

TOP STORIES

ICC Group B Cycle Slows the Pace of Changes, Moves Forward With New cdpAccess System

The International Code Council (ICC) completed its Group B code change cycle with final Public Comment Hearings in Atlantic City, NJ in October. [More](#)

SFA Updates Fire and Acoustics Guide

The Steel Framing Alliance (SFA), with support from the Steel Stud Manufacturers Association (SSMA), Steel Framing Industry Association (SFIA), and Canadian Sheet Steel Building Institute (CSSBI), has published an update to “A Guide to Fire and Acoustic Data for Cold-Formed Steel Floor, Wall and Roof Assemblies.” [More](#)

Expanding Your Green Building ABCs

Just when you thought you were on top of the green building “lingo” and had some comfort level and understanding of what “LCA” or “Life Cycle Assessment” mean, along come several new terms—including “EPD” and “HPD”—into the mix. [More](#)

COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE – NEWS AND UPDATES

CFSEI To Host Webinar On Specifying Cold-Formed Steel On December

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on “Specifying Cold-Formed Steel” on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. [More](#)

Beale Street Rolls Out Red Carpet for CFSEI EXPO 2014

BB King’s on Beale Street awaits the arrival of the CFSEI EXPO scheduled for May 19 and 20, 2014, in the Bluff City—Memphis, Tennessee. Packed with 15 educational seminars and a great opening night extravaganza, we are also working on an optional tour that will take place on Wednesday morning, May 21. [More](#)

Be a Presenter at CFSEI EXPO 2014

Have an interesting case study of a cold-formed steel (CFS) mid-rise project, or an innovative solution to a perplexing issue surround CFS? If you do, think about sharing it with others at CFSEI EXPO 2014 being held May 19 and 20 in Memphis, Tennessee. [More](#)

Webinar Series Set for 2014

The CFSEI Education Committee has announced the webinar schedule for the first half of 2014. [More](#)

HEADQUARTERS

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

NEW MEMBERS

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders’ Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

MARKETPLACE

Ohio Senators Propose LEED Ban Public Construction

It's looking like Ohio, a state long recognized as a pivotal political battle ground in national elections, may have a new legislative dust-up brewing after two state senators put forth a resolution in the state senate last week that seeks to ban the use of LEED in public construction. [More](#)

2 BC Mill Closures Predicted; More Closures to Follow

Recent B.C. Interior sawmill closures were anticipated and still more mill closures can be expected as a result of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Unprofitable sawmilling economics and shelf-life of 10+-year old dead trees (reducing sawlog supplies) the main reason for current and future sawmill closures. [More](#)

The Top 6 Markets for Multifamily

Everyone knows the "sexy six" markets are the big multifamily hot spots of investment and development. The large metro markets— New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Washington, D.C., and Seattle — are sound bets in 2014, but some are stronger than others, experts say. [More](#)

Homebuilding Material Prices Continue Upward Trend

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released the Producer Price Indexes (PPI) for October. Producer prices for finished goods declined by 0.2% in October following a 0.1% decline in September. Increases in core prices (excluding food and energy) of 0.2% and food prices of 0.8% were offset by a 1.5% decline in energy prices, pushing the overall index down. [More](#)

US construction spending grows 0.8 percent in October to highest level in 4 years

WASHINGTON (AP) -- U.S. developers boosted construction spending in October at the fastest pace in more than four years, propelled by a surge in government projects. But spending on home construction and commercial projects both fell. [More](#)

Steelwise Blast-Resistant Curtain Walls

Ever since the 1950s, steel stud construction has been extensively used in exterior building walls, as it provides an economical and architecturally flexible solution for exterior walls of steel-framed and other buildings. [More](#)

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

HEADQUARTERS

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

NEW MEMBERS

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



TOP STORIES

ICC Group B Cycle Slows the Pace of Changes, Moves Forward With New cdpAccess System

The International Code Council (ICC) completed its Group B code change cycle with final Public Comment Hearings in Atlantic City, NJ in October. The outcome is a 2015 IECC (International Energy Conservation Code) and IRC (International Residential Code) that reflect a refreshing slowdown in the pace of changes that occurred with the 2009 and 2012 codes.

In summary, the 2015 IRC and IECC were modified slightly with marginal improvements, compared to revolutionary changes in the previous two editions. With few exceptions, the ICC membership maintained the status quo on controversial issues like sprinklers and continuous insulation requirements that sparked heated debate at previous code hearings.

The Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) participated in the process in two ways. First, SFA monitored thousands of proposals and public comments to identify potential negative impacts on steel framing and provided testimony at the hearings. Second, the industry took a proactive approach and submitted proposals designed to better position cold-formed steel (CFS) in the codes. Many of these proposals were designed to mitigate the cost impact of continuous insulation requirements introduced in the 2009 and 2012 IECC.

