

TOP STORY

New Report Updates Progress to Advance CFS Seismic Design

Past issues of "Framework Online" have provided updates on an innovative research program supported by the steel industry and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop improved design solutions for cold-formed steel (CFS) buildings under seismic conditions. [More](#)

COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE – NEWS AND UPDATES

CFSEI Member Input Needed on Software Packages for Wall Design

The 2013 CFSEI Expo and Meeting will feature a presentation on software packages for wall design that will be led by Brad Cameron, a member of CFSEI's Executive Committee. [More](#)

CFSEI To Host Webinar on Designing Reliable Connections for Cold-Formed Steel Framing

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on "Strengthening the Weakest Link—Designing Reliable Connections for Cold-Formed Steel Framing" on February 7, 2013 at 3:00 PM EST. [More](#)

CFSEI Announces Venue for 2013 Expo And Annual Meeting; Issues Call For 2013 Design And Service Awards Competition

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will hold the 2013 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting on May 6-7, 2013 at the Hilton Financial District Hotel in San Francisco, California. [More](#)

MARKETPLACE

U.S. Lumber Production up 7.4% Through October

U.S. lumber production through October totaled 24.144 billion board feet, up 7.4% compared to the same period in 2011, according to the Western Wood Products Association. [More](#)

US Raw Steel Production Edges Up Week On Week: AISI

US raw steel production ticked up slightly in the third week of 2013, according to American Iron and Steel Institute weekly data published on Tuesday. [More](#)

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link – Designing Reliable Connections for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive Collapse/Blast Resistant Design of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)

...Continued next page | [Top Main](#) | [Next Page](#) |



Brought to you quarterly by the Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) on the first Wednesday of February, June, September and December. Framework Online arms you with important news and commentary on the cold-formed steel (CFS) framing and construction industries.

[Unsubscribe](#)

District of Columbia's proposed Green Building Code

Heads up to developers, owners, engineers, architects, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, consultants, commissioning agents, insurers, and sureties that do business in the District of Columbia. [More](#)

U.S. Manufacturing Increased Slightly In December

WASHINGTON — American manufacturing grew slightly last month and factory hiring increased. The modest gains suggested that the economy entered the new year with some momentum. [More](#)

Single-Family and Multifamily Housing Starts Rise Over 12% in December

January 17, 2013 – Solid gains in both single-family and multifamily housing production resulted in nationwide housing starts rising 12.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 954,000 units in December, according to newly released data from the U.S. Commerce Department. [More](#)

ANSI Approves Next Generation of the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the International Code Council (ICC) applaud the recent approval of the 2012 ICC 700 National Green Building Standard. [More](#)

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Julieta Ceballos
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013

Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013

CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013

Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013

CFSEI Expo
[More](#)



TOP STORY

New Report Updates Progress to Advance CFS Seismic Design

Past issues of "Framework Online" have provided updates on an innovative research program supported by the steel industry and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop improved design solutions for cold-formed steel (CFS) buildings under seismic conditions. The overall goal of the program is to increase the seismic safety of buildings that use CFS as the structural load-bearing system, with an emphasis on total building performance during earthquakes.

The Cold-Formed Steel Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (CFS-NEES) program, a consortium of multiple universities housed at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, recently announced the release of a new report on the results of cyclic tests on individual fastener-sheathing-stud assemblies.

The research report, titled "Hysteretic Shear Response of Fasteners Connecting Sheathing to Cold-Formed Steel Studs" (CFS-NEES, RR04, January 2013, K.D. Peterman, B.W. Schafer), can be accessed on http://www.ce.jhu.edu/cfsnees/publications/RR04_Peterman_Schafer.pdf. The CFS-NEES website states: "These fastener-level tests are basic building blocks for the primary energy dissipation mechanism. They have application to modeling of other shear walls, but also to modeling the diaphragm and even gravity-framed walls."

This is the fourth major report that the CFS-NEES has released on the CFS project since late 2011. Benjamin Schafer, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, stated that: "The CFS-NEES effort is aimed at advancing CFS seismic design at a variety of levels. In RR04 we are focusing on the fundamental building blocks – and providing critical data for how cold-formed steel and sheathing interact to successfully dissipate energy. In RR02 we focused on shear walls, and in our forthcoming full-scale building tests we will see the complete system response. To understand any of these interesting full systems, and to develop tools engineers can utilize to predict response and innovate with cold-formed steel seismic systems, we must understand and utilize the results that RR04 provides."

