AISI Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Wall Stud Design, 2004 Edition

American Iron and Steel Institute
DISCLAIMER

The material contained herein has been developed by the American Iron and Steel Institute Committee on Framing Standards. The Committee has made a diligent effort to present accurate, reliable, and useful information on cold-formed steel framing design and installation. The Committee acknowledges and is grateful for the contributions of the numerous researchers, engineers, and others who have contributed to the body of knowledge on the subject. Specific references are included in the Commentary.

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The materials set forth herein are for general purposes only. They are not a substitute for competent professional advice. Application of this information to a specific project should be reviewed by a design professional. Indeed, in many jurisdictions, such review is required by law. Anyone making use of the information set forth herein does so at their own risk and assumes any and all liability arising there from.
PREFACE

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) Committee on Framing Standards (COFS) has developed this Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Wall Stud Design [Wall Stud Standard] to provide technical information and specifications for designing wall studs made from cold-formed steel.

The Committee acknowledges and is grateful for the contributions of the numerous engineers, researchers, producers and others who have contributed to the body of knowledge on the subjects. The Committee wishes to also express their appreciation for the support and encouragement of the Steel Framing Alliance.

All terms in this Wall Stud Standard written in italics are defined in the AISI Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – General Provisions. Any listed definitions identified with [reference/year] are defined in the referenced document and listed to ease use of this Wall Stud Standard.
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STANDARD FOR COLD-FORMED STEEL FRAMING – WALL STUD DESIGN

A. GENERAL

A1 Scope

The design and installation of cold-formed steel studs for both structural and non-structural walls in buildings shall be in accordance with the North American Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members [Specification] and the Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – General Provisions [General Provisions] except as modified by the provisions of this Wall Stud Standard. This Wall Stud Standard does not intend to preclude the use of other materials, assemblies, structures, or designs not meeting the criteria herein. However, it must be demonstrated that equivalent performance will be achieved for the intended use as specified in this Wall Stud Standard. Where there is a conflict between this Wall Stud Standard and other reference documents the requirements contained herein shall govern. This Wall Stud Standard shall include Sections A through D inclusive.

A2 Definitions

Deflection Track. A track manufactured with extended flanges and used at the top of a wall to provide for vertical movement of the structure, independent of the wall stud.

Curtain Wall. A wall that transfers lateral (transverse) loads and is limited to a superimposed vertical load, exclusive of sheathing materials, of not more than 100 lb/ft (1460 N/m), or a superimposed vertical load of not more than 200 lbs (890 N).

Nominal Load. Magnitude of the load specified by the applicable building code. [AISC/AISI Terminology/2004]

Structural Wall. A wall that supports superimposed vertical loads and which may transfer lateral loads.

Non-Structural Wall. A steel framed wall system which is limited to a lateral (transverse) load of not more than 5 lb/ft² (240 Pa), a superimposed vertical load, exclusive of sheathing materials, of not more than 100 lb/ft (1460 N/m), or a superimposed vertical load of not more than 200 lbs (890 N).

A3 Referenced Documents

The following documents are referenced in this Wall Stud Standard:


3. ASCE 7-02, Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures, American Society of Civil Engineers, Reston, VA.
B. LOADING

B1 Load Combinations

The loads and load combinations to be used in the design of cold-formed steel wall studs shall be as established by the applicable building code, or by ASCE 7 in the absence of an applicable building code, except as modified in this section.

The design of the wall studs shall be based on the following design wind loading considerations:

(a) Combined bending and axial strength based on Main Wind Force Resisting System (MWFRS) wind loads.
(b) Bending strength based on Components and Cladding (C&C) wind loads.
(c) Deflection limits based on 70% of Components and Cladding (C&C) wind loads with no axial loads.
C. DESIGN

C1 Materials

Sheet steel materials utilized in the steel wall stud construction shall comply with the requirements for structural members defined in the General Provisions or the Specification.

C2 Corrosion Protection

Wall studs, track, and fasteners shall have corrosion protection as required by the General Provisions.

