

6.12 REVIEW OF SHOP DRAWINGS – STEEL STRUCTURES

6.12.1 GENERAL

This BDM discusses the processes for producing, reviewing, and authorizing shop drawings, and provides checklists and examples for the technical review of shop drawings for steel bridges and other major steel structures. These guidelines pertain primarily to plate girder bridges, but most items would also apply to other types of steel bridges. The AASHTO/NSBA *Shop Detail Drawings Review/Approval Guidelines* (AASHTO/NSBA, 2000) include advice and comprehensive checklists that are excellent resources for the review of steel shop drawings.

Contract plans provide details to the Contractor to bid a project by showing materials and dimensions. However, fabrication details are not necessarily included. Contract plan details may be generic or typical and may not show all locations, some of which may vary slightly. Additionally, alternative details may be presented on the Contract Plans. The Contractor may or may not chose to use these alternative details. Shop drawings, therefore, are required to be prepared and submitted to the Department for review and authorization by the Contractor to facilitate the construction of the project, as specified in the *Standard Specifications*, Section 5-1.23B(2) (Caltrans, 2018a).

6.12.2 PROCESS FOR PRODUCING, REVIEWING AND AUTHORIZING

The process of producing, reviewing and authorizing shop drawings assures the project will be built in conformance with the Contract Plans, the Standard Plans, the project special provisions, and the *Standard Specifications*. It has the added benefit of requiring the Contractor to be familiar with the details of a project and identify errors and omissions from the plans before any fabrication begins, rather than during fabrication or at the project site.

The Contractor or the Fabricator is responsible for preparing and submitting shop drawings and camber calculations for steel structures as specified in *Standard Specifications* Section 55-1.01C(2) (Caltrans, 2018a) and the project special provisions. Shop drawings provide the fabrication shop with the necessary information including fracture control plan and testing requirements to cut, shape, weld, punch, drill, sub-assemble, shop paint, and otherwise produce the pieces and assemblies required to complete the project. Shop drawings also provide a plan to use in the field to properly place and install the fabricated members. Figures 6.12.2.1 to 6.12.2.3 show three shop drawing examples.

The Department is responsible for reviewing and authorizing shop drawings. Review and authorization schedules of shop drawings for steel structures are addressed in the *Standard Specifications*, Section 55-1.01C(2) (Caltrans, 2018a). A project may have specific schedule



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requirements regarding the submittal and review of shop drawings in the project special provisions. The detailed submittal, review, and authorization process, and responsibilities for shop drawings are addressed in Chapter 6.4 Shop Drawings Review and Authorization of the *Bridge Design Process and Procedure Manual*, (Caltrans, 2018b).

6.12.3 FORMAT, CONTENT, AND PRESENTATION

Standard Specifications, Section 5-1.23B(2) specifies the basic shop drawing format.

Standard Specifications Section 55-1.01C(2) specifies that the shop drawings submittals for steel structures must include:

- 1. Sequence of shop and field assembly and erection. For continuous members, include proposed steel erection procedures with calculations that show girder capacity and geometry will be correct.
- 2. Welding sequences and procedures.
- 3. Layout drawing of the entire structure with locations of butt welded splices.
- 4. Locations of temporary supports and welds.
- 5. Vertical alignment of girders at each stage of erection.
- 6. Match-marking diagrams.
- 7. Details for connections not shown or dimensioned on the plans.
- 8. Details of allowed options incorporated into the work.
- 9. Direction of rolling of plates where orientation is specified.
- 10. Distortion control plan.
- 11. Dimensional tolerances. Include measures for controlling accumulated error to meet overall tolerances.
- 12. Material specification and grade listed on the bill of materials.
- 13. Identification of tension members and fracture critical members.
- 14. Proposed deviations from plans, specifications, or previously submitted shop drawings.
- 15. Contract plan sheet references for details
- 16. Camber calculations.

AASHTO/NSBA *Shop Detail Drawings Presentation Guidelines* (AASHTO 2002) provides an industrial practice for steel bridge shop drawings presentation.





Figure 6.12.2.1 Shop Drawing General Notes





Figure 6.12.2.2 Cross Frame Shop Drawing





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6.12.4 REVIEW CHECKLIST

Shop drawings items listed in Section 6.12.3 must be reviewed and authorized.

Shop drawing General Notes should be reviewed carefully. They list the specifications and requirements for material, welding, bolting, fabrication and workmanship, inspection, cleaning and painting, fabrication procedures and tolerances, erection procedures and tolerances, etc. The design specifications are listed when new details are proposed by the Contractor. General Notes are not intended to be all inclusive, and compliance with relevant specifications remains a requirement.

Review items can be separated into three general categories for convenience. These are Geometry, Materials, and Details. Items listed in Tables 6.12.4.1 to 6.12.4.3 should be considered as a general guide, but it should not substitute for common sense by the reviewer.

Essential dimensions listed in Table 6.12.4.1 should be checked. It should be noted that Contract Plans often show only essential dimensions, usually in the horizontal plane, whereas Shop Drawing detailers use computational means to establish dimensions dependent on super-elevation, grade, camber, horizontal and vertical curves, and other specific requirements. Therefore, dimensions will not match contract plans exactly. Computer aided drafting programs such as MicroStation can be helpful to check dimensions, alignments, accuracy, and fit-up for geometrically complex structures.

When quantities of materials are not checked, a review note "the quantities shown are not checked" should be added on reviewed sheets to avoid potential disputes.



