

CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION BULLETIN

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Facilities Development Division
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Issue:

Utilization of Approved Construction Documents by Contractors, Inspectors of Record, Special Inspectors and Testing Laboratories

All construction, inspections, testing and special inspections shall be based on approved construction documents (including plans and specifications) in accordance with Title 24, Part 1, Sections 7-111, 7-141 and 7-145. **Approved construction documents can be easily identified by the presence of the OSHPD approval stamp.** Other documents which are not stamped approved by OSHPD are not part of the approved construction documents. **Exception:** "non-material alterations" are considered part of the approved construction documents upon concurrence of OSHPD in accordance with CAN 2-107.4.

Background:

On at least two recent Hospital Construction projects in Northern and Southern California the improper grade of steel was accepted by the shop

fabrication special inspectors, delivered to the project site, and installed. In one instance ASTM A992 - Grade 50 Columns (W14x441) were installed instead of ASTM A913 - Grade 65 columns specified. Fortunately, in both cases, the deviation was detected by the Inspector of Record (IOR). Both omissions appear to have occurred because non-OSHPD approved construction documents were used by the contractor and special inspectors in violation of Title 24, Part 1, Sections 7-143 and 7-145.

Steel grade is easily identifiable throughout the construction process. Heat numbers are required to be visible on each piece of steel throughout the fabrication and delivery process in accordance with ASTM A6. Mill certificates are provided by the steel mill for each heat number showing the grade of steel, tested properties and other information.

Contractors and special inspectors are required to verify the grade of steel provided conforms to the approved construction documents. This

is a crucial part of the special inspector's, duty and responsibility. Welding procedure specifications developed for one grade of steel may not be appropriate for other grades of steel with significantly different chemical compositions. The special inspector shall verify that the fabricator maintains detailed fabrication and quality control procedures that provide a basis for inspection control of the workmanship and fabricators ability to conform to approved construction documents and referenced standards.

All changes to the approved construction documents shall be approved by OSHPD prior to proceeding with the construction in accordance with CAN 2-107.4 (also see #11 of the Health Facility Construction Frequently Asked Questions, Structural Design). It is problematic when deficiencies or deviations in the construction work are not immediately reported and corrected, or are concealed, prior to correction or resolution. Obtaining compliance after the work has progressed beyond the time when the work should have been corrected may be difficult, costly, and may affect the construction schedule. This may result in a reduction in public safety and building performance below what was originally designed. In addition, OSHPD is most concerned about delays in construction and/or occupancy when this occurs.

It is essential for the IOR to monitor the work of the special inspectors in order to obtain personal

knowledge of the work and verify conformance with approved construction documents (see Title 24, Part 1, Section 7-151). The IOR shall verify that all special inspectors listed on the Testing, Inspection and Observation program understand their responsibilities including their responsibility to use approved construction documents as a basis for their inspections. The IOR is also responsible for coordinating the scope of inspection responsibility between special inspectors, and between the special inspector and the IOR, where interfaces in the scope of responsibility occur.

Therefore, it is essential that all IORs and Special Inspectors write deviation reports when the construction differs from the approved construction documents in accordance with Title 24, Part 1, Section 7-145(b) after which it shall be confirmed by the appropriate OSHPD field staff per 7-147 so that all parties are immediately notified and appropriate steps can be taken to ensure that work is brought into substantial compliance with the approved construction documents.

Conclusion:

All Contractors, Inspectors of Record, Special Inspectors and Testing Laboratories shall perform their duties and complete their work in accordance with approved construction documents. Documents which are not a part of the approved construction documents shall not be used as a basis for construction, inspection or testing.

All IORs are responsible for monitoring the performance of all special inspectors and testing laboratories to verify that all work is completed in accordance with the approved construction documents. An important part of this responsibility is to ensure that all special inspectors and testing laboratories understand their role, the basis for their inspections and testing, and the scope for which they are responsible in accordance with the Testing, Inspection and Observation Program. Reasonable diligence shall be exercised in obtaining the facts.

For additional information or question please email Gerard K. Zelnik, Regional Compliance Officer, Inspection Services Unit at OSHDPD.FDDISU@oshpd.ca.gov for any concerns regarding this bulletin