ICC's Code Change Development Committee and membership were not willing to make major changes. However, the CFS industry will benefit from approved proposals that make it easier to comply with the IECC. Some of the highlights follow:

- International Residential Code (IRC) - SFA was successful in gaining approval for a joint SFA-Foam Sheathing Coalition proposal that provides prescriptive attachment for claddings to steel framing through up to four inches of continuous foam insulation. This follows an industry effort in 2012 to provide similar methods in the International Building Code. As a result, the CFS industry now has prescriptive solutions for these applications that are required by the IECC in both the residential and commercial codes. No such solutions are in the code for competing materials.
- International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) - SFA was successful in introducing a calculation method for the thermal performance of CFS walls that is considered the least conservative and most technically defensible method. With this method, correction factors are applied to an "isothermal planes" calculation typically used for CFS assemblies. This fills a void in the code that will limit application of methods that unnecessarily penalize CFS assemblies. It also brings consistency to the IECC and ASHRAE Standard 90.1, the building energy standard that is an alternative compliance path to the IECC.

...Continued next page | [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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

- Hot Box Test Results - The industry was also successful in modifying the language regarding use of hot box test results for energy code compliance. The CFS industry is involved in a multi-year program to test newer assemblies in recent editions of the IECC in order to provide solutions for compliance. The 2015 edition will broaden the use of these test results, allowing extrapolation to assemblies beyond those actually tested by adding or subtracting the R-value of components outside of the cavity (e.g., different levels of foam insulation). This will significantly reduce the need for future testing to cover all possible assembly variations.

Unfortunately, not all of SFA's proposals were approved. As mentioned above, the committee and membership were reluctant to "roll back" any requirements. Thus, one of the industry's major efforts to eliminate continuous insulation in the warmest climates (where it has little impact but a large cost) was not approved. SFA will continue to look for alternative approaches to address these types of issues, including: 1) seeking modifications in key state codes as the states adopt the 2015 ICC codes, and 2) providing guidance on how to effectively use trade-offs to deliver a high-performing building without the excessive costs incurred by following the IECC prescriptive methods.

The ICC process next moves to the Group C cycle that focuses on the International Green Construction Code (IgCC). The CFS industry is preparing proposals to improve the way steel is addressed in this evolving code. The proposals are due on January 10, 2014. The Group C cycle will be the first to include significant changes to the way that ICC develops codes.

As in past cycles, the IgCC process will include hearings before a development committee, a chance to submit public comments after the committee hearings, and a final hearing on the public comments. However, the ICC will also for the first time introduce remote voting for its membership. This is designed in part to address issues related to well-funded groups being overrepresented at the final hearings during the past few cycles.

It will also significantly increase the importance of the ICC's voting members from building departments around the country. This is part of a comprehensive approach to code development being launched by the ICC under a web-based system called cdpAccess.

For more information on ICC code activities related to CFS, contact Mark Nowak at mnowak@steel framing.org. Additional information on the ICC's cdpAccess system can be found at <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/cdpACCESS/Pages/default.aspx>.

- 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

TOP STORIES

SFA Updates Fire and Acoustics Guide

The Steel Framing Alliance (SFA), with support from the Steel Stud Manufacturers Association (SSMA), Steel Framing Industry Association (SFIA), and Canadian Sheet Steel Building Institute (CSSBI), has published an update to "A Guide to Fire and Acoustic Data for Cold-Formed Steel Floor, Wall and Roof Assemblies."

The guide provides an online searchable directory that allows users to browse the current, complete range of fire and sound-rated cold-formed steel assemblies for residential and light commercial construction as listed by Factory Mutual Global Research, Gypsum Association, Intertek Testing Services N.A. Inc., National Research Council of Canada, Underwriters Laboratories Inc., and Underwriters Laboratories of Canada. The information was compiled by the SFA and the Canadian Steel Construction Council (CSCC). The 2013 update includes an additional 105 assemblies.

The guide is available for free download at the SFA website at www.steel framing.org. For more information, please contact Maribeth Rizzuto at msrizzuto@aol.com

- 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

TOP STORIES

Expanding Your Green Building ABCs

Just when you thought you were on top of the green building “lingo” and had some comfort level and understanding of what “LCA” or “Life Cycle Assessment” mean, along come several new terms—including “EPD” and “HPD”—into the mix.

EPDs have been described as a “nutrition label” for construction products. They are developed from the results of manufacturers conducting a full-scale Life Cycle Assessment and describe the potential environmental impacts of a product across a selected list of environmental impact categories. The latest USGBC program—LEED V.4—will grant points for providing a product EPD.

In the simplest terms, the HPD (Health Product Declaration) is purposed to expose the potential human health impacts of products used in building construction. It attempts to provide a transparent path to divulging all of the ingredients used in products and the related health hazards.

