

Are You in the Know About the New?

BY TODD ALWOOD, LEED AP

AISC introduces new certification logos and welcomes new certified facilities into the program.

AS 2010 GETS UNDER WAY, we begin to look back at the previous year and take stock of the changes and advancements within the AISC Certification Program. One important change came at the end of 2009 when we unveiled new certification logos for our fabrication and erection facilities.

AISC realized that there was confusion in the marketplace concerning AISC member companies and facilities certified to the AISC *Quality Certification Standard*. Many individuals in the marketplace mistakenly believe that all AISC members are certified and conversely that all certified facilities are owned by AISC members.

The fact is that AISC certification and AISC membership are completely separate and serve two different purposes.

AISC Certification is both a program and a business improvement tool. The program is designed to help specifiers, contractors and owners verify that a specific facility has the personnel, equipment, knowledge and experience to successfully complete their project. As a business improvement tool, AISC certification has proven invaluable in helping fabricators and erectors improve their processes and procedures by way of implementing a quality management system and annual audits to maintain these high standards.

Membership in AISC helps to support the institute's technical and marketing initiatives that help make it easier to design in steel and that promote the use of fabricated structural steel. AISC member dues help pay for a wide variety of programs including the development of the *Specification for Structural Steel Buildings*, design guides, the Steel Solutions Center, AISC regional engineers, steel research, educational programs for students, faculty, and design professionals, advertising, the promotion of steel bridges, and the development of the *Quality Certification Standard*.

To help reinforce the difference between membership and certification, AISC has introduced new logos for both certified fabrication facilities and certified erectors. These logos are designed so they can be used as stand-alone logos or in conjunction with the AISC member logo (for those companies that are AISC full or associate members).

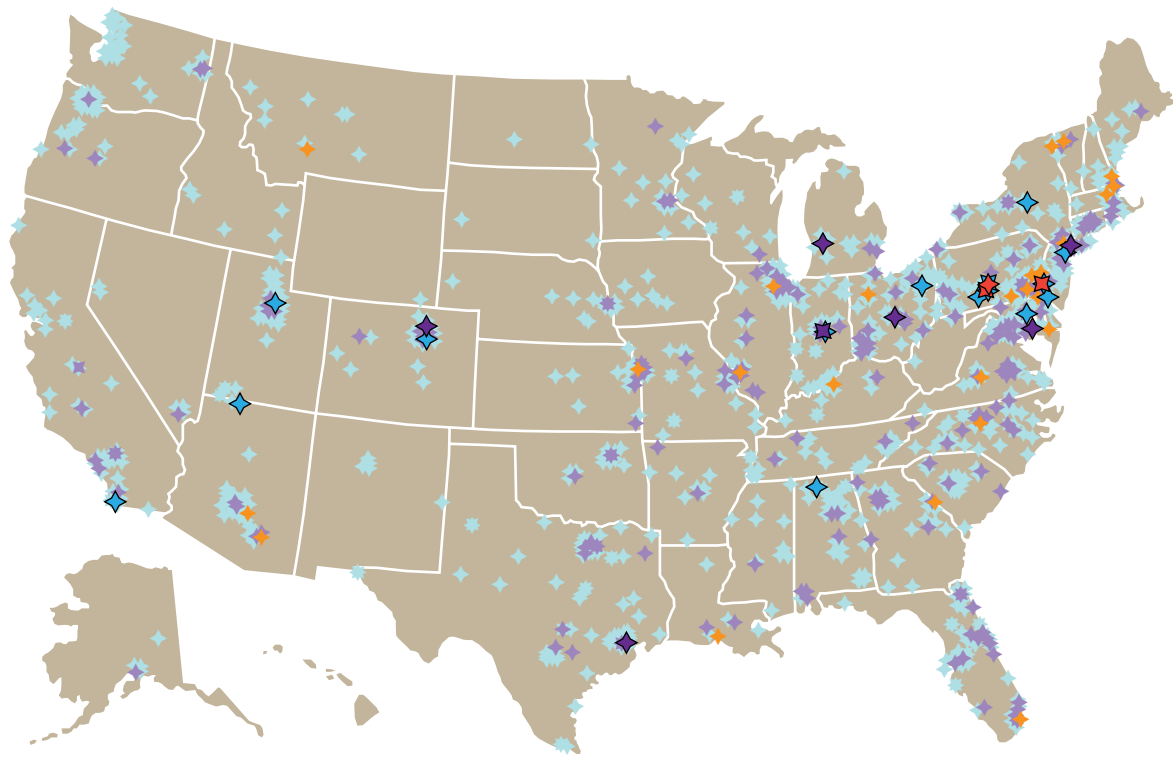
This need was further reinforced by the increases we saw in the program during 2009, both in terms of newly certified facilities and applicants. There was a 16% growth in the number of certified fabricator facilities and a 39% increase in the number of certified erectors. Also, the numbers of applicants have increased significantly as well—by 45% and 80% respectively. These numbers continue to support our belief that a quality management system increases a facility's overall quality, and that the resulting quality enhancements are built into its end products on every project throughout the year.

