a hard copy, download an order form, or download the document, visit **www.steeljoist.org**.

Former AISC Board Chairman Dies

Ralph H. Clarbour, a member of the AISC Board of Directors from 1981 to 1996 and Board Chairman from 1989 to 1991, died December 19, 2008 of heart failure.

Born October 18, 1924, Clarbour was a veteran of World War II in which he served as a turret gunner and photographer in the U.S. Navy for nearly three years between 1942 and 1945. Upon returning from the war, he entered the steel industry, a tenure that took him from working for his uncle at erecting contractor Dahl Olson, Inc. to becoming the president and CEO of Arlington Structural Steel Co., Inc. (AISC Member Fabricator).He was a member of AISC for more than five decades, joining in 1956.

He was also a member of the Central Fabricators Association, which he joined in 1949—and served as director and treasurer from 1960 to 2003—and the Iron League of Chicago, where he served as president in 1960.

Besides professional organizations, Clarbour was also involved in local politics. A resident of Arlington Heights, Ill. since 1949, he served as a village trustee from 1971 to 1981 and was appointed village president in 1974.

According to the *Daily Herald*, current village president Arlene Mulder said, "He had his opinion and he didn't care if a million (people) agreed with him or 10. He epitomizes what is wonderful about America and democracy."

Ralph is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary, and his children Richard, Lee Anne, David, and Dan, and four grandchildren.

Michelmann Steel Chairman, Bill Gerdes, Dies

William Frederick "Bill" Gerdes III, chairman and former president of Michelmann Steel Constuction Company (AISC Member Fabricator) in Quincy, Illinois, died on January 6 at age 74.

Born in Quincy, Bill spent most of his life there, leaving to attend Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. and eventually graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in civil engineering. He received his P.E. license in Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa.

Bill worked for Michelmann Steel for more than 50 years, joining the company in 1957. He served as president from 1975 until 2006, when he became chairman of the board. The company was founded by Bill's great-grandfather, J.H. Michelmann, in 1865.

Bill was active in several professional and educational organizations, including the Michelmann Foundation, University of Illinois Alumni Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, Central Fabricators Association, and Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, where he served on the board of directors.

Bill is survived by his wife, Barbara, his children, Laura Gates Gerdes Ehrhart,William Frederick "Wil" Gerdes IV, and Parker Lee "Chip" Gerdes, and four grandchildren.

See "What's Cool in Steel" (MSC 8/08, available at www.modernsteel.com) for a story on the commemoration of Bill's 50 years of service with the Michelmann Companies.

NASCC: THE STEEL CONFERENCE

New Sessions Added to Upcoming NASCC: The Steel Conference

Two new short courses, a look at the relationship between art and structural design, and an expanded fabricator workshop have been added to the roster of more than 80 technical sessions at the upcoming 2009 NASCC: The Steel Conference (April 1-4 in Phoenix).

The conference is the premier educational event aimed at providing structural engineers, steel fabricators, erectors, and detailers with practical information and the latest design and construction techniques. In addition, the Steel Conference offers an extensive trade show featuring products and services, ranging from engineering software to the latest fabrication equipment, from more than 200 exhibitors. It's a once-a-year opportunity to learn the latest in design methodology, see the most innovative products, and network with your peers. The conference continues to grow each year, and last year's attendance exceeded 3,700.

Last year's conference, in Nashville, drew more than 3,700 attendees, an NASCC record.

Recently added to the roster of short courses is an eight-hour program on Bracing for Stability and a four-hour session on Building Information Modeling. Other short courses include sessions on Practical Connection Design for Economical Steel Structures; Unlocking the Simplicity of Analysis and Design with ANSI/AISC 360; Wind Load Provisions of ASCE 7; Understanding the Costs and Risks of Insurance Wrap-Ups; Design and Fabrication for Galvanizing; Exploring Building Design with Steel Joists, Joist Girders, and Steel Deck; ASCE 7.05 Seismic Provisions; and Inspection of Hot-Dipped Galvanized Steel.

The conference kicks off with a potentially controversial session provocatively titled "Connection Design Responsibility: Is the Debate Over?" In the hour-long program, Charlie Carter, AISC's vice president and chief structural engieer, presents the findings of a joint task group formed by the Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE) and AISC. Kirk Harman from The Harman Group in Philadelphia and Glenn Bishop from LBYD in Birmingham join the debate on the merits of delagating or not delegating the work of connection design.

Another session sure to draw a lot interest is being presented by AISC vice president John Cross on "Current Sales Forecasts and Outlook." This session will provide key market information for the remainder of 2009 with an in-depth look at specific market segments, such as health-care construction and educational facilities.

Other sessions that are sure to draw large crowds include: "The Wal-Mart Effect and Your Business" (a discussion of how to compete against the low-price leaders and to create more profitable jobs); R. Shankar Nair's presentation on "Skyscrapers—Past, Present and Future;" "Connections: The Last Bastion of Rational Design" by Bill Thornton; "CSD University" (a special series of presentations based on the training program that one of the country's most successful and innovative engineering firms uses for their new hires); "Who's Responsible When a Job Goes Bad" (a look at what can happen during a fast track, design-build project); "Specifying Camber—Rules of Thumb for Designers;" and "Introduction to Earthquake Engineering and Seismic Design." For a complete list of sessions, or to register, please visit **www.aisc.org/nascc**.

The conference also provides attendees with the opportunity to tour Schuff International's fabrication shop on Wednesday, April 1. Schuff has one of the largest and most advanced facilities in the country and will give designers a good look at the technology being used to fabricate their projects today. Among Schuff's recent projects are The Palazzo, a 70,000-ton, 7-million-sq.-ft addition to the Venetian Resort Hotel Casino in Las Vegas, and the Phoenix Convention Center. While there is no charge for this tour (including transportation and refreshments), space is limited and attendees must register in advance (**www.aisc.org/nascc**).

Schuff Steel Company

Schuff's fabrication facility, near downtown Phoenix.