Johns Hopkins University is the lead institution on the research, with Bucknell University as a partner under the NSF funding. The program is designed so that the researchers can work with other universities to take advantage of the expertise and facilities available around the country, including the use of NEES equipment at the University at Buffalo-State University of New York. The team will move some of its personnel to Buffalo on April 15th to prepare for forthcoming full-scale building tests. More information on the CFS-NEES program is available on the project website at www.ce.jhu.edu/cfsnees.

- Editor, Framework Online

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Julieta Ceballos
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)





CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

CFSEI Member Input Needed on Software Packages for Wall Design

The 2013 CFSEI Expo and Meeting will feature a presentation on software packages for wall design that will be led by Brad Cameron, a member of CFSEI's Executive Committee. To prepare for the presentation, Brad is looking for input from CFSEI members on which software packages they prefer and would recommend to other design professionals. The information he receives will also be used to update the software CFSEI Tech Note.

The software package should meet the following criteria:

- 1) Assists in developing loads for walls.
- 2) Performs analysis and/or design for cold-formed steel members that make up a wall.
- 3) Assists the design professional in managing the work involved in supporting the design of wall panels.
- 4) Allows the design professional to work closely with the downstream application of his work, such as ensuring that the member selections made are properly implemented.
- 5) Allows the design professional to work closely with a wall panel fabricator to ensure that the resulting wall design is complete, fully described, and fits.
- 6) Facilitates the design of the wall panel in a BIM environment.
- 7) Facilitates productivity in any aspect of the design, fabrication, and installation of walls or wall systems.
- 8) Helps with the design of structural components that are similar to walls, such as interior load bearing and non-load bearing walls (including curtain walls, ceiling panels, knee walls, floor panels, and any other component of a structure except for a truss).

Brad would also be interested in finding out other ways that the software packages could assist design professionals.

A survey is available to take on the CFSEI website at https://sfa.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=form_136560. The deadline for this survey is **Wednesday, February 13, 2013**.

For more information, please call 800-797-8335 or email info@cfsei.org

- Editor, Framework Online

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)





CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

CFSEI To Host Webinar on Designing Reliable Connections for Cold-Formed Steel Framing



The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on “Strengthening the Weakest Link—Designing Reliable Connections for Cold-Formed Steel Framing” on February 7, 2013 at 3:00 PM EST. The webinar will cover important considerations for cold-formed steel connection design and is recommended for architects, engineers, building officials and others who design or evaluate cold-formed steel connections.

The topics discussed will include:

- The proper design of angles, blocks of stud, or proprietary clips for metal connectors and small fasteners to produce a strong, easy-to-install connection between cold-formed steel framing members.
- Common construction challenges such as insufficient tool access, drill capacity and adjustability.
- Techniques for determining connection capacity under eccentric loading, buckling, prying and other commonly overlooked failure modes.
- Characteristics of common fasteners.
- Techniques of connection design, with emphasis on clip angles designed for compression, tension and shear.



The presenter is John Lyons, P.E., S.E., owner of Structural Evolution LLC, a firm specializing in the design of cold-formed steel-framed structures. With more than 18 years of experience in the industry, Lyons is secretary and treasurer of the Atlanta Chapter of the CFSEI and a former member of the CFSEI Executive Committee. He has authored several CFSEI Technical Notes on the design of cold-formed steel framing connections.

More information on the webinar and registration details are available on the CFSEI website, www.cfsei.org.

- Editor, Framework Online

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |





CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

CFSEI Announces Venue for 2013 Expo And Annual Meeting; Issues Call For 2013 Design And Service Awards Competition

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will hold the 2013 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting on May 6-7, 2013 at the Hilton Financial District Hotel in San Francisco, California. The Expo is designed for architects, builders/contractors, engineers and other construction industry professionals. It will provide opportunities for education and networking as well as an exposition featuring state-of-the-art innovations, technologies and principles in cold-formed steel framing. The two-day conference, hosted by the West Chapter of the CFSEI, is the only one of its kind dedicated to the cold-formed steel (CFS) framing industry.

