



2012 IBC

POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING WHAT CONSTITUTES AN APPROVED FABRICATOR**Purpose:**

This policy statement is intended to create consistency in how MBP jurisdictions evaluate the competency and the level of quality of proposed fabricators in order to approve and register the fabricator in accordance with IBC Section 1704.5.2.

This policy statement applies to fabrication of all structural load bearing members and assemblies such as: Structural Welding, Moment Resisting Frames, Precast Concrete or Masonry Curtain Walls and Related Products, Masonry, Cold-Formed Steel Framing, Steel Buildings, Wood or Steel Trusses & Joists, Glue Laminated Products, Laminated Veneer Lumber, Parallel Strand Lumber Products, etc.

Applicable Code Citations:

2012 International Building Code

202. Definitions.

APPROVED FABRICATOR. An established and qualified person, firm or corporation approved by the building official pursuant to Chapter 17 of this code.

1704.2.5 Inspection of fabricators.

Where fabrication of structural load-bearing members and assemblies is being performed on the premises of a fabricator's shop, special inspection of the fabricated items shall be required by this section and as required elsewhere in this code.

1704.2.5.1 Fabrication and implementation procedures.

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 the fabricator's ability to conform to approved construction documents and referenced standards. The special inspector shall review the procedures for completeness and adequacy relative to the code requirements for the fabricator's scope of work.

Exception: Special inspections as required by Section 1705 shall not be required where the fabricator is approved in accordance with Section 1704.2.5.2.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Obtain a building permit before starting construction.
- This tip sheet is intended to provide a policy for MBP jurisdictions to evaluate and approve fabricators consistently. Additional information can be found at your local building department.

1704.2.5.2 Fabricator approval.

Special inspections required by this code are not required where the work is done on the premises of a fabricator registered and approved to perform such work without special inspection. Approval shall be based upon review of the fabricator's written procedural and quality control manuals and periodic auditing of fabrication practices by an approved special inspection agency. At completion of fabrication, the approved fabricator shall submit a certificate of compliance to the building official stating that the work was performed in accordance with the approved construction documents.

WHAT CONSTITUTES AN APPROVED FABRICATOR?

Special inspection is typically required when structural load bearing members and assemblies are fabricated away from the job site. As stated in the exception to Section 1704.2.5.1 "Special inspections as required by Section 1704.2.5 shall not be required where the fabricator is approved in accordance with Section 1704.2.5.2." As indicated in the 2012 IBC Commentary; "If the fabricator is approved by the building official, then its internal quality control procedures are deemed to be sufficient without the need for special inspection".

AGENCY APPROVAL

Any fabricator that is currently approved by the one of the following agencies are deemed to be approved by MBP jurisdictions for the applicable discipline:

- AISC for structural steel,
- ICC-IAS Fabricator Inspection Program,
- WABO,
- City of Seattle,
- City of Portland,
- State of Oregon,
- PCI Plant Certification for precast concrete,
- Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety,
- Other equivalent testing agencies approved by the building official.

On-premises special inspection shall be provided for fabricators who are not approved by one or more of the above mentioned agencies. Fabricated items manufactured in a non-approved shop and which are not provided with appropriate on-premises special inspection oversight will be rejected unless on-site special inspection can be done in accordance with Section 1704.

The plans shall identify which items are to be fabricated off-site. The contractor, owner or owner's representative shall provide documentation to the building official which specifies the name of the fabricator's shop along with supporting information for evaluation by the building official. Approval by the building official, in writing, is required prior to off-site fabrication of structural load bearing members or assemblies.

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