As you're reading this article, you may be wondering about these newly certified fabricator and erector facilities, and if any of them might be in your local area. The best way to find a certified facility is to visit: www.aisc.org/findcertification. This page allows you to search the U.S. by city/state or zip code. You can further define a search by specific certification type, such as Standard for Steel Building Structures, Simple Steel Bridges, or even Certified Steel Erector, to name just



Todd Alwood, LEED AP, is the manager for certification business development with AISC. He can be reached at alwood@aisc.org.

Quality Corner is a monthly feature that covers topics ranging from how to specify a certified company to how long it takes to become a certified company. If you are interested in browsing our electronic archive, please visit www.aisc.org/QualityCorner.



Existing Certified Fabricator Facilities

Existing Certified Erector Facilities

Existing Certified Bridge Component Facilities

Newly Certified Erector Facilities

- Columbus Steel Erectors, Columbus, Ohio
- Harmon Steel Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.
- Lamar Construction Company, Inc., Hudsonville, Mich.
- Postel Erection Group, LLC, Houston, Texas
- Quality Steel Services, Inc., Loveland, Colo.
- R. Harris Welding, Inc., Prince Frederick, Md.
- Tyrek Heights Erectors, Inc., Yonkers, N.Y.

Newly Certified Component Facilities

- Lincoln Contracting & Equipment Co., Inc./Lincoln Highway Shop & South Center Shop, Stoystown, Pa.
- PennFab, Inc., Bensalem, Pa.
- Somerset Welding & Steel, Inc., Somerset, Pa.

Newly Certified Fabricator Facilities

- Brahma Group, Inc., West Jordan, Utah
- Echo Bridge, Inc./Echo Bridge South, Section, Ala.
- Kaibab Steel, Inc., Fredonia, Ariz.
- Lincoln Contracting & Equipment Co., Inc./Lincoln Highway Shop & South Center Shop, Stoystown, Pa.
- McMahon Steel Company, Inc., San Diego, Calif.
- Metro Steel Fabricating, Inc., Denver, Colo.
- Parish Iron Works, Inc., Syracuse, N.Y.
- Parker Fabricating Co., Akron, Ohio
- PennFab, Inc., Bensalem, Pa.
- Pico Industries, Inc., Baltimore, Md.
- Somerset Welding & Steel, Inc., Somerset, Pa.
- Steel Services, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.
- Summit Steel, Inc., New Castle, Del.
- Triple B Fabricating, Inc., Passaic, N.J.

a few. And don't forget to look at the navigation section on the right-hand side of the page, where links to related web pages, such as Newly Certified Facilities, can help you search even faster.

Speaking of newly certified facilities, you will notice a new map accompanying this month's Quality Corner highlighting these facilities. It also shows locations of all AISC Certified Fabricator, Erector, and Bridge Component Facilities throughout the U.S. Whether you're an engineer looking for a fabricator or a fabricator looking for an erector, this will enable you to quickly see new companies that recently have met all the rigorous requirements of AISC Certification.

If you have comments about the new certification logos or questions about finding a certified facility in your area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

MSC

How Many U.S. Facilities are AISC Certified?

	January 2009	January 2010
Fabricator Facilities	771	894
Erector Facilities	161	224