

For Immediate Release

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AISI Announces New Leadership for Lateral Design Standards Development Effort

Washington, D.C., Oct. 13, 2005 – The American Iron and Steel Institute announced today that the Committee on Framing Standards has appointed Jeff R. Ellis, branch engineer for Simpson Strong-Tie, to serve as chair of the Lateral Design Task Group. Jeff replaces Harry W. (Hank) Martin, senior regional director of AISI Construction Codes and Standards, who served as chairman of the Lateral Design Task Group since its inception in 2002.

Under Hank Martin's leadership, the AISI Lateral Design Task Group developed the ANSI-approved AISI *Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Lateral Design*. The *Lateral Design* standard addresses general design requirements for walls and diaphragms that provide lateral support to a building structure. This standard addresses design requirements for shear walls (Type 1 – segmented; and Type 2 - perforated), diagonal strap bracing (that is part of a structural wall), wall anchorage, and diaphragms. Formerly, these requirements were scattered among various building code provisions, design guides, technical notes and research reports. This document pulls them together into one document that is recognized by the building codes.

Under Jeff Ellis' leadership, the COFS Lateral Design Task Group will be working toward developing the next edition of the *Lateral Design* standard, which will be published in 2007. Jeff Ellis has over 14 years of engineering experience, which includes structural analysis, design, coordination, forensic engineering, site observation, and project management.

“Jeff's combination of technical knowledge and leadership ability will serve him and our industry well in this important capacity,” said Jay W. Larson, AISI director of construction standards development.

The AISI Committee on Framing Standards is an ANSI-accredited, consensus standards body that develops, maintains and improves AISI design and installation standards with the purpose of eliminating regulatory barriers and increasing the reliability and cost competitiveness of cold-formed steel framing.

The 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 32 member companies, including integrated and electric furnace steelmakers, and 118 associate and affiliate members who are suppliers to its customers of the steel industry. AISI's member companies represent approximately 75 percent of both U.S. and North American steel capacity. For more news about steel and its applications, view AISI's Web site at www.steel.org.

The Steel Framing Alliance (www.steelframingalliance.com) is an association of more than 1300 companies, organizations and individuals with the mission of enabling the widespread use of steel framing in residential and commercial construction. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., SFA provides education, publications, technical support, research and development, and market development programs to companies representing the full spectrum of manufacturing, construction, design, distribution and professional services.