C3 Member Design

Wall studs shall be designed either on the basis of an all steel design or on the basis of sheathing braced design. Both solid webs or webs with holes that satisfy the limits of the Specification shall be permitted.

(a) All Steel Design. Wall stud assemblies using an all steel design shall be designed neglecting the structural contribution of the attached sheathings.

(b) Sheathing Braced Design. The engineering drawings must identify the sheathing as a structural element, and alterations to the sheathing must be reviewed and approved by an engineer. When sheathing braced design is used, the wall stud shall be evaluated without the sheathing bracing for the following load combination:

\[ 1.2D + (0.5L \text{ or } 0.2S) + 0.2W \]  
(Eq. C3-1)

Wall stud assemblies using a sheathing braced design shall be designed assuming that identical sheathing is attached to both sides of the wall stud and connected to the bottom and top horizontal members of the wall to provide lateral and torsional support to the wall stud in the plane of the wall. Wall studs with sheathing attached to both sides that is not identical shall be permitted to be designed based on the assumption that the weaker of the two sheathings is attached to both sides.

C3.1 Properties of Sections

The properties of sections shall be determined in accordance with conventional methods of structural design. Properties shall be full cross section properties, except where use of a reduced cross section or effective design width is required by the Specification.

C3.2 Wall Studs in Compression

For all steel design, Section C4 and D4(a) of the Specification define the design axial strength. The effective length, KL, shall be permitted to be determined by rational analysis and/or testing. In the absence of such analysis or tests, \( K_x \), \( K_y \) and \( K_t \) shall be taken as unity. The unbraced length \( L_x \) shall be taken as the distance between end supports of the member, while unbraced lengths \( L_y \) and \( L_t \) shall be taken as the distance between braces.

For sheathing braced design, the design axial strength shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this section.

The design axial strength shall be calculated using Section C4 of the Specification. The unbraced length with respect to the major axis, \( L_x \) shall be taken equal to the distance
between the member’s ends. The unbraced length with respect to the minor axis, L_y, and the unbraced length for torsion, L_t, shall be taken as twice the distance between sheathing connectors. The buckling coefficients K_x, K_y, and K_t shall be taken as unity.

To prevent failure of the sheathing-to-wall stud connection, when identical gypsum sheathing is attached to both sides of the wall stud with screws spaced at a maximum of 12 inches (300 mm) on center, the maximum nominal axial load in the wall stud shall be limited to the values given in Table C3.2-1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gypsum Sheathing</th>
<th>Screw Size</th>
<th>Maximum Nominal Stud Axial Load</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2 inch</td>
<td>No. 6</td>
<td>5.8 kips (25.8 kN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 inch</td>
<td>No. 8</td>
<td>6.7 kips (29.8 kN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8 inch</td>
<td>No. 6</td>
<td>6.8 kips (30.2 kN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8 inch</td>
<td>No. 8</td>
<td>7.8 kips (34.7 kN)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**C3.3 Wall Studs in Bending**

For all steel design, Section C3.1.2.1 of the Specification defines the design flexural strength.

For sheathing braced design, and neglecting any rotational restraint provided by the sheathing, Section C3.1.1 of the Specification defines the design flexural strength.

**C3.4 Wall Studs in Shear**

For either all steel design or sheathing braced design, the design shear strength is defined by Section C3.2 of the Specification.

**C3.5 Wall Studs in Combined Axial Load and Bending**

For either all steel design or sheathing braced design, the required axial strength and flexural strength shall satisfy the interaction equations of Section C5 of the Specification.

**C3.6 Web Crippling**

For either all-steel design or sheathing braced design, the web crippling strength alone shall be determined by using Section C3.4 of the Specification. P_n shall be permitted to be modified in accordance with Section C4.2 of this Wall Stud Standard for the increased strength due to the track.

