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Ordering Steel vs. Design Yield

At its July 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2003 meetings that were held in Myrtle Beach, SC, the AISI Committee on Specifications approved the following interpretation (for use within the United States) of the North American Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members:

Re: Request for Specification Interpretation dated November 12, 2001

Your request for interpretation on the use of design yield points has been referred to the Committee on Specifications for review and the following interpretations have been rendered for each scenario you presented:

Your Question:

Scenario One

Steel is ordered, presumably to an ASTM Specification, Grade 55. Since the steel routinely is delivered, and documented with a Mill Test Report, at 57 ksi, the manufacturer uses 57 ksi in their designs.

Scenario Two

Scenario two was withdrawn at the February 21, 2003 COS meeting.

Committee's Responses:

Scenario One Interpretation

It is not proper to use Mill Test Reports to establish the

yield point used for design. The yield point used should be one defined by a Grade designation in the applicable ASTM Standard.

Justification

The Mill Test Report is provided by the producer as "representative" of the steel in the tested heat. The producer cannot and will not guarantee that all parts produced from that heat will have yields as high as the value in the Mill Test Report. The user can only depend on all parts produced from the heat meeting the minimum specified yield point in the grade defined in the Standard.

We trust that the preceding responses adequately address your concerns. If not, please be advised that you have the right to appeal in accordance with Section 8 of the Procedure for the Organization and Operation of the AISI Committee on Specifications for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members.

This interpretation has been processed by AISI Committee on Specifications for use within the United States.

Sincerely,
Helen H. Chen, Ph. D., P.E.
Secretary, Committee on Specifications
American Iron and Steel Institute

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