

TOP STORIES

Back to School! STUD University Returns to METALCON on October 13

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[Assemblies](#) ([click here](#) for article). [More](#)

COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE – NEWS AND UPDATES

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Topic Suggestions Needed for 2016 CFSEI Webinar Series

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CFSEI to Host Webinar on Cold-Formed Steel Lateral Systems on October 22, 2015

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on “Cold-Formed Steel Lateral Systems” on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. EDT. It is designed for architects, engineers, building officials and contractors. Participants are eligible for 1.5 PDHs. [More](#)

New Technical Note on Load Path Considerations is Published

A new Technical Note, “Chase the Loads: Load Path Considerations for Cold-Formed Steel Light-Frame Construction” (Tech Note G200-15), has been published and is available free of charge to CFSEI members at www.cfsei.org. [More](#)

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ATC, MBMA, and AISI Announce a Time-Saving Benefit that Will Improve Accuracy for Engineers: ATC Ground Snow Load Website Now Available

The Applied Technology Council (ATC), with assistance from the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) and the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), has developed a website which provides a way for users to easily obtain an ASCE 7 site-specific ground snow load based on GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude) or a street address. [More](#)

SMDI Announces Launch of New Website Dedicated to Using Steel for Building Construction

The Steel Market Development Institute (SMDI), a business unit of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), has launched a new website that focuses on using steel for building construction. [More](#)

July 2015 Construction at \$1,083.4 Billion Annual Rate

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during July 2015 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,083.4 billion, 0.7 percent ($\pm 1.5\%$)* above the revised June estimate of \$1,075.9 billion. [More](#)

Lumber Industry Seeks Taller Buildings at ICC Public Comment Hearings - Concrete and Steel Seek Restrictions in Response to Increasing Number of Fires in Mid-rise Wood Buildings

The International Code Council (ICC) membership will convene in Long Beach, CA from September 30 through October 5, 2015 for hearings on public comments submitted in response to actions taken during initial hearings held last spring. [More](#)

Strong Conditions Persist for Architecture Billings Index

The Architecture Billings Index (ABI) is reflecting healthy and sustained demand for design services in nearly all nonresidential project types. [More](#)

The First All-Wood High-Rise Buildings Are Going Up In The United States

In New York and Portland, two high-rise buildings will be made not from concrete or metal, but a throwback material: good old trees. [More](#)

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METALCON International is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year in Tampa, Florida, and is kicking off the program on October 13 with a two-day STUD University workshop. Designed for construction professionals of all experience levels, STUD U. is an interactive workshop covering all the basics of cold-formed steel framing and the latest techniques in design and practical application. It includes classroom and hands-on sessions on the METALCON showroom floor, so participants immediately put their learning into practice. The program is easy to understand and designed to take the mystery out of each aspect of specifying, designing, installing and inspecting cold-formed steel structures. It answers questions such as:

- What is the right thickness?
- What types and quantity of fasteners should be used?
- What are the most efficient tools?
- What are the correct installation practices to pass the most rigorous inspection?

Architects, builders and contractors, engineers, building inspectors and building trade instructors will all benefit from this program.

STUD University is taught by the experienced teaching team of Danny Feazell, President of Premium Steel Building Systems; Nader Elhadj, Director of Business Development for FrameCad Solutions; and Maribeth Rizzuto, LEED-AP BD+C, Managing Director of the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute and Director of Education and Sustainable Construction for the Steel Framing Alliance. The team has a combined 65 years of experience in the cold-formed steel framing industry and has conducted several STUD U. programs at METALCON.

STUD University takes place on Tuesday, October 13 from 8 am to 5 pm and on Wednesday, October 14 from 8 am to 5 pm. To learn more about the STUD U. program and to register, visit www.METALCON.com.

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The June 2015 issue of *Framework Online* included an update on the Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) *Guide to Fire and Acoustic Data for Steel Floor, Wall and Roof Assemblies* ([click here](#) for article). The update will include new floor, wall (non-load and load-bearing) and roof assemblies. SFA is looking for members to submit their own assemblies to be reviewed and included in the update, which is scheduled to be published by the end of this year.

Submissions, suggestions for deletions, and comments can be uploaded online [here](#) or forwarded to George Frater at gfrater@steel.org. For more information, please contact Maribeth Rizzuto at mrizzuto@steel.org.

