

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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STCA Update

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Design Responsibilities by STCA Staff

Marketing in the steel truss and component industry requires a unique understanding of the variety of attributes and expectations unique to the primary markets that steel components are serving, which are typically commercial construction markets. For instance:

- Commercial contracts often require that all the temporary and permanent bracing be provided.
- Commercial contracts often require product installation so collaboration is needed to be successful.

Because the market is so immature, the party undertaking the contracting process often gets bids for a project that does not include all the items needed to complete the project successfully. This means the specification process and a definition of exactly what is and what is not included in the bid or contract becomes critical to success for all involved in the project.

To provide some assistance in this critical area of responsibilities, STCA has just recently created a new document entitled Standard Practice and Recommended Guidelines on Responsibilities for Construction Using Cold-formed Steel Trusses and Components—STCA 1. The following is the introduction (1.0) to the document.

The intent of this document is to publish a guideline involving responsibilities associated with the use of pre-engineered cold-formed steel trusses and components (steel components) in construction.

The purpose of this document (Standard) is to: (a) define as a Standard the usual duties and responsibilities of the Steel Components Manufacturer (Component Manufacturer) and Steel Components Designer (Component Designer) for the benefit of the Owner, Building Designer and Contractor (referred to as the "Standard"); and (b) to provide recommended guidelines to the Owner, Building Designer and Contractor on matters related to the use of Steel Components (referred to as the "Guidelines"). A proper recognition of the Standard and Guidelines involving Steel Components will result in better understanding of the expectations of all involved in construction using Steel Components, more effective and efficient use of Steel Components, and safer and more economic structures.

As parties may expand or limit their individual responsibilities by contract or agreement, this Standard should not be used to establish legal responsibilities where such responsibilities are otherwise established in a contract or agreement. This Standard however will likely be used as

the framework establishing a Steel Component Manufacturer's and Steel Component Designer's scope of responsibilities in their contracts for the design, manufacturing, sale and/or delivery of Steel Components.

Clearly understanding your scope of work and contracting specifically for the work in which you will get paid is critical to reducing your risk exposure. Using this document as a guide to contracting along with the STCA Warning Poster and warning tags are low-cost ways that the STCA Board of Directors developed for all steel component manufacturers to use under the time tested concept that the best defense is a good offense.

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