**C3.7 Built-up Sections**

For either all steel design or sheathing braced design, the design strength of built-up sections is defined by Section C4.5 of the Specification. When the connection requirements of the Specification are not met, the design strength of built-up sections shall be equal to the sum of the design strengths of the individual members of the built-up cross section.
C4  Connection Design

C4.1  Fastening Methods

Screw, bolt, and weld connections shall be designed in accordance with the Specification and General Provisions. For connections using other fastener types, design values shall be determined by testing in accordance with Section F1 of the Specification.

C4.2  Stud-to-Track Connection for C-Section Studs

The stud-to-track connection shall provide adequate bearing length in order to satisfy the requirements for web crippling design strength of the stud, in accordance with sections C3.6 and D1 of this Wall Stud Standard, or as defined in this section.

(a) For curtain wall studs that are not adjacent to wall openings and when both stud flanges are connected to the track flanges and the track thickness is greater than or equal to the stud thickness:

\[
P_{nst} = C t^2 F_y \left( 1 - C_R \sqrt{\frac{R}{t}} \right) \left( 1 + C_N \sqrt{\frac{N}{t}} \right) \left( 1 - C_h \sqrt{\frac{h}{t}} \right)
\]

\textit{(Eq. C4.2-1)}

Where:

\begin{align*}
P_{nst} & = \text{nominal crippling strength} \\ C & = \text{web crippling coefficient} = 3.7 \\ C_R & = \text{inside bend radius coefficient} = 0.19 \\ C_N & = \text{bearing length coefficient} = 0.74 \\ C_h & = \text{web slenderness coefficient} = 0.019 \\ R & = \text{stud inside bend radius} \\ N & = \text{stud bearing length} \\ h & = \text{depth of flat portion of stud web measured along plane of web} \\ t & = \text{stud design thickness} \\ \Omega & = 1.70 \\ \phi & = 0.90
\end{align*}

The above equation is valid within the following range of parameters:

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{ll}
  Screw Size: & No. 8 minimum \\
  Stud Section & \\
  Design Thickness: & 0.0346 inch to 0.0770 inch (0.88 mm to 1.96 mm) \\
  Design Yield Strength: & 33 ksi to 50 ksi (228 MPa to 345 MPa) \\
  Nominal Depth: & 3.50 inch to 6.0 inch (88.9 mm to 152.4 mm) \\
  Track Section & \\
  Design Thickness: & 0.0346 inch to 0.0770 inch (0.88 mm to 1.96 mm) \\
  Design Yield Strength: & 33 ksi to 50 ksi (228 MPa to 345 MPa) \\
  Nominal Depth: & 3.50 inch to 6.0 inch (88.9 mm to 152.4 mm) \\
  Nominal Flange Width: & 1.25 inch to 2.375 inch (31.8 mm to 60.3 mm)
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

(b) For curtain wall studs that are not adjacent to wall openings and when both stud flanges are connected to the track flanges and the track thickness is less than the stud thickness, the capacity is the lesser of Equations C4.2-1 or C4.2-2:

\[
P_{nst} = 0.6 t w_{st} F_{ut}
\]

\textit{(Eq. C4.2-2)}
Where:

\[ t_t = \text{design track thickness} \]
\[ w_{st} = 20 \ t_t + 0.56\alpha \]
\[ \alpha = \text{coefficient for conversion of units} \]
\[ \begin{align*} 
&= 1.0 \text{ when } t_t \text{ is in inches} \\
&= 25.4 \text{ when } t_t \text{ is in mm} 
\end{align*} \]
\[ F_{st} = \text{tensile strength of the track} \]
\[ P_{nst} = \text{nominal strength for the stud-to-track connection when subjected to transverse loads} \]
\[ \Omega = 1.70 \]
\[ \phi = 0.90 \]

(c) For curtain wall studs that are adjacent to wall openings and when both stud flanges are connected to the track flanges and the track terminates at the opening, the nominal capacity shall be taken as 0.5 \( P_{nst} \) using \( \Omega \) and \( \phi \), as determined above.

(d) For curtain wall studs that do not have both stud flanges connected to the track flanges, \( P_{nst} \) shall equal \( P_{nr} \) along with \( \Omega \) and \( \phi \), as determined by Section C3.4.1 of the Specification.