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CFSEI Installs New Executive Committee

New leadership has been installed at CFSEI. The newly elected 2015-2016 Executive Committee includes:

- Chairperson - Jennifer Zabik, P.E., S.E., President – Zabik-Turner Engineering
- Immediate Past Chairperson (non-voting) – Rahim Zadeh, P.E., Principal – RAZ TECH, Inc.
- Vice Chairperson – Robert Warr, P.E. – Dsi Engineering
- Committee Members:
 - Douglas Fox, P. Eng. – Engineering Manager – TotalJoist by iSPAN Systems
 - Dennis Fagent, S.E., Principal – ZFA Structural Engineers
 - Georgi Hall – Director of Engineering, California Expanded Metals Products, Co. (CEMCO)
 - Cristopher D. Moen, Ph.D., P.E., Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Tech
 - Brandon Wahl, P.E., Associate 360 Engineering Group

The committee has hit the ground running, already charting the CFSEI course for the remainder of 2015 and 2016. If you would like to learn more about becoming active in CFSEI, please contact us at info@cfsei.org.

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Topic Suggestions Needed for 2016 CFSEI Webinar Series

The 2015 CFSEI Webinar series has been a great success, providing more than 6,850 hours of continuing education on cold-formed steel framing to engineers, architects and other interested parties. Evaluations of the program have exceeded all expectations, and participants are clamoring for more.

CFSEI's Education Committee is hard at work planning the 2016 series of CFSEI Webinars, and they are asking for CFSEI member input. To submit suggestions for interesting topics or to sign up to be a presenter, please [click here](#) to complete the survey.

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CFSEI to Host Webinar on Cold-Formed Steel Lateral Systems on October 22, 2015

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on “Cold-Formed Steel Lateral Systems” on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. EDT. It is designed for architects, engineers, building officials and contractors. Participants are eligible for 1.5 PDHs.

The webinar will cover common inquiries regarding cold-formed steel framed seismic force-resisting systems, including: 1) floor framing systems, 2) overturning restraint options, 3) wall stud bracing design, 4) use of the overstrength factor, Ω_o , and 5) anchorage of the overturning restraint system to concrete. Examples from the “Cold-Formed Steel Framed Wood or Steel Sheathed Shear Wall Assemblies Design Guide” published by the Steel Framing Alliance will be utilized.

Jeff Ellis, P.E., S.E., Director of Codes and Standards for Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc. will conduct the webinar. Ellis manages the company's involvement in codes and standards, is involved in research and development, and provides support for existing product lines, including technical guidance for connectors, fastening systems and lateral force-resisting systems. He was a practicing design engineer for commercial, residential and forensic projects for more than nine years prior to joining Simpson Strong-Tie. Ellis currently serves as President-Elect for the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California (SEAOSC) and as a member of the International Code Council Evaluation Board of Managers. He served two years as chairman of the SEAOSC Buildings At Risk Summit Committee, three years as chairman of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) Committee on Framing Standards Lateral Design Subcommittee, three years on the CFSEI Board of Directors, and one year as CFSEI president.

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New Technical Note on Load Path Considerations is Published

A new Technical Note, "Chase the Loads: Load Path Considerations for Cold-Formed Steel Light-Frame Construction" (Tech Note G200-15), has been published and is available free of charge to CFSEI members at www.cfsei.org. "Chase the Loads" provides insights into the complex vertical and lateral load path considerations for cold-formed steel framing, including the structural configuration and system effects that can result in load sharing, partial composite action, influence of assumed non-load bearing partition walls, and a redistribution of forces.

Additionally, "Design for Splicing of Cold-Formed Steel Wall Studs" (Tech Note W106-15a) Technical Note has been updated to incorporate necessary changes to some of the calculations published in the original document. It covers design methods for the splicing of two cold-formed steel studs in a curtain wall or interior nonstructural wall condition, and replaces "Design for Splicing of Cold-Formed Steel Wall Studs" (Tech Note W106-15).

These Technical Notes are the latest in CFSEI's continuing series of instructional documents on topics related to cold-formed steel framing for commercial and residential construction. They are available free of charge to CFSEI members at www.cfsei.org. Non-members can purchase them at the [AISI Steel Store](http://www.aisi.com). For more information on joining CFSEI, visit www.cfsei.org.

