



## AISC CERTIFIED

From: Bill Dowd, Owner, Great Denver Iron  
To: Architect, Engineer, Project Owner

Subject: Why are you waving AISC Certification after you have specified it in the project specs?

We were extremely happy to find out that your firm has included the AISC Quality Certification requirement in your project specifications for \_\_\_\_\_ project. I firmly believe, as I'm sure you do, that the requirement for Certification represents a minimum level of acceptable quality for a project of this scope. Based on recent information from a bidding General Contractor, I understand that you are now being pressured to waive these Certification requirements. As the owner of an AISC Certified firm, please accept my offer of assistance on this and other matters regarding AISC Certification. Allow me to provide you with additional information about the AISC Certification program you may need to maintain these requirements.

As I'm sure you're aware, the broad coverage of the AISC Certification process includes verification of facility, equipment, personnel, experience, commitment and also includes evaluation of all fabrication processes control, detailing and material identification, inspection and testing, calibration of inspection tools, nonconformance and corrective action procedures, and maintenance of quality records.

The fabricator who provides objective evidence of satisfying all the requirements of the AISC Certification program to AISC recognized third party auditors is recommended for AISC Certification. Here are just a few examples of the qualifications an AISC Certified fabricator possesses:

- All welders are qualified per American Welding Society (AWS) D1.1. Written welding procedures, compliant with AWS specifications, are available and used by welders.
- Written bolting procedures, compliant with the Research Council on Structural Connection (RCSC) specifications, are in place and used.
- An effective procedure for contract and project specification review that provides information necessary for contract compliance to all responsible individuals in the organization.
- An effective method is in place to issue and manage requests for information necessary to resolve discrepancies or variations from original contract requirements.
- Methods for qualification of inspection personnel and a procedure for inspection to verify that product quality meets project requirements.
- Material is ordered in accordance with design drawings and specifications, and an inspection procedure is in place to ensure material received meets the purchase order and ASTM requirements.
- Written procedures for correction of non-conforming work are understood and used.

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AISC Certified fabricators are committed to supporting the value of AISC Certification for owners, engineers and construction managers. Certified firms confidently back this commitment by supporting an AISC administered formal complaint procedure available to any project team member involved in a project for which an AISC fabricator has supplied materials or services. Such complaints can jeopardize a fabricator's Certification status and may result in the loss of their certification.

It is in a projects best interest to select a team member that is knowledgeable of good fabrication practices. An AISC Certified fabricator can accurately translate the requirements from your drawings to the fabrication process. It is more cost-effective to specify quality going into a project rather than inspect for it afterwards. Finding and fixing mistakes after they are made is expensive and time consuming. And, just because the final product looks good doesn't mean it will work. Welding is a good example – appearance alone does not ensure that proper procedures were followed in making the weld; nor does it ensure the performance in years to come.

Specifying an AISC Certified company signals to your community that you are dedicated to quality, and we at Great Denver Iron would like to support your efforts.

Our experience, automation, and our understanding of the economics of a fabrication shop allow us to pass along significant savings to our customers.

Productivity means fast turn around on parts, and significant cost savings.

We hope you continue to demand the use of an AISC Certified fabricator for this project.

Sincerely,

Bill Dowd  
CEO/Owner  
Great Denver Iron

Cc: Erika Winters-Downey, AISC Regional Engineer