### C4.3 Deflection Track Connection for C-Section Studs

The nominal strength of a single deflection track shall be determined as follows:

\[
P_{ndt} = \frac{w_{dt} t^2 F_Y}{4e} \quad (Eq. C4.3-1)
\]

\[
w_{dt} = 0.11(\alpha^2)(e^{0.5}/t^{1.5}) + 5.5\alpha \leq S
\]

Where:

\[ P_{ndt} = \text{nominal strength of deflection track when subjected to transverse loads} \]
\[ w_{dt} = \text{effective track length} \]
\[ S = \text{center-to-center spacing of studs} \]
\[ t = \text{track design thickness} \]
\[ F_Y = \text{design yield strength of track material} \]
\[ e = \text{design end or slip gap (distance between stud web at end of stud and track web)} \]
\[ \alpha = \text{coefficient for conversion of units} \]
\[ \begin{align*} 
&= 1.0 \text{ when } e, t \text{ and } S \text{ are in inches} \\
&= 25.4 \text{ when } e, t \text{ and } S \text{ are in mm} 
\end{align*} \]
\[ \Omega = 2.80 \]
\[ \phi = 0.55 \]

The above equation is valid within the following range of parameters:

- **Stud Section**
  - **Design Thickness:** 0.0451 inch to 0.0713 inch (1.14 mm to 1.81 mm)
  - **Design Yield Strength:** 33 ksi to 50 ksi (228 MPa to 345 MPa)
  - **Nominal Depth:** 3.50 inch to 6.0 inch (88.9 mm to 152.4 mm)
  - **Nominal Flange Width:** 1.625 inch to 2.5 inch (41.3 mm to 63.5 mm)
Stud Spacing 12 inch to 24 inch (305 mm to 610 mm) on center
Stud Bearing Length ¾ inch (19.1 mm) minimum

Track Section
Design Thickness: 0.0451 inch to 0.0713 inch (1.14 mm to 1.81 mm)
Design Yield Strength: 33 ksi to 50 ksi (228 MPa to 345 MPa)
Nominal Depth: 3.50 inch to 6.0 inch (88.9 mm to 152.4 mm)
Nominal Flange Width: 2.00 inch to 3.00 inch (50.8 mm to 76.3 mm)

C5 Bracing

C5.1 Intermediate Brace Design
For bending members, each intermediate brace shall be designed in accordance with Section D3.2.2 of the Specification.
For axial loaded members, each intermediate brace shall be designed for 2% of the design compression load in the member.
For combined bending and axial loads, each intermediate brace shall be designed for the combined brace force determined in accordance with Section D3.2.2 of the Specification and 2% of the design compression load in the member.

C6 Serviceability
Serviceability limits shall be chosen based on the intended function of the wall system, and shall be evaluated using load and load combinations in accordance with Section B1 of this Wall Stud Standard.
D. INSTALLATION

Wall studs shall be installed in accordance with the General Provisions and the following requirements.

D1 Stud-to-Track Connection

The stud flange shall engage the track flange sufficiently to meet the requirements of Section C4.2 of this Wall Stud Standard and to permit both ends of the wall stud to be properly connected to the track to restrain rotation about the longitudinal wall stud axis and horizontal displacement perpendicular to the wall stud axis. Further, for structural walls, the maximum gap between the end of the stud and the track web shall also comply with Section C3.4.4 of the General Provisions.

For curtain walls, the ends of the wall studs shall be seated squarely in the track with no more than a ¼ inch (6.4 mm) gap between the end of the wall stud and the track, unless otherwise specified in an approved design.
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Commentary on the Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Wall Stud Design, 2004 Edition

Endorsed by:

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PREFACE

This Commentary is intended to facilitate the use, and provide an understanding of the background, of the AISI Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Wall Stud Design [Wall Stud Standard]. The Commentary illustrates the substance and limitations of the various provisions of the Wall Stud Standard.