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MARKETPLACE

ATC, MBMA, and AISI Announce a Time-Saving Benefit that Will Improve Accuracy for Engineers: ATC Ground Snow Load Website Now Available

REDWOOD CITY, CA - The Applied Technology Council (ATC), with assistance from the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) and the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), has developed a website which provides a way for users to easily obtain an ASCE 7 site-specific ground snow load based on GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude) or a street address.

This website overcomes the challenges in using the snow load map printed in ASCE 7, Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures. These challenges include insufficient spatial resolution of the map to determine some site-specific ground snow loads and the lack of reference cities or towns on the map.

On this website, users can obtain values from the ground snow load map printed in ASCE 7-95 through ASCE 7-10 (1995, 1998, 2002, 2005 and 2010). Ground snow load is used with the equations provided in ASCE 7 to determine design snow loads for buildings and other structures.

The ground snow load site is now available for use free of charge at snowload.atcouncil.org. The site is a companion to ATC's Windspeed by Location website where users can obtain ASCE 7 site-specific wind speeds from ASCE 7-93 through ASCE 7-10.

The Applied Technology Council (ATC) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation established in 1973 through the efforts of the Structural Engineers Association of California. ATC's mission is to develop and promote state-of-the-art, user-friendly engineering resources and applications for use in mitigating the effects of natural and other hazards on the built environment. ATC also identifies and encourages needed research and develops consensus opinions on structural engineering issues in a nonproprietary format. ATC thereby fulfills a unique role in funded information transfer.

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For more information, visit <https://www.atcouncil.org/>

Founded in 1956, the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) serves manufacturers and suppliers as it works to promote the metal building systems industry. Its membership represents more than \$2.4 billion in annual sales and accounts for approximately 52% of the total non-residential low-rise construction market in the United States. The association provides a wealth of technical information on its website, www.mbma.com, for anyone who works with or is interested in metal building systems, and publishes numerous technical manuals and design guides.

AISI serves as the voice of the North American steel industry in the public policy arena and advances the case for steel in the marketplace as the preferred material of choice. AISI also plays a lead role in the development and application of new steels and steelmaking technology. AISI is comprised of 19 member companies, including integrated and electric furnace steelmakers, and approximately 125 associate members who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry. For more news about steel and its applications, view AISI's website at www.steel.org.

Source: American Iron and Steel Institute, September 29, 2015

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SMDI Announces Launch of New Website Dedicated to Using Steel for Building Construction

The Steel Market Development Institute (SMDI), a business unit of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), has launched a new website that focuses on using steel for building construction. The new site, located at www.buildusingsteel.org, provides information for engineers, architects, owners, building contractors, code officials and other construction professionals; allows easy access to design resources; directs users to additional steel construction associations with information on cold-formed steel framing, structural steel framing, steel deck, steel joists, metal building systems, and metal roof and wall systems; and provides a tool for users to contact cold-formed steel framing professionals with individual project questions.

“The new website evolved in response to requests from users of www.smdisteel.org for general and technical information focused on building construction,” said Robert J. Wills, P.E., Vice President, Construction Market Development, SMDI. “We also wanted to provide a platform where building professionals could quickly find technical information on a variety of steel construction products from our partner associations.” Wills said that information for other SMDI construction programs such as steel bridges, utility poles and pipe/tank markets is still located at www.smdisteel.org.

The new website, www.buildusingsteel.org, includes these categories:

- About Our Program - Includes information on proposals and positions to advance the steel industry in the construction marketplace under the principles of fairness, transparency and performance; introduces AISI staff and steel construction partners; and provides updated industry news.

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- Why Choose Steel – Explores key benefits of steel including durability, strength/resilience, fire safety, product transparency, sustainability, energy efficiency, economic value, and adaptability and reuse.
- Build Using Steel – Provides quick access to information related to cold-formed steel framing, structural steel framing, metal building systems, steel joists, steel deck, and metal roof and wall systems. It also provides links to the steel associations representing these products and their design guides/manuals/aids, research, webinar /seminar schedules and case studies.
- AISI Design Resources – The library of AISI design resources is included here, with information on design guides/manuals/aids and standards, errata, research reports, papers and articles and a publications archive. The Ask an Expert section is included for users to receive personalized responses to their cold-formed steel framing project inquiries.
- Contact Us – Provides access to the Ask an Expert section.