CFSEI is accepting entries for the 2013 CFSEI Design and Distinguished Service Awards Competition, which are due by March 15, 2013. The winners will be announced at the Annual Expo and Meeting. The awards program was established to recognize outstanding achievement in creative design, technical innovation, and best practices in the use of CFS framing and to acknowledge individuals who have volunteered their time and talent to the industry.

The awards categories are as follows:

Engineering Excellence – The award recognizes either small or large projects that exemplify excellence in the structural design of new or renovated structures utilizing CFS products.

Construction Innovation – The award recognizes the use of an innovative product, process, tool, technique, machine or methodology to advance the CFS industry. The construction innovation must have been used in one or multiple projects.

Distinguished Service – The award recognizes the contributions of an individual who has volunteered time, talent and resources to the CFS industry.

Entries will be judged on demonstrated excellence and achievement in the use of cold-formed steel based on the following criteria: design creativity, technical innovation, system efficiency and economy, constructability, complexity of problems solved, and design integration. The entries will be judged by a panel of five CFS professionals, including two CFSEI member professional engineers, a professor of structural engineering, a licensed architect, and a licensed contractor. The rules of eligibility, entry instructions, and mailing address are available at the CFSEI website at www.cfsei.org.

- Editor, Framework Online

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW



MARKETPLACE

U.S. Lumber Production up 7.4% Through October

U.S. lumber production through October totaled 24.144 billion board feet, up 7.4% compared to the same period in 2011, according to the Western Wood Products Association. Production in the West was up 9.7% through October, while Southern production rose 5.6% during the same period. Nationwide, October production totaled 2.630 billion feet, up 18.9% from September and 18.4% higher than the October 2011 total.

Canadian lumber output hit 4-year high in October

Canadian lumber production in October reached 2.2 billion board feet, an 11% gain from September and the highest monthly figure since October 2008. British Columbia gained 13% to 1.1 bbf, highest since March. The strongest percentage increases came in Quebec, at 543 million board feet, up 18% from September and up 32% from October 2011. Canadian output through 10 months measured 19.5 bbf, up 5% from the 2011 pace.

Western lumber production up 10.6% through November

Through November 2012, Western lumber production totaled 11.909 billion board feet, up 10.6% from the first 11 months of 2011, according to the Western Wood Products Association. Production in the Coast region through November was up 10.7% compared to January-November 2011, while Inland production was up 10.3% during the same period. Output in the California Redwood region was up 11.6% through November. For the month of November, production in the West totaled 1.071 billion feet, down 12.6% from October but up 21.1% from the November 2011 total.

Source: *Random Lengths*, January 10, 2013

Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013

Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013

CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013

Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013

CFSEI Expo
[More](#)

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |



MARKETPLACE

US Raw Steel Production Edges Up Week On Week: AISI

US raw steel production ticked up slightly in the third week of 2013, according to **American Iron and Steel Institute** weekly data published on Tuesday.

In the week ended January 19, US mills produced 1.824 million st of raw steel, up 0.3% from the 1.819 million st produced in the prior week. Capability utilization went to 76.1%, up week on week from 75.9%. In the comparable week of 2012, steel mills produced 1.92 million st at 77.6% capability utilization.

Year-to-date production is down 5.9% year on year, as US mill output totaled 5.4 million st through January 19, and mills produced 5.74 million st in the same period last year. The average utilization rate has also fallen to 74.9% from 77.6% year on year.

Regional production remained relatively steady. The Great Lakes region's production increased to 667,000 st, up 1.1% from the week before. Midwestern steel production also increased to 263,000 st, up about 1.5%.

Steel output in the North East region slid to 190,000 st, down 1% from 192,000 st. Southern steel production decreased to 617,000 st, down 0.5%. Western steel production dropped by 1,000 st week on week to 87,000 st.

AISI determines its weekly raw steel production totals based on weekly data from 50% of the domestic industry and estimates the rest using monthly production data.

Source: *Steel Business Briefing, January 23, 2013*

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |



MARKETPLACE

District of Columbia's proposed Green Building Code

Heads up to developers, owners, engineers, architects, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, consultants, commissioning agents, insurers, and sureties that do business in the District of Columbia. There's a proposed new code in town: a Green Building Code based on the 2012 International Green Construction Code (IgCC).

