



Date: February 26, 2010
Memo To: SSMA Member Companies and Customers
From: Don Allen, SSMA Technical Director
Re: City of Los Angeles (COLA) Research Report

From October, 2003 to October, 2009, the Steel Stud Manufacturers Association (SSMA) has maintained City of Los Angeles (COLA) Research Report 25529 on SSMA cold-formed steel framing products. Upon the expiration of the report last October, SSMA prepared and submitted calculation data and payment for a new report. Earlier this month I met with Bok Goh and Yeuan Chou at the Engineering Research Section of the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety. I was pleased and surprised when Mr. Chou said that (1) since all SSMA products can be calculated based on the code, and (2) there is no test data to be submitted on SSMA products, there is no need for issuance of a COLA research report.

When submitting SSMA products on COLA projects, for materials up to 30 mil thickness, SSMA customers may use the tabulated values in ASTM standard C754 *Standard Specification for Installation of Steel Framing Members to Receive Screw-Attached Gypsum Panel Products*. This standard is referenced in chapter 25 (table 2508.1) of the 2007 California Building Code (CBC). For thicker materials, SSMA customers may reference the beam and column tables in the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) *Manual for Cold-Formed Steel Design* (D100-08). Similar to the structural steel design manual, sections II and III of the AISI *Manual* give tabulated capacities specifically for SSMA standard shapes (SSMA is noted in the applicable table headings.) These tables are based on the AISI *North American Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members* (S100), referenced in chapter 22 of the CBC.

The SSMA is currently working on developing composite tests that will take advantage of the added stiffness of cold-formed steel framed assemblies with the use of sheathing. Since the stiffness of these composite assemblies cannot be calculated, testing will be performed. It is expected that these tests will yield results that are better than those calculated in accordance with the provisions of the building code. Once those tests are completed and the data is available, SSMA will submit the data to COLA for a new Research Report. However, *that report will cover only those spans and sections covered in the test data*: most likely only for gypsum-sheathed interior partitions, up to 33 mil steel thickness. In the interim, and for other sections, please use the span and load data in both AISI D100 and ASTM C754. In addition, special situations and load configurations may be calculated using AISI S100, as well as the other AISI standards referenced in section 2210 of the CBC.

Sincerely,
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