Links to the AISI Steel Store, a steel construction industry calendar, and tweets from the SMDI Twitter account @buildusingsteel are also included. For more information, visit www.buildusingsteel.org.

Source: Steel Market Development Institute, September 23, 2015

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MARKETPLACE

July 2015 Construction at \$1,083.4 Billion Annual Rate

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during July 2015 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,083.4 billion, 0.7 percent ($\pm 1.5\%$)* above the revised June estimate of \$1,075.9 billion. The July figure is 13.7 percent ($\pm 2.0\%$) above the July 2014 estimate of \$952.5 billion.

During the first 7 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$583.2 billion, 9.3 percent ($\pm 1.5\%$) above the \$533.7 billion for the same period in 2014.

Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$787.8 billion, 1.3 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) above the revised June estimate of \$777.4 billion.

Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$380.8 billion in July, 1.1 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised June estimate of \$376.6 billion.

Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$407.0 billion in July, 1.5 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) above the revised June estimate of \$400.8 billion.

Public Construction

In July, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$295.6 billion, 1.0 percent ($\pm 2.6\%$)* below the revised June estimate of \$298.5 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$66.4 billion, 3.0 percent ($\pm 3.5\%$)* below the revised June estimate of \$68.4 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$90.3 billion, 0.2 percent ($\pm 6.6\%$)* below the revised June estimate of \$90.5 billion.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, September 1, 2015

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MARKETPLACE

Lumber Industry Seeks Taller Buildings at ICC Public Comment Hearings-- Concrete and Steel Seek Restrictions in Response to Increasing Number of Fires in Mid-rise Wood Buildings

The International Code Council (ICC) membership will convene in Long Beach, CA from September 30 through October 5, 2015 for hearings on public comments submitted in response to actions taken during initial hearings held last spring. The Public Comment Hearings are the last opportunity for manufacturers, associations, and individuals who are not government voting members of the ICC to provide input on proposed changes that will lead to the publication of the 2018 International Building Code. Multiple steel industry groups, including the Steel Framing Alliance and AISI, will be in attendance to support the CFS industry and steel in general.

Of particular concern to the steel industry are proposals from wood-industry interests to arbitrarily reduce requirements throughout the IBC related to allowable building heights and other fire-safety requirements to allow combustible construction at heights prohibited for decades in building codes. The taller wood building being proposed are also of concern to the concrete and masonry industries, as well as fire fighters and code officials due to frequent number of fires in mid-rise buildings constructed of wood over the past few years.

One proposal that was rejected by the code development committee during the spring hearings is G165-15. This proposal would allow wood framing up to 9 stories. The steel industry will be joined by the concrete and masonry industries to testify in opposition to G165-15.

The fires occurring in wood framed buildings have mostly been in buildings under construction. However, the combustible framing has resulted in spectacular fires that have damaged adjacent properties, taxed fire-fighting capabilities, and even forced closure of interstates and other major roadways during peak rush hour.

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In response, SFA has been working closely with like-minded organizations on this subject to develop proposals and public comments that will help to reduce the risk of fires in mid-rise buildings that have combustible construction. Multiple public comments will be heard at the long beach hearings to require better protection of wood buildings that use sprinklers and podium construction to justify additional building stories and heights. Proposals include requirements for 24 hour fire watch and security, increased set-backs to protect adjacent properties, and improved access for fire fighters.

The Public Comment hearing are open to the public for input. However, only government members of the ICC can vote at the hearings. The hearings will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Additional information on the hearings is available from the ICC at <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/icconference/284335/>.

Source: Steel Framing Alliance

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Strong Conditions Persist for Architecture Billings Index

Washington, D.C. – August 19, 2015 – The Architecture Billings Index (ABI) is reflecting healthy and sustained demand for design services in nearly all nonresidential project types. As a leading economic indicator of construction activity, the ABI reflects the approximate nine to twelve month lead time between architecture billings and construction spending. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) reported the July ABI score was 54.7, down a point from a mark of 55.7 in June. This score still reflects an increase in design services (any score above 50 indicates an increase in billings). The new projects inquiry index was 63.7, up slightly from a reading of 63.4 the previous month.