In the Commentary, sections, equations, figures, and tables are identified by the same notation as used in the Wall Stud Standard.
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<td>Brad Cameron</td>
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<td>Richard Haws</td>
<td>NUCONSTEEL</td>
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<td>John Matsen</td>
<td>Matsen Ford Design Associates</td>
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<td>Dean Peyton</td>
<td>Anderson-Peyton Engineers</td>
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<td>Rick Polasik</td>
<td>Dale Industries</td>
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<td>The Steel Network</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WALL STUD DESIGN TASK GROUP

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COMMENTARY ON THE STANDARD FOR COLD-FORMED STEEL FRAMING – WALL STUD DESIGN

A. GENERAL

A1 Scope

This Wall Stud Standard applies to the design and installation of cold-formed steel studs for both structural and non-structural walls in buildings.

A2 Definitions

Codes and standards by their nature are technical, and as such specific words and phrases can change the intent of the provisions if not properly defined. As a result, it is necessary to establish common terminology by clearly stating the meaning of specific terms for the purpose of this Wall Stud Standard.

This Wall Stud Standard does not report specific dimensions for studs or tracks due to the lack of an industry product standard. For example, deflection track is defined as having extended flanges. Usually deflection track flanges range from 1 ½ inch (38 mm) to 3 inch (76 mm) in length.
B. LOADING

B1 Load Combinations

Because a wall *stud* subject to combined bending and axial load resists wind loads imposed on two surfaces, the member can be analyzed based on Main Wind Force Resisting System (MWFRS) wind loads. For bending alone, the wall *stud* experiences wind from only one surface and therefore must be analyzed for Components and Cladding (C&C) wind loads.

Section 1609.6.2.3 of the International Building Code (ICC, 2003) states that:

“Members that act as both part of the main force resisting system and as components and cladding shall be designed for each separate load case.”

Discussion in the Southern Building Code Commentary (SBCCI, 1999) sheds light on a reasonable approach to the design of wall *studs* for wind resistance, stating that:

“Some elements of a building will function as part of the main wind force resisting system and components and cladding also. Such members include but not limited to roof panels, rafters, and wall studs. These elements are required to be designed using the loads that would occur by considering the element as part main wind force resisting system, and also separately checked or designed for loads that would occur by considering the element as component and cladding. The use of this section can be demonstrated by considering, for example, the design of a wall stud. When designing the stud for main wind force resisting system loads, all loads such as bending from the lateral force with the wind on the wall in addition to any uplift in combinations with the dead load of the roof or a story above induced by the simultaneous action of roof forces should be considered together. When designing the stud for component and cladding loads, only the bending resulting from the wind force normal to the stud and the dead load associated with that member should be considered. The member should be sized according to the more critical loading condition.”

The wood industry has also investigated this condition and has adopted a similar policy as shown in the Wood Frame Construction Manual (AFPA, 1995) where section 2.4 states that:

“Studs tables are based upon bending stresses induces by C&C Loads. The bending stresses are computed independent of axial stresses. In addition, the case in which bending stresses from MWFRS loads act in combination with axial stresses from wind and gravity loads have been analyzed. For buildings limited to the conditions in the WFCM-SBC, the C&C loads control stud design.”

The commentary to Appendix B of ASCE 7-98 (ASCE, 1998) provides some guidance on the selection of loads for checking the serviceability limit state of buildings and their components where section B1.2 states in part:

“Use of factored wind load in checking serviceability is exclusively conservative. The load combination with an annual probability of 0.05 of being exceeded, which can be used in checking short-term effects, is $D + 0.5L + 0.7W$.”

Thus using 70% of the wind load from Components and Cladding for checking deflections should conservatively satisfy the above.

AISC Design Guide No. 3 (Fisher and West, 1990) also recommends reduced wind loads when checking the serviceability of cladding based upon a 10-year return period or 75 percent of the 50-year wind pressure.
C. DESIGN

C2 Corrosion Protection

As prescribed by the General Provisions (AISI, 2004b), the minimum coating approved for use for either structural or non-structural wall studs must comply with ASTM A1003/1003M.

C3 Member Design

The Wall Stud Standard permits the design of wall studs