

AISC Offers Advice on Recent HSS Issues Reviews Data and Testing

Questions first arose a few months ago about the mechanical properties of imported HSS, as well as the credibility and reliability of the documentation provided when the imported products entered the U.S. and Canada.

We have collected the available data, which represents a limited number of tests on mechanical and chemical properties. AISC staff and industry materials consultants have reviewed this data and noted the following:

- Many of the tests were performed to different procedures and protocols than are required for HSS in ASTM A500, and therefore lacked uniformity for analysis;
- Testing speeds varied significantly among the tests that were reported to us; and
- There was no control or tracking of the location of test specimens as to what position they came from in the width and length of the coil.

“Perhaps the most important recommendation is that the buyer should know and evaluate their material supply chain,” stated Roger Ferch, P.E.,

AISCs president. “As with any other purchase, don’t just look at the quoted price but also consider the quality, reputation, and experience of the supplier.”

In addition, AISC has received reports of seam weld quality concerns with imported HSS. The seam weld deficiencies that led to these concerns can be seen on the California Division of the State Architect website www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/labs/hss_pictures.htm.

The limited information that is available to date on this topic and the anecdotal nature of reports of weld seam defects leads us to believe there is no crisis in HSS supply and no dramatic response is necessary.

AISC will continue to monitor these situations and keep the design community and construction industry informed of any changes. If additional information is needed, contact AISCs chief structural engineer, Charles Carter, P.E., S.E., at carter@aisc.org or contact the AISC Steel Solutions Center at solutions@aisc.org.

Wayne J. Griffin Electric, Inc. Outlook for 2008

Dedication, service, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, are a few of the goals that employees strive to attain at Wayne J. Griffin Electric, Inc. It is because of these qualities that the new year promises to be a significant one for Wayne J. Griffin Electric, Inc. as it will mark their 30th year in the industry. A modest beginning in 1978—one van and working out of a basement—has grown to one of the largest leading electrical merit shops on the Eastern Seaboard with nearly 1,000 employees and offices in Massachusetts, Georgia, North Carolina, and Alabama.

What is the secret to Griffin Electric’s success? A team of employees who are dedicated to safety, education, quality, and on-time delivery have played a large part in the achievements of the company. Griffin Electric continues to work with an existing client base while consistently acquiring new projects with diverse clientele. This commitment to employees and clients has proven to be successful with the increase in revenues

over the past several years. “We hire the best people, invest heavily in training,

and maintain open communication with our employees,” remarks Wayne J. Griffin. “We attract and maintain intelligent, successful, and driven employees. This is just one of the reasons why we continue to be a leader in the industry.”

While 2008 marks a major milestone it also promises to be a challenging one for Griffin Electric. “We are working on some notable projects in each of our regions. In New England, Hebrew SeniorLife’s NewBridge on the Charles development will be an impressive and complex project. In our southern regions, renovation and expansion work at the Raleigh-Durham Airport in North Carolina, continued construction at 3630 Peachtree Tower in Georgia, and the large-scale Von Braun Phase III project at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama promises to keep Griffin Electric busy into the year of 2009.” Griffin also notes, “Overall, we will continue to nurture the values that have made us successful and continue to recruit the best employees. Simply put, our employees are the key to our success.”



Griffin



How do YOU define success?

At Wayne J. Griffin Electric, success is defined by results and reputation. As we approach our 30th anniversary, we are infinitely proud of all that we’ve accomplished. We have not reached our destination but continue on the path to enduring success.

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