“On top of what has been a flurry of design activity in recent months, some architects are reporting a break in the logjam created by clients placing projects on hold for indefinite periods, which bodes well for business conditions in the months ahead,” said AIA Chief Economist Kermit Baker, Hon. AIA, PhD. “There is some uneasiness in the design community that rapid growth in construction costs could escalate beyond development capital and municipal budgets, which could trigger some contraction in the marketplace down the road.”

Key July ABI highlights:

- Regional averages: Midwest (58.2), South (55.7), West (53.8) Northeast (53.5)
- Sector index breakdown: institutional (57.3), mixed practice (56.8), commercial / industrial (53.4) multi-family residential (49.8)
- Project inquiries index: 63.7
- Design contracts index: 54.5

The regional and sector categories are calculated as a 3-month moving average, whereas the national index, design contracts and inquiries are monthly numbers.

Source: The American Institute of Architects, August 19, 2015

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MARKETPLACE

The First All-Wood High-Rise Buildings Are Going Up In The United States

In New York and Portland, two high-rise buildings will be made not from concrete or metal, but a throwback material: good old trees.

It seems as if New York City is always under construction. Every few blocks, steel frames and concrete beams are formed and stacked high in the air. Now a new 10-story building in Manhattan is planned that will be unlike any other in the U.S: It will be made almost entirely from wood.

Wood is an old building material that has been getting a new life in taller buildings over the last five years. Around the world, 17 wood buildings have been built that are between seven and 15 stories tall—many of them in Europe. A record-high 35-story wood building is in the planning stages in Paris. But the U.S. has been slow to start exploring the recent advancements in wood materials that have made these taller buildings possible. None exist here today.

Last year, in partnership with the lumber industry, the Department of Agriculture announced a \$3 million prize intended to spur tall wood building designs in the U.S.. Today, it announced two winners that will split the money: The 10-story residential condo, slated for Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, and a 12-story retail, office, and apartment building in Portland, Oregon.

In the interest of creating rural jobs, the Agriculture Department has a stake in promoting wood, as does the lumber industry—which has struggled since the housing crisis. But there can also be major sustainability benefits to wood as a building material.

"As cities are growing, they're using a tremendous amount of concrete and steel, and the problem with that is that concrete and steel have a very big carbon footprint," says Vishaan Chakrabarti, a principal at SHoP Architects, which designed the New York City project.

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In manufacturing and construction, wood generally has a lower carbon footprint than other common building materials. In addition, the wood itself stores extra carbon (at least in the U.S., where logging regulations are strict and trees are farmed, not deforested). Diseased wood from western U.S. forests afflicted by pests such as mountain pine beetle can even be used in newer advanced wood products. Normally, this dead wood adds to the fire risk when left in place.

Building taller and larger structures with wood has only become possible in recent years, as the industry has created denser, engineered wood products that are more flexible, stronger, and more fire resistant than the traditional two-by-four beam. But current U.S. building codes generally allow wood buildings to be only six stories or less, and regulators and designers are naturally wary of trying new methods. The goal of the competition is to demonstrate it can be done.

"If you think about traveling through New York City and seeing buildings being made from steel and concrete, and all of the sudden in the middle of all this, you see this new wood constructed building—it's going to catch your attention. I think it's going to create some real interest," says U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

There are other benefits to using wood. Major building parts are prefabricated, so disruptive construction time can be up to half that of a typical building (construction noise and traffic disruption is a huge nuisance in many cities). They are also more energy efficient because of tighter fittings and can cost less.

The structural elements of the New York City project will all be made from wood, with the exception of concrete used for the floors (but not for the ceilings). Wood will also comprise the walls and many interior elements as well. The building will have to undergo a special review by the New York City Department of Buildings, but the architects say it will meet all existing building codes. The city has issued a general letter of support for the project, and if the review goes well, construction could go forward next year.

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In Oregon, Vilsack says the prototype project will help demonstrate potential demand for the first U.S. manufacturing facility for cross laminated timber, a stronger wood material that is required for these taller buildings. The Department estimates that if "next-generation wood products" can penetrate 15% of the non-residential North American market, it could create up to 85,000 jobs in struggling rural communities.

"There's really an unlimited opportunity here for creativity and imagination to redefine cityscapes and to redefine the role that wood can play," says Vilsack.

Source: *Fast Company's Co.Exist*, September 17, 2015

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