- DC's proposed version, however, includes some modifications to the IgCC to try and customize it for the DC area and feasibility of application.
- See the code [here](#).
- The comment period is still open until 5:00 pm on February 22, 2013. Comments must be submitted in writing to Helder Gil, Legislative Affairs Specialist, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, 1100 Fourth Street, SW, Room 5164, Washington, DC 20024, or by email at ConstructionCodes@dc.gov.

DC's Green Code Process

In the District of Columbia, it is the Construction Codes Coordinating Board (CCCB) that is responsible for finalizing building codes to recommend to the DC City Council for enactment. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is a subcommittee for the CCCB, with each TAG dedicated to a particular model code review and/or revision. A TAG will vote on any addition or change, which it then recommends to the CCCB. Once the code is finalized, it is voted on by the City Council.

This proposed Green Code was published in the DC Register on December 7, 2012, for public comment by February 22, 2013 (this date was just extended from January 25, 2013). The proposed DC Green Code is thus still in the comment period. In addition, if deemed necessary, there will be a second comment period. It is intended that the City Council will vote on the code in Spring 2013, with full compliance required by Spring 2014. The CCCB Green TAG is chaired by Bill Updike of the District Department of the Environment (DDOE), with eight members from various sectors of the design and construction industries as well as a representative from the DCRA. The Green TAG has worked long hours for over a year to modify the IgCC.

DC's Proposed Green Code: A Few Key Points

1. The Green Code would initially apply to all commercial buildings of 10,000 square feet or more and all multifamily residential buildings four stories or higher and over 10,000 square feet.
2. The Green Code would apply to new construction and substantial renovations.
3. In order to ensure flexibility, the Green Code would permit alternative compliance paths, including the following:
 - a. LEED certification under the DC Green Building Act of 2006 (GBA);
 - b. IgCC;

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)



- c. ASHRAE Standard 189.1; and
 - d. Enterprise Green Communities Certification under the GBA.
4. The post-occupancy provisions in the IgCC, among others, were removed from the proposed DC Green Code.
 5. The codifying of a commissioning agent is a new concept. The commissioning agent could be a design professional or an approved commissioning agent. The DCRA will have a list of approved commissioning agents.
 6. "Stretch" items in the proposed Green Code were moved to Appendix A, which has about 75 possible project electives. Of that number, fifteen are required for new construction, and thirteen are required for substantial renovations. Some are not in the base code, and some are enhancements of items in the base code.
 7. The DCRA will hire a Green Building Coordinator in late January/early February 2013 (name has not been released). Then the DCRA will hire inspectors and will train those inspectors and private sector inspectors during the next one and one-half years.
 8. The DCRA will issue a Green Building Program Manual by Spring 2014 to provide guidance concerning the DC Green Code.

The Role of the GBA and LEED in Light of the DC Green Code

There are discussions in the development community that the enactment of the Green Code would marginalize the GBA with its LEED certification requirements. Accordingly, the argument goes, the GBA should be repealed. Such a position, however, is based on a misunderstanding of the role of LEED certification in the sustainability world. LEED certification is voluntary, and it is a non-enforceable rating system. That a number of jurisdictions and entities--from federal agencies, to states, to counties and towns--have adopted various versions of LEED as a mandatory building requirement does not change the fact that LEED was designed to be an aspirational goal, not a code. Those jurisdictions and entities, seeking sustainability goals, adopted LEED requirements because of a dearth of green building codes.

The IgCC rectified that issue, and now the District of Columbia is in the process of painstaking efforts to refine and modify the IgCC into an enforceable and workable green building code.

Conclusion

Stakeholders in the development, real estate, and construction industries that do business in the District of Columbia should follow closely the adoption of the DC Green Building Code. The rapid progression of initiatives in the sustainability world necessitates staying on top of the game, including understanding the impacts of the final version of the DC Green Code. The one-year grace period for implementation of the DC Green Code, from Spring 2013 to Spring 2014, will give everyone time to prepare for the challenges--and the opportunities.

Source: *Lexology*, January 18, 2013

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)



MARKETPLACE

U.S. Manufacturing Increased Slightly In December

WASHINGTON — American manufacturing grew slightly last month and factory hiring increased. The modest gains suggested that the economy entered the new year with some momentum.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group for purchasing managers, said on Wednesday that its index of manufacturing activity rose in December to 50.7. That is up from a reading of 49.5 in November, which was the lowest reading since July 2009, one month after the recession ended.