Item	Description
Layout	Control lines for horizontal and vertical alignment; North direction or
	Station for member or component assembly.
Girder Span	Length and center to center dimensions between bearings or points of
	support.
Girder Spacing	Center to center dimensions.
Elevations	Seats or other supports.
Cambers	The amount and method of cambers, and camber calculations
	(Consider the profile grade of the existing bridge including its cross-
	slopes).
Stiffeners	Fit, location, and spacing of intermediate stiffeners, interference with
	splice locations.
Splices	All shop or field splice locations and labels.
Cross Frames and	Spacings, elevations, locations, dimensions, and connections, and
Diaphragms	cross slopes.
Member	Fracture Critical Member (FCM), Primary Tension Member (T), Primary
Designation	Compression Member (C), and Secondary Member.
Connections	Locations, dimensions and working points.
Temporary	Locations, and the vertical alignment of the steel components at each
Supports	stage of erection
Anchor Rods	Location, size, embedment, and projection.

Table 6.12.4.1 Geometry Check List

Table 6.12.4.2 Materials Check List

ltem	Description
Grade of Steel	ASTM designation.
FCM	Fracture Critical requirements for all designated FCM.
Primary Member	Charpy V-notch test requirements for all designated Primary Members.
Fasteners	Diameter, specification and grade of bolts, nuts, washers, studs, rods, etc., and coating requirements.
Cleaning and Painting	The Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC) Surface Preparation Standards, galvanizing requirements, prime and finish coatings and thickness.
Quantities and Length	All pieces.



Item	Description
Piece Marks	Every element on erection drawings indicated by a unique piece mark
	consistent within shop drawings.
Plate Sizes	Length, width, and thickness of all elements (flanges, webs, stiffeners, splice
	plates, gussets, fill plates, etc.).
Shape Sizes	Size and weight per unit length of rolled shapes.
Bolt Holes	All hole diameters and slot dimensions shown. Drilling or field reamed in
	assembly noted. Vertical and horizontal spacing and edge distance of all
	bolt holes.
Formwork	Location and details of brackets, holes, stiffeners, lifting attachments, etc.
	for temporary use during construction.
Welds	Location of all welds; size of all fillet and partial penetration welds;
	Configuration of all partial and complete penetration welds. Fracture Critical
	welds identified and the authorized Welding Procedure Specification (WPS)
	and Non-destructive testing (NDT) requirements noted. See welding
	sequence and procedures in Caltrans Standard Specifications, the Project
	Special Provisions, AASHTO/AWS D1.5 (AWS, 2020a) or AWS D1.1 (AWS,
	2020b) as applicable.
Flange I ransition	Controlling dimensions of bevels and tapers.
Cover Plates	Dimensions and termination details.
Shear Studs	Number and spacing. Shop or field installation.
Bearings	Location and installation direction with markings.
Flatness	Requirements and tolerances at bearing surfaces.
Rolling Direction	Plates where specific orientation is required.
Fabrication	Complete list and details of fabrication and welding sequencing.
Procedure	
Distortion Control	Methods used to control distortion of the pieces during the welding
Plan	process
Fabrication	For fabricated pieces including measures for controlling accumulated
Tolerances	error
Match Marking	Field splice plates when the splice plates are reamed or
Diagrams	drilled assembled. Shop assembly when Computerized Numerical Control
	(CNC) drilled holes are used.
Erection Procedure	Complete list and details of erection sequencing including installation of
	temporary bolts and final bolts. Erection Calculation
Erection Tolerances	Measures for controlling accumulated error to meet overall tolerances for
	field assembly.

6.12.5 REVIEW EXAMPLES

Figures 6.12.5.1 to 6.12.5.5 illustrates several shop drawing review examples with the marked comments.



6.12.6 REFERENCES

- 17. AASHTO/NSBA. 2002. *Shop Detail Drawings Presentation Guidelines*, G1.3-2002, AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington, DC.
- 18. AASHTO/NSBA. 2000. *Shop Detail Drawings Review/Approval Guidelines*, G1.1-2000, AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington, DC.
- 19. AWS. (2020a). *Bridge Welding Code*, AASHTO/AWS D1.5M/D1.5:2015, American Welding Society, Miami, FL.
- 20. AWS. (2020b). *Structural Welding Code*, AWS D1.1/D1.1M:2015 (2nd Printing), American Welding Society, Miami, FL.
- 21. Caltrans. (2018a). *Standard Specifications 2018*, California Department of Transportation, Sacramento, CA.
- 22. Caltrans. (2018b). *Bridge Design Process and Procedure Manual*, BD-M-002 (Revision 2.0), Division of Engineering Service, California Department of Transportation, Sacramento, CA.



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FOR ASTM DESIGNATION OF STEEL MEMBERS, SEE TABLE BELOW: COOPER E-80 WITH DIESEL IMPACT AND ALTERNATE LIVE LOAD WELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH AASHTO/AWS D1.6:2008 BRIDGE WELDING CODE. FABRICATION AND WORKMANSHIP: LADDER ASSEMBLY & HANDRALL POST ALL TRUSS MEMBERS / CONNECTION WALKWAY SUPPORT COMPONENTS STRINGER / BRACING ASSEMBLY WALKWAY CHECKERED PLATE FLOOR BEAM / CONNECTION ABLE STRESS DESIGN MEMBERS STRUCTURAL STEEL: GENERAL NOTES : SPECIFICATIONS: SEISMIC DESIGN: DECK PLATE WELDING: LIVE LOAD: DE SIGN: **MULLOW**

Figure 6.12.5.1 General Note Shop Drawing Review





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Figure 6.12.5.3 Bearing Shop Drawing Review

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Figure 6.12.5.4 Splice Shop Drawing Review





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