



1 February 2006

## CSA-A660 Quality Certification for Steel Building Systems

With the publication of the 2005 National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) a provision applicable to Steel Building Systems is added for the first time. Specifically, the Article is as follows:

### 4.3.4.3 Steel Building Systems

- 1) Steel building systems shall be manufactured by companies certified to the requirements of CSA-A660, "Certification of Manufacturers of Steel Building Systems."

This requirement has actually been in effect since June 2003, although only indirectly through a reference in CAN/CSA-S16-01 *Limit States Design of Steel Structures*. With the widespread adoption of the 2005 NBCC and CAN/CSA-S16, **it is now mandatory that all Steel Building System manufacturers supplying buildings into Canada must be certified to CSA-A660.**

### What is a Steel Building System?

According to the CSA Standard, a steel building system (SBS) features steel for the structural components plus related accessories engineered and designed as a total building system. **The building exterior is not limited to steel products**, but can be built to suit the owner's requirements for masonry, brick, steel, fabric or a combination of these materials. These building systems are fabricated by the manufacturer at a central location and supplied to builders across Canada. The manufacturer is responsible for the structural design and fabrication of the building system, and the builder is responsible for the erection and related work.

### What is CSA-A660 Certification?

The CSA-A660 Standard was developed to assist code enforcement officials in reviewing building permit submissions incorporating steel building systems, and to help purchasers receive a quality certified building. The CSA-A660 Standard requires that the manufacturers' production facilities, staff and quality assurance systems be certified by an independent certification agency. As part of the CSA-A660 compliance, the manufacturer will provide a "Certificate of Design and Manufacturing Conformance" signed and sealed by a licensed Professional Engineer for each building project. A sample copy of a Certificate is enclosed.

### Why is CSA-A660 Certification a Benefit?

Since the designer of the steel building system is also the seller, there is no independent third-party representing the interests of the public. The audit and certification requirements of the Standard ensure that the SBS manufacturer is complying with the applicable building codes and design standards, and the public is protected.

### **ISO Accreditation is Not the Same as CSA-A660 Certification**

ISO certification of companies does not satisfy the requirements of CSA-A660. ISO certification only verifies that a company can manufacture a product consistently, it does not address the suitability of that product, or if that product (i.e. a steel building system) has been designed in accordance with the applicable codes, or whether the staff are qualified to undertake the work. The CSA-A660 certification includes a quality control audit, like ISO, but in addition, undertakes an engineering design and personnel audit.

### **What Does the CSA-A660 Standard Cover?**

Complying with the CSA-A660 Standard ensures that the manufacturer has been audited to the following items:

- (a) personnel;
- (b) design and engineering;
- (c) materials control;
- (d) fabrication;
- (e) warehousing, packaging and shipping;
- (f) erection responsibility; and
- (g) plant quality program.

### **How is the CSA-A660 Standard Developed?**

The CSA-A660 Standard was developed by CSA in accordance with rules governing the development of consensus standards in Canada. The CSSBI has supported the creation of this document, but the content was developed by a CSA Technical Committee with a balanced membership of producers, regulatory agencies, consultants, users, and general interest.

### **How Do I Find Out if a Manufacturer is Certified?**

A list of certified manufacturers can be accessed through the web site of the Canadian Welding Bureau, Quasar certification division at <http://www.cwbgroup.com/quasar/> under "Registered Client List". Be advised that this list can change frequently as new companies are certified.

### **For More Information**

If you would like more specific information on steel building systems or the CSA-A660 program, contact the CSSBI or one of the steel building system manufacturers.