A reading above 50 indicates growth, while a reading below signals contraction.

A measure of employment increased last month to 52.7. That is up from 48.4 in November, which was the first time the employment gauge fell below 50 in three years.

Factories have cut jobs in three of the four months through November, according to government data. The increase in employment in the I.S.M. survey suggests manufacturers may have stepped up hiring last month.

The Labor Department is scheduled to report on December employment on Friday.

A gauge of new orders was unchanged and production grew more slowly, the survey found. Manufacturers also cut back on stockpiles, a sign of concern about future demand.

The closely watched manufacturing survey was completed before Congress reached a deal to avoid the impending expiration of Bush era tax cuts.

The last-minute deal passed Tuesday averts widespread tax increases and delays deep spending cuts that had threatened to push the country back into recession. But most Americans will see some increase in taxes this year, which will most likely slow consumer spending.

A gauge of export orders rose above 50 for the first time in six months, according to the I.S.M. survey. That is a hopeful sign that overseas economies are improving, raising demand for American goods.

A survey in China on Monday found manufacturing activity in that country expanded for the third consecutive month. That adds to evidence that its economy is improving after a slowdown last year.

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013

Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013

CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013

Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013

CFSEI Expo
[More](#)

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |



Brought to you quarterly by the Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) on the first Wednesday of February, June, September and December. Framework Online arms you with important news and commentary on the cold-formed steel (CFS) framing and construction industries.

[Unsubscribe](#)

Growth in the American economy is being driven by other sectors, like housing. The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that construction companies spent more on home building in November, rising 0.4 percent for its eighth monthly increase.

Overall construction spending, however, slipped 0.3 percent because of a 5.5 percent drop in spending on federal government projects. Spending on commercial buildings, like office buildings and shopping malls, also fell. This was the first decline in overall construction spending since March and followed a 0.7 percent increase in October, which was revised lower.

There have been some positive signs for factory production. In November, companies substantially increased their orders for a category of large equipment that reflects their investment plans. That followed a big increase in the same category in October.

Source: The Associated Press, January 2, 2013

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013

Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013

CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013

Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013

CFSEI Expo
[More](#)

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |



MARKETPLACE

Single-Family and Multifamily Housing Starts Rise Over 12% in December

January 17, 2013 – Solid gains in both single-family and multifamily housing production resulted in nationwide housing starts rising 12.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 954,000 units in December, according to newly released data from the U.S. Commerce Department. This is the highest level of new home production since June of 2008.

“Builders have become increasingly optimistic about conditions in local housing markets in recent months and this report underscores that the housing recovery is well on its way,” said Barry Rutenberg, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and a home builder from Gainesville, Fla. “With inventories of new homes at razor thin levels, builders are moving prudently to break ground on new construction ahead of the spring buying season to meet increasing demand.”

“Overall, this report represents a solid ending to 2012 and a promising start to 2013,” said NAHB senior economist Robert Denk. “Multifamily production is almost back to normal levels and while single-family starts still have a way to go, they are gaining momentum. This trend could be even stronger if not for persistently tight credit conditions for home buyers, flawed appraisal values and uncertainties regarding economic policy debates in Washington.”

Single-family housing starts rose 8.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 616,000 units in December, while multifamily production jumped 23.1 percent, to 338,000 units.

Combined single-family and multifamily starts activity was up across all regions in December. The Northeast posted a gain of 21.4 percent, the Midwest was up 24.7 percent, the South posted a 3.8 percent increase and the West was up 18.7 percent.

Permit issuance, which can be a harbinger of future building activity, held virtually steady at a 903,000-unit rate in December. Single-family permits rose for a fourth consecutive month, by 1.8 percent to 578,000 units while multifamily permits declined 2.1 percent to 325,000 units.

Regionally, permits rose 19 percent in the Northeast and 6.6 percent in the West while the South and Midwest posted respective declines of 3.4 percent and 5.7 percent.

Source: National Association of Home Builders, January 17, 2013

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) | [Next Article](#) |



MARKETPLACE

ANSI Approves Next Generation of the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard

Notable Changes Impact Energy Requirements and Scoring of Remodeling Projects

The [National Association of Home Builders](#) (NAHB) and the [International Code Council](#) (ICC) applaud the recent approval of the [2012 ICC 700 National Green Building Standard](#).