While both terms remain voluntary, rest assured that they will become a standard path for compliance in the future. In some instances, project developers are already requesting them from product manufacturers. Stay tuned for more developments on EPDs and HPDs in the green building arena.

- 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)





CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

CFSEI To Host Webinar On Specifying Cold-Formed Steel On December

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on "Specifying Cold-Formed Steel" on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 3:00 PM Eastern Time. The webinar will cover best practices for writing and reviewing structural general notes and architectural specifications. It is designed for architects, engineers, building officials and contractors. Participants are eligible for 1.5 continuing education units.

Structural general notes and architectural specifications are often neglected until late in the design process. Outdated or erroneous general notes can be costly to the owner and time-consuming to the Engineer of Record.

This webinar will equip writers of general notes and specifications to: 1) quickly identify problems with outdated or improper specifications, 2) write specifications with little chance of misinterpretation, and 3) create easy-to-follow specifications that permit contractor innovation while ensuring code compliance and long-term serviceability.

Contractors or specialty designers who must comply with general notes and specifications will learn how to: 1) quickly find pitfalls in submitted specifications, 2) understand the questions to ask when bidding or building projects with specific specification language, and 3) win projects based on accurate bidding and fair interpretation of the specifications.

The webinar presenter is Don Allen, P.E., from DSI Engineering, who has been involved with thousands of cold-formed steel design projects and has written and interpreted specifications a broad range of clients. In his current position, he writes and interprets structural general notes and architectural specifications on a daily basis. Allen served as chairman of the Steel Stud Manufacturers Association committee tasked with providing steel industry advice on MASTERSPEC® and MASTERFORMAT®. He currently chairs the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) Committee on Framing Standards General Provisions Subcommittee and is Vice Chairman of the CFSEI Atlanta/Southeast Chapter. He was the 2013 recipient of the CFSEI Distinguished Service Award. More information on the webinar and registration details are available 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013
Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013
Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014
NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013



CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

Beale Street Rolls Out Red Carpet for CFSEI EXPO 2014

BB King's on Beale Street awaits the arrival of the CFSEI EXPO scheduled for May 19 and 20, 2014, in the Bluff City—Memphis, Tennessee. Packed with 15 educational seminars and a great opening night extravaganza, we are also working on an optional tour that will take place on Wednesday morning, May 21.

CFSEI Expos of years past have proven to be some of the best venues to gain valuable information about all that cold-formed steel has to offer the construction marketplace. Past attendees have always remarked on the quality of the educational programming mixed with the tremendous opportunities for meeting others new and old in the industry. The 2014 program will offer the same great benefits. Conference details will be posted soon on www.CFSEI.org.

So save the date and mark your calendars to attend this most worthwhile conference. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact Maribeth Rizzuto for more information at msrizzuto@aol.com.

- 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013



CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

Be a Presenter at CFSEI EXPO 2014

Have an interesting case study of a cold-formed steel (CFS) mid-rise project, or an innovative solution to a perplexing issue surround CFS? If you do, think about sharing it with others at CFSEI EXPO 2014 being held May 19 and 20 in Memphis, Tennessee.

The planning committee has a few presentation slots open and is seeking your proposals. EXPO presentations are typically one hour in length and registered for continuing education hours — as such, they may not contain any commercial/marketing information. If you are interested in submitting a presentation topic, please provide an abstract of no more than 50 words and include the presenter(s) name(s) and the company(ies) represented via email to conference@cfsei.org no later than Wednesday, December 18, 2013.

Presenters of abstracts that are selected will be notified during the first week of January 2014.

- 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013



CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

Webinar Series Set for 2014

The CFSEI Education Committee has announced the webinar schedule for the first half of 2014. The new year will start off with a presentation titled "Composite Floors" by Reinhold Schuester, Ph.D, in February; followed by "Blast-Resistant CFS Design" in April; and "CFS Floor: Fire, Acoustic and Vibration" in June. Committee Chairman Doug Fox of I-SPAN commented that next year's schedule will continue the excellent track record of providing timely educational opportunities on topical subjects in the cold-formed steel world. Registration information will be posted soon at www.cfsei.org.

If you are interested in developing and delivering a webinar for CFSEI, please contact webinar@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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

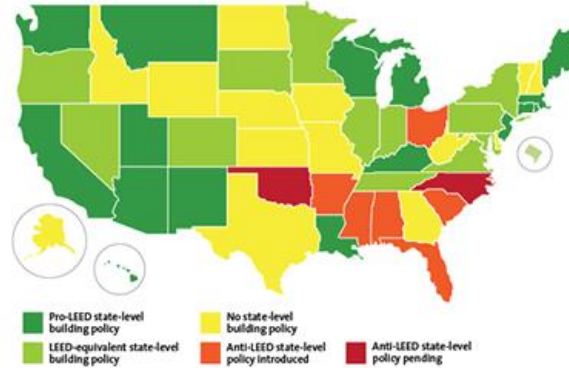
NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



MARKETPLACE

Ohio Senators Propose LEED Ban Public Construction

It's looking like Ohio, a state long recognized as a pivotal political battle ground in national elections, may have a new legislative dust-up brewing after two state senators put forth a resolution in the state senate last week that seeks to ban the use of LEED in public construction. Will the Buckeye state buck the nation's most visible building performance ratings system? While that's up for debate, we do know that we now have to change Ohio to orange in our map tracking the status of pro-LEED and anti-LEED state policies.



