READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Cold-formed metal framing pre-cover inspection checklist

A cold-formed metal framing pre-cover inspection is the hold point before concealed work disappears behind the next layer. This checklist is built for that walk: verify, photograph, then release the cover, not the other way around. Work is commonly verified against AISI cold-formed steel standards, the applicable building code. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The framing foreman with the GC's superintendent, walking connections just before the wall face is closed. When: After framing and blocking are complete and before sheathing, cladding or board covers the studs, since a missed screw line or missing backing is invisible once the face is on.

Fasteners and connections

- [ ] **Screw type, size and pattern per the connection** — 2 photos required
  Correct screw at stud-to-track and stiffener connections, count and pattern matching the detail, heads seated flush and not stripped or over-driven.
- [ ] **Any welded connections sound and touched up** — No photo required
  Field welds continuous and not burned through the light-gauge steel, slag cleaned and bare metal primed against corrosion.
- [ ] **Screw points pass fully through the last layer of steel** — 1 photo required
  At stud-to-track and clip connections, screw tips visible past the far ply with threads engaged, not a short screw spinning in the first flange.
- [ ] **Engineered clips and connections match the submittal details** — No photo required
  Where the approved submittal includes delegated-design connections, clip type, screw count and location checked against each detail before the face closes.

Backing and blocking

- [ ] **Blocking and backing set for every finish attachment** — 2 photos required
  Steel or plywood backing located and fastened for grab bars, casework, handrails, wall-hung fixtures and TVs per the finish drawings, before the face closes.
- [ ] **Openings framed and reinforced** — 1 photo required
  Jamb studs, headers and sill framing at doors and windows built and fastened per the opening detail, not a single stud where a boxed or doubled jamb is called for.

After other trades' rough-in

- [ ] **Bridging still continuous after pipe and conduit runs** — 1 photo required
  Bridging channel and clips not cut out or unclipped where plumbing, sprinkler or electrical runs pass through the studs; any broken row reported to the framing foreman.
- [ ] **Deflection heads still free after MEP supports went in** — 1 photo required
  No box, strap or hanger screwed through the deflection track into a stud, and nothing added that locks the stud to the head track the submittal leaves free.

Ready to close

- [ ] **Studs square to the wall line with no rotation in the track** — 1 photo required
  Stud flanges parallel to the wall face along each run, none turned in the track where the board would bridge a twisted flange.
- [ ] **Studs and track free of red rust and trapped water** — 1 photo required
  No rusted cut ends, pooled water in bottom track or wet debris left in the cavity; water cleared and rusted pieces reported before insulation or board goes in.
- [ ] **Control joint framing set where the drawings locate joints** — No photo required
  Where the drawings show board or sheathing control joints, doubled studs or the detailed framing at each joint location so the joint can move.
- [ ] **Rated-wall framing matches the listed assembly on the drawings** — No photo required
  On fire-rated walls, stud type, spacing and head track match the assembly the drawings list for that wall type, with the head joint left ready for the firestopping trade.
- [ ] **Special inspection of framing connections recorded if required** — No photo required
  Where the statement of special inspections covers CFMF connections, the inspector's observation is logged for the wall line before any face closes.