

AISI cold-formed steel standards

American Iron and Steel Institute

The AISI cold-formed steel standards govern light-gauge steel framing: the studs, tracks and joists rolled from thin sheet that make up walls, floors and curtain-wall backup. They set what thickness a member has to be, how it is fastened, and how it is braced so it behaves the way it was designed to. On a walk the recurring questions are about gauge, screw pattern and the details that let a wall move without cracking.

What it covers

- Member thickness and gauge against what the framing schedule calls for
- Screw type, size and pattern at connections
- Bridging and blocking that brace studs against rotation and buckling
- Deflection tracks and the movement gap at the head of non-bearing walls
- Bearing, web stiffeners and load transfer at floor and roof lines

What a field inspection looks at

- Gauge confirmed against the schedule, with the member stamp or thickness photographed rather than assumed from color.
- Screw patterns photographed at connections: right screw, right spacing, driven home without stripping the metal.
- Bridging and blocking photographed installed continuously, not skipped in the bays the drywall will hide.
- Deflection track photographed with the movement gap open, so a structural load is not pinned onto a non-bearing wall.
- Web stiffeners at bearing photographed before the deck or track closes the joint.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.