The bone Ohio Senators Joe Uecker, R-Loveland, and Tim Schaffer, R-Lancaster, have to pick with LEED is a now-familiar argument: that LEED does not follow American National Standards Institute (ANSI) consensus procedures and therefore should not be used as a rating system of record. However, unlike some other states that have moved to ban the use of LEED in public projects this year, which danced around specifically naming LEED, the Ohio resolution, SCR 25, takes on LEED v4 directly, asserting that LEED v4 should no longer be used by Ohio state agencies and government entities and that the state's Office of Energy Services begin an immediate review of alternative rating systems, codes, and standards.

From an observer's standpoint, it's beginning to look like a national game of whack-a-mole for USGBC, having tackled similar challenges in North Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. In the southern states, the battle seemed to be more about the use of timber in LEED, as the Atlantic Cities reported in August, asking "Why Are Some States Trying to Ban LEED Green Building Standards?" In Ohio, the point of contention—the use of ANSI processes—is the same position taken by the American High-Performance Buildings Council during the multiple rounds of debate over LEED v4, as well as during the review period by the U.S. General Services Administration over what rating system should be used by the federal government.

...Continued next page ... | [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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

One of the elements at play in the debate on LEED and its use, or lack thereof, of ANSI processes is the amount of transparency that is given into how LEED is modified and updated. However, in countering the rising anti-LEED legislation, supporters of the rating system contend that it's concern about a different sort of transparency that is driving such proposals. In an Op-Ed in Thursday's Columbus Dispatch, Tyler Steele, the chairman of the USGBC's Central Ohio chapter asserts that the Ohio senate resolution is the work of an out-of-state consortium of chemical companies that is "upset that the latest version of LEED would make occupants aware of the chemical ingredients within their building materials." This should sound familiar by now: It's the same chain of thought that led Skanska USA to resign its membership from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in July.

In gearing up its opposition to the proposed resolution, the Ohio green building community is framing the debate around one central argument: LEED works, a refrain the USGBC has adopted. Within this framework, the counterargument is focusing on green schools, since Ohio has the most LEED-certified schools in the country. In his Op-Ed, Steele notes that "since adopting LEED, Ohio's green schools have outperformed baseline energy performance by 34 percent, almost 200,000 tons of construction waste has been diverted from landfills and occupants report improved educational outcomes."

Search #LEEDworks and #greenschools on Twitter to tap into the campaign. In addition, a campaign has been set up at change.org by USGBC's advocacy team to petition Ohio Senate President Keith Faber to oppose SCR 25.

UPDATE: Despite legislative challenges, North Carolina and Florida continue to support LEED, as does Tennessee, which faced a similar political challenge, says USGBC director of technical policy Jeremy Sigmon. The challenge in Ohio, he notes, is "a single industry's attempt to tear down LEED when they disagree with one or two credits. Most industries innovate to contribute to LEED—the chemical industry is choosing to lobby." However, he notes, Ohio carries strong support for the rating system and revoking its use in public buildings would be "akin to California turning its back on green building leadership."

Source: *ECOBUILDING Pulse*, November 8, 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



MARKETPLACE

2 BC Mill Closures Predicted; More Closures to Follow

Editor's Note: This is an update to previous news releases that WOOD MARKETS has provided in relation to reduced timber harvests and sawmill/plywood production in the B.C. Interior as a result of the mountain pine beetle.

Recent B.C. Interior sawmill closures were anticipated and still more mill closures can be expected as a result of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Unprofitable sawmilling economics and shelf-life of 10+-year old dead trees (reducing sawlog supplies) the main reason for current and future sawmill closures.

The recent announcement by Canfor and West Fraser that there were both closing sawmills in the B.C. Interior seems to have caught many in the industry by surprise. While the timing of the announcement was slightly sooner than previously forecast by WOOD MARKETS, these closures should be of no surprise to subscribers of WOOD MARKETS' 2010 and 2012 Editions of the B.C Interior -Mountain Pine Beetle Attack: Impact & 20-Year Outlook reports.

As WOOD MARKETS and its strategic partners have forecast from the outset, and somewhat contrary to the recent quotes in the media, these two specific sawmill closure announcements are the most recent in a long list of predicted mill closures in the wake of the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic which exploded starting in the late 1990s in the BC Interior.

The authors of the two previous B.C. Interior 20-year outlook reports have been following the progression of the MPB since the very beginning and see that the latest two mill closures were consistent with our earliest predictions made in 2010. By understanding and modeling the economics of sawing dead mountain pine beetle logs and the shelf-life of dead timber, the outlook for the sawlog harvest and lumber production has been relatively predictable in the WOOD MARKETS reports. While the exact timing of mill closures is unknown and is tied to individual company strategies, as is the case with these two announced mill closures, there are more mill closures to come - as was originally forecast.

In WOOD MARKETS first press release on March 17, 2010 summarizing its first 20-year outlook report on the impact of the mountain pine beetle on the B.C. Interior lumber industry, one key outlook was tabled (and created some controversy at the time):

- "Sawlog shortages caused by the mountain pine beetle could trigger the permanent closure of about 16 large primary sawmills and/or plywood production facilities within the B.C. Interior by 2018 (with more to follow)."

...Continued next page ... | [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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

This forecast was predicated on a reduction in the sawlog supply that would occur as the economics of milling dead timber fell in response to the MPB epidemic. The loss of economic sawlogs was forecast to eliminate about 20% of the B.C. Interior sawlog supply. It was also assumed that remaining sawmills would have to operate at less than capacity in order to balance the remaining mid-term sawlog supply with sawmill demand.

Following the Canfor and West Fraser sawmill closure announcements, there are now 12 sawmills that have closed since our March 2010 prediction of 16 sawmill closures. And we see additional sawmills closing, especially in Cariboo region (Quesnel, William Lakes, and 100 Mile House) of the province where a sawlog shortage is becoming most acute. Given the obvious motivations of companies like Canfor and West Fraser to ensure that there are adequate sawlog supplies sufficient to operate their remaining mills at capacity through initiatives like strategic mill closures and timber tenure swaps, this trend suggests that our 2018 forecast of 16 sawmill closures may be conservative.

Since 2005, there have been 24 sawmills or veneer/plywood mills in the B.C. Interior that have closed or were not re-built (two of the sawmills destroyed by fire will be back in operation in 2014). Some of these closures were the result of the U.S. housing market and global financial crisis downturn, but all were directly related to MPB impact of reduced economic sawlog supplies occurring by the end of the current decade.

Other forecasts from that same March 2010 press release included the following (that also continue to be accurate):

- "After some expected gains in the lumber markets between 2010 and 2013, the B.C. Interior lumber industry will need to begin reducing production and/or closing mills, and this impact on the U.S. market will soon be profound."
- "...the B.C. Interior may be able to delay the inevitable, but peak sawlog availability and output is now forecast to occur within 3-5 years."

Source: [Wood Markets](#), November 05, 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



MARKETPLACE

The Top 6 Markets for Multifamily

Everyone knows the “sexy six” markets are the big multifamily hot spots of investment and development. The large metro markets— New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Washington, D.C., and Seattle — are sound bets in 2014, but some are stronger than others, experts say.

Greg Willett, Texas-based MPF Research's vice president of research and analysis, says Seattle is the strongest top market for 2014. Although the Seattle market has a lot of new product in the pipeline, he feels job growth will be able to support the uptick in development.

“I think, also, something that will come into play in the next couple of years as we are delivering a lot of new product in these markets is operational expertise,” he says. “These are places where traditionally the operators struggle to digest new product because they rarely have that experience but in Seattle, you occasionally get these bursts of new supply and they know what to do.”

While Seattle may look appealing to Willett, Alex Goldfarb ranks San Francisco as having the best outlook for the upcoming year.

Goldfarb, managing director of equity research of REITs for New York-based Sandler O'Neill + Partners, believes the technology market's growth is fueling the multifamily housing pressure as people move to the Bay Area for jobs.

“Companies have offices down the peninsula, so they're opening offices here and people need a place to live,” he says. “It's tough for tenants but great for landlords.”

But looking out five to 10 years into the future, Goldfarb expects the Sexy Six to become less appealing and lose some of their luster.

“In San Francisco—it's all tech fields,” he says. “But if you go to Texas, it's not just energy. It's all the different fields that are doing well.”

Dallas, Houston and Charlotte, N.C. may become the newer, sexier metropolitan areas of the future, Goldfarb says.

“I think the Sunbelt will emerge as a very healthy strong area,” he says.

Willett agreed and noted Houston is a strong contender for breaking into the top major multifamily markets in the near future.

“Maybe, at this point, what prevents it from being in that category is it's a lower priced market,” he says. “If your goal is deploy a lot of capital, you have to buy three properties in Houston for every one you would buy in San Francisco or New York.”

...Continued next page ... | [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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

Washington, D.C. Grows Homely

Pricing is also a major point of contention in the Washington, D.C. market. Both Willett and Goldfarb agree that the district will be the least sexy largest metro area in the upcoming year.

“D.C. is the most challenged just because of the new construction volume and how long it’s been going on and how sustained it looks like it’s going to be,” Willett says.

The outlook for the Washington, D.C. area next year is less than exciting as policy-makers continue to bicker on Capitol Hill and local government workers look unfavorably on job stability, industry experts say.

“One, you’ve got Washington dysfunction and two, you have a lot of supply coming up,” Goldfarb says. “That’s just going to weigh on rent growth.”

Source: SBC Magazine, November 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

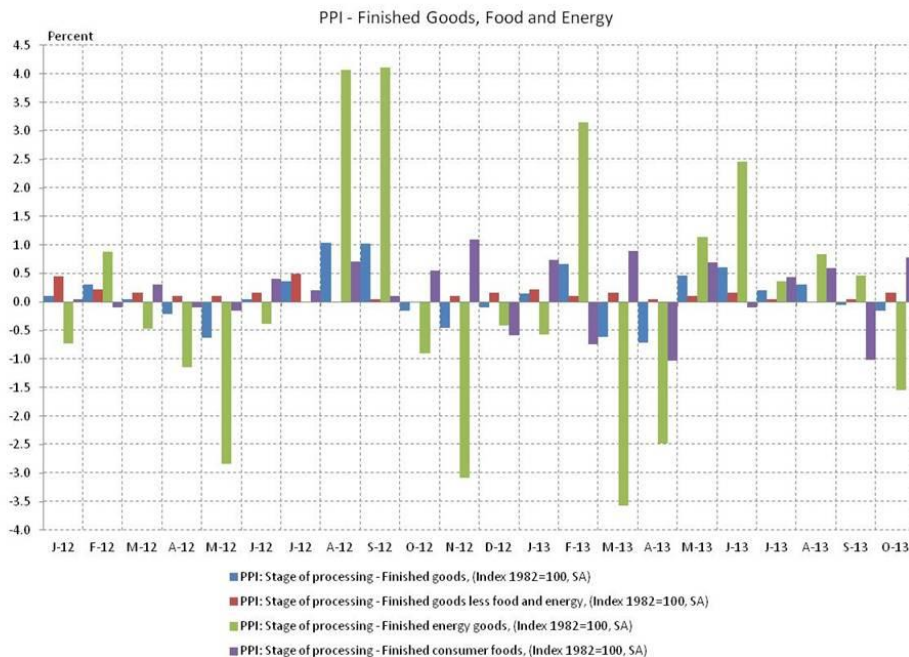
NAHB International Builders’ Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



MARKETPLACE

Homebuilding Material Prices Continue Upward Trend

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released the Producer Price Indexes (PPI) for October. Producer prices for finished goods declined by 0.2% in October following a 0.1% decline in September. Increases in core prices (excluding food and energy) of 0.2% and food prices of 0.8% were offset by a 1.5% decline in energy prices, pushing the overall index down.



Wood products prices edged up as the monthly PPIs are beginning to reflect increases in weekly measures. Gypsum prices declined modestly from a recent May peak but the outlook is for higher prices in 2014 given announced planned increases for 2014 from National Gypsum.

...Continued next page ... | [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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

HEADQUARTERS

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

NEW MEMBERS

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

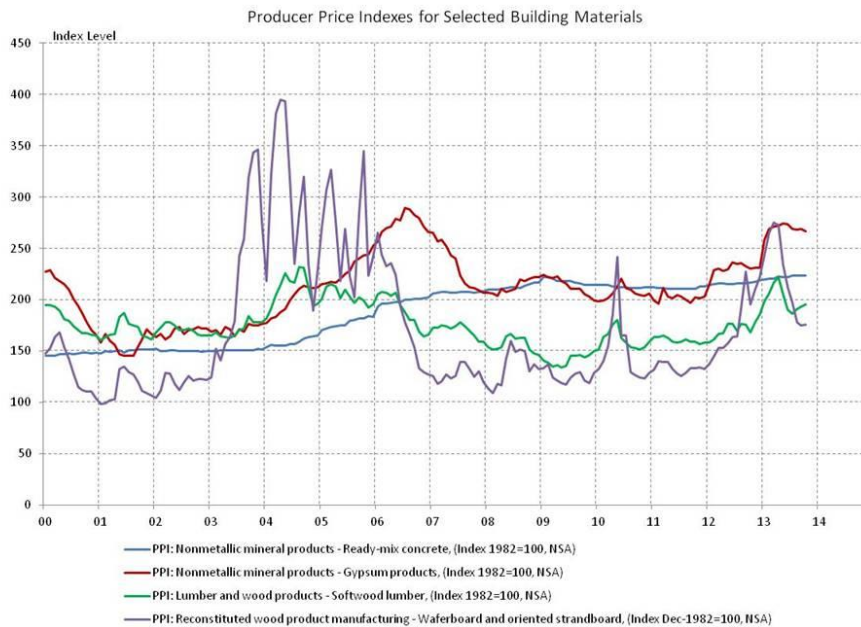
Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



Source: National Association of Home Builders, November 21, 2013

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



December 4, 2013

MARKETPLACE

US construction spending grows 0.8 percent in October to highest level in 4 years

WASHINGTON (AP) -- U.S. developers boosted construction spending in October at the fastest pace in more than four years, propelled by a surge in government projects. But spending on home construction and commercial projects both fell.

Overall construction spending increased 0.8 percent in October to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$908.4 billion, the Labor Department said Monday. That's up from September, when spending fell 0.3 percent.

The October pace was the best since May 2009 and was driven by a 3.9 percent surge in public spending. Federal spending increased 10.9 percent, suggesting the 16-day partial government shutdown had little impact on public projects.

Spending on state and local government construction also rose.

One troubling sign: Home construction fell 0.6 percent in October from September, dragged lower by a drop in single-family homes.

Still, spending on home construction has surged 17.8 percent in the past 12 months, the fastest year-over-year pace since the peak of the 2008 financial crisis. And a recent jump in permits to build apartments indicates that will continue.

Nonresidential spending fell 0.5 percent in October from September, lowered by declines in the building of private power plants, communication facilities and amusement parks and recreation centers. Construction of office buildings, hotels and private schools all increased.

The decline in home construction in October may prove temporary. Permits issued to build apartments increased in October at their fastest pace in more than five years. But permits for single-family home construction rose only slightly and were at the same pace as in May.

Single-family houses make up roughly two-thirds of the residential construction market. The pace of homebuilding has rebounded from the depths of the recession. But sales of new single-family homes have grown more slowly, and higher mortgage rates could slow them further.

Both the October and September figures were released Monday, after reporting was delayed due to shutdown in October. The government also said spending in August and July were less than initially reported.

...Continued next page ... | [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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

Mortgage rates are nearly a full percentage point higher than the spring. Rates rose in May when the Federal Reserve first signaled that it might slow its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases. But rates have moderated from recent highs after the Fed decided to keep its bond buying intact.

The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage was 4.29 percent, which is still close to historic lows.

Though new homes represent only a fraction of the housing market, they have an outsized impact on the economy. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in tax revenue, according to National Association of Home Builders.

Source: Associated Press, December 2, 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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



MARKETPLACE

Steelwise Blast-Resistant Curtain Walls

Ever since the 1950s, steel stud construction has been extensively used in exterior building walls, as it provides an economical and architecturally flexible solution for exterior walls of steel-framed and other buildings.

However, traditional cold-formed steel construction does not provide significant blast resistance, which limits its use for projects where this sort of criteria is required. The U.S. defense community (including the Department of Defense, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Design Center, U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory at Tyndall Air Force Base and University of Missouri-Columbia), interested in taking advantage of the relatively low cost of steel stud construction, has devoted considerable research effort and funds over the past two decades to both characterize and improve steel stud wall blast resistance. While attempts to improve this resistance were narrowly successful, they relied on robust end connections to enable the studs to develop their full tensile capacity—which unfortunately rendered the system costly and impractical.

Recently, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc. (SGH) undertook a research and development program to develop a cost-effective, steel-based solution for blast-resistant curtain walls. Managed by SCRA Applied R&D and funded jointly by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (now the Air Force Civil Engineering Center) at Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB), Fla., the program resulted in development of the SEB wall (steel stud wall with enhanced blast resistance), a composite steel-sheathed stud wall system that provides superior blast resistance at a low cost. The wall has the ability to resist extremely large impulsive blast pressures in a stable and ductile manner without generating debris that could penetrate the habitable space and cause injuries. It relies on the flexural capacity of the studs, Sure-Board sheathing (or its equivalent) and simple connection details for wall anchorage.

With a total construction cost of \$27 per sq. ft (including materials and labor and excluding architectural finishes), it provides approximately 30% in cost savings in comparison to other high-performance blast-mitigating wall systems, including reinforced concrete, reinforced masonry and precast/prestressed wall panels. Although the added mass in these other systems helps mitigate blast effects, these systems may be more susceptible to brittle failure and impart significantly larger loads to the supporting structure.

The high force demand can cause structural failures and possibly initiate progressive collapse. Conversely, the lighter SEB wall—designed to be ductile, redundant and have a predictable response—can in many cases provide a more economical solution.

We investigated the use of both mild and high-strength steels in the construction of SEB walls and found that both materials provide enhanced blast performance, while additional cost savings ranging anywhere from 15% to 70% can be obtained with high-strength steel.

...Continued next page ... | [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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

Increasing Resistance

The blast-resistance of conventional cold-formed walls is limited by buckling effects and lateral torsional instabilities. Special detailing incorporated into the design of the SEB wall and the use of the Sure-Board panels mitigates these problems. These special details (see Figure 1) include composite Sure-Board sheathing on both interior and exterior wall faces, effective lateral bracing solutions at strategic locations coinciding with stud utility holes, shear stiffeners at stud ends, improved track connections and continuous attachment between the different wall components using closely spaced mechanical fasteners or stitch welds. The connection of SEB walls to the supporting frame uses relatively simple details including full-depth washer plates and post-installation expansion anchor bolts. The resulting SEB wall designs prevent stud instabilities and premature failure modes and exhibit ductile flexural response, which is predicted with a high level of accuracy using both finite element models (see Figure 2) and simple single-degree-of-freedom formulations.

We successfully validated the SEB wall concept using field tests employing explosive levels equivalent to large vehicle bombs, approximately four times larger than those previously resisted by conventional stud walls. Our experimental program included numerous full-scale tests that helped identify and resolve system instabilities, premature failures and deficient connection details encountered in other experimental programs. Initial testing consisted of blast simulation tests using high-speed impact actuators at the Englekirk Facilities at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) under the direction of Dr. Gilbert Hegemier. We conducted seven full-scale stud wall specimen tests under single and multiple actuator impulsive impacts. This program focused on development of connection details and finite element model calibration.

The experimental program's second phase consisted of five live explosive tests of full-scale stud walls at Tyndall AFB. These field tests simulated vehicle bombs and validated the system for secondary support of unreinforced masonry and standalone construction. The field tests also identified sheathing limit states under direct pressures and additional detailing measures required to ensure wall stability.

Finally, we performed several quasi-static load tree tests at Tyndall AFB to validate the stud wall analytical resistance functions under uniform loads. In this test setup, a total of 16 point lateral loads were applied to a stud wall segment using steel cylinders.

In all of these full-scale tests we achieved survivable levels of interior pressures and protection against flying debris under stable and predictable wall flexural resistance. The resulting system provides an economical and practical solution resisting large, never-before-achieved blast resistance without the need to fully develop tension membrane resistance.

...Continued next page | [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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013

Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014

NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)



December 4, 2013

In Use

System application of the SEB wall includes use as a backing for unreinforced or lightly reinforced masonry cladding, as well as stand-alone construction under direct blast pressures. Government, military, commercial and industrial facilities can all be protected from external air-blast explosions using single- or multiple-story SEB wall panels. The system can also be effective for the construction of interior walls subjected to limited pressure build-up. The SEB wall can be installed on-site or prefabricated and transported, which allows its use for expeditionary military applications as well as domestic bases. The practical and easy installation procedure, as well as the potential removal of the blast walls, is feasible, allowing the potential for modular construction and reuse; the system allows general contractors and their curtain wall fabricators the flexibility of attaching the wall components either by welding or mechanical fasteners such as self-drilling, self-tapping screws.

Since the SEB wall has only been validated to date for nonload-bearing applications, our ongoing research and development efforts include extensive analytical and experimental studies for the characterization and development of load-bearing stud wall capabilities. This effort is sponsored by the Air Force Civil Engineering Center at Tyndall AFB, where both quasi-static and full-scale field tests will be carried out. A joint venture called HWH Protective Structures has recently completed a series of validation tests of blast-resistant modules (BRMs) constructed using the SEB wall concept. SGH has designed these modules to resist high blast levels for military expeditionary applications and petrochemical facilities under terrorist, insurgency or vapor cloud explosion threats.

This façade system can be used with steel framing designed as described in AISC Design Guide No. 26 Design of Blast Resistant Structures (see p. 46 for more on this guide) to provide buildings with increased blast and progressive collapse resistance.

This work was sponsored by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory under Cooperative Agreement DAAD19-03-2-0036 and managed by the Advanced Technology Institute dba SCRA Applied R&D. Additional funding and technical support were provided by the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., for execution of field and quasi-static tests. Any opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the funding agencies.

Ady Aviram, P.E., Ph.D., is a senior staff engineer, Ronald L. Mayes, Ph.D., is a senior consultant and Ronald O. Hamburger, S.E., is a senior principal and Western Regional Manager for Structural Engineering Operations, all with Simpson Gumpertz and Heger.

Source: *Modern Steel Construction*, November 2013

| [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

- California Drywall Co.
- CF Steel LLC
- City of Sunnyvale
- Crafton Tull and Associates
- Geiger Engineers
- IconTech Consulting & Construction
- Innovative Design and Engineering Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Engineering Inc.
- LBB
- Lite Structures Inc.
- Santhosh Ganesan
- Sigma Can Engineering
- Wanyong Tuo

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2013
Cold-Formed Steel Related ASTM Standards Webinar
3:00 p.m. Eastern [More](#)

December 10, 2013
Cold-Formed Steel Holiday Mixer
Atlanta, GA [More](#)

February 4-6, 2014
NAHB International Builders' Show
Las Vegas, NV
[More](#)