In 2007, NAHB and the ICC partnered to establish a nationally-recognizable standard definition of green building. The resulting ICC 700 National Green Building Standard is the first and only residential green building rating system to undergo the full consensus process and receive approval from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This is the first time the standard has undergone Consensus Committee review and update since it was published in 2009.

“The introduction of the 2012 National Green Building Standard is a huge deal for our industry,” said NAHB Chairman Barry Rutenberg, a home builder from Gainesville, Fla. “Not only does the updated version raise the bar on energy efficiency requirements, but it also completely revolutionizes how renovations and remodeling projects are treated under the standard. The 2012 updates make the standard easier to understand and implement, and we expect that this will certainly help to build upon the momentum we are already seeing in green building across the residential building industry.”

To date, the standard has been widely implemented throughout the industry. The NAHB Research Center, which serves as the secretariat of the standard as it progresses through ANSI, has certified the compliance of thousands of dwelling units and developed lots to the ICC 700. Dozens of regional and local green initiatives refer to the standard within their program criteria and the [International Green Construction Code](#) (IgCC) requires compliance with the ICC 700 if a jurisdiction chooses to regulate residential buildings four stories or less in height.

“ANSI’s approval of the 2012 ICC 700 National Green Building Standard reinforces the quality and transparency of the process used to develop this important standard for constructing green residential buildings across America,” said International Code Council Board President Ronald Piester and CEO Dominic Sims in a joint statement. “We are proud to develop the codes and standards that ICC and NAHB Members use to guide the construction of safe, sustainable and affordable homes, and provide an opportunity for ICC Members to play a vital role in this important undertaking.”

The new version of the standard includes several important changes including:

- **Energy Code Update:** While the original ICC 700 used the 2006 version of the International [Energy Conservation Code](#) (IECC) as a basis, the new version will use the 2009 IECC. The requirements of the 2009 IECC are estimated to result in energy efficient performance that is about 15 percent higher than the previous 2006 code.

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) |

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)



- **Restructured Scoring for Remodeling:** The new version completely revamped the scoring for renovations and remodeling projects. The revised standard includes two entirely new chapters devoted to existing building projects. The first provides criteria for entire buildings and includes requirements for improved energy and water efficiency that increases as higher levels of compliance are sought. The second provides a green protocol for the most common renovation and addition projects that focus on functional areas of a home such as a kitchen, bathroom, basement, or addition under 400 square feet.
- **Incentives for Development and Lot Design:** The 2012 ICC 700 includes the addition of a new scoring opportunity for those choosing the build lots in green communities. In the new version, six points can be earned in the Lot Design, Preparation and Development chapter for choosing lots in developments that have been certified to ICC 700 or an equivalent program. In the previous version of the standard no such incentives were provided.

On Wednesday, Jan. 23, “Green Day” at the International Builders’ Show in Las Vegas, NAHB and the ICC will release additional information on what changes the 2012 standard entails. Attendees of the show can hear the details during a press conference at 9:30 a.m. that day.

To order the standard from ICC, please visit www.iccsafe.org/700_2012_NR, or call 800-786-4452.

The [International Code Council](#) is a Member-focused association dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe and sustainable construction through the development of codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process. Most U.S. communities and many global markets [choose the International Codes](#).

Source: *International Code Council, January 14, 2013*

HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- Capstone Civil Group
- Dietz Engineers, Inc
- Erudite Engineers, Inc
- Grand Engineers, LLC
- Julieta Ceballos
- Moore Engineers, Inc
- Tomarco/ISAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2013
Strengthening the Weakest Link –
Designing Reliable Connections
for CFS Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

March 14, 2013
CFSEI Hawaii - Progressive
Collapse/Blast Resistant Design
of CFS Mid-Rise Buildings
Workshop
Honolulu, HI [More](#)

March 15, 2013
Deadline - 2013 CFSEI Awards
Program Entries [More](#)

May 6-7, 2013
CFSEI Expo
[More](#)

| [Top Main](#) | [Top Article](#) |



Brought to you quarterly by the Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) on the first Wednesday of February, June, September and December. Framework Online arms you with important news and commentary on the cold-formed steel (CFS) framing and construction industries.

[Unsubscribe](#)