

TOOLBOX TALK #12

Handling and Storage

(5 minutes)



TOOLBOX TALKS

If you're using structural steel, the *Code of Standard Practice for Steel Buildings and Bridges (ANSI/AISC 303-22)* applies to your contract.

Simply put, the AISC Code defines who's in charge of what, when, where—including before any potential conflict arises—and other members of your project team are already using it in their own contracts. Download it for free at aisc.org/code.

Section 7 of the Code provides the requirements for handling and storage and should be referenced during construction for managing these activities with your fabricator and/or erector.

QUESTION: What responsibilities do the erector and general contractor have to ensure structural steel is ready for erection?

The *Code* says...

7.16. Handling and Storage

The *erector* shall take reasonable care in the proper handling and storage of the *structural steel* during erection operations to avoid the accumulation of excess dirt and foreign matter. The *erector* shall not be responsible for the removal from the *structural steel* of dust, dirt, or other foreign matter that may accumulate during erection as the result of jobsite conditions or exposure to the elements. The *erector* shall handle and store all bolts, nuts, washers, and related fastening products in accordance with the requirements of the *RCSC Specification*.

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Commentary:

During storage, loading, transport, unloading, and erection, blemish marks caused by slings, chains, blocking, tie-downs, etc., occur in varying degrees. Abrasions caused by handling or cartage after painting are to be expected. It must be recognized that any shop-applied coating, no matter how carefully protected, will require touching up in the field. Touching up these blemished areas is the responsibility of the contractor performing the field touch-up or field painting.

The *erector* is responsible for the proper storage and handling of fabricated *structural steel* at the jobsite during erection. Shop-painted *structural steel* that is stored in the field pending erection should be kept free of the ground and positioned so as to minimize the potential for water retention. The *owner* or *ODRC* is responsible for providing suitable jobsite conditions and proper access so that the *fabricator* and the *erector* may perform their work.

Jobsite conditions are frequently muddy, sandy, dusty, or a combination thereof during the erection period. Under such conditions, it may be impossible to store and handle the *structural steel* in such a way as to completely avoid any accumulation of mud, dirt, or sand on the surface of the *structural steel*, even though the *fabricator* and the *erector* manages to proceed with their work.

Repairs of damage to painted surfaces and/or removal of foreign materials due to adverse jobsite conditions are outside the scope of responsibility of the *fabricator* and the *erector* when reasonable attempts at proper handling and storage have been made.

Need help
understanding
the Code?



**STEEL SOLUTIONS
CENTER**

aisc.org/askaisc
solutions@aisc.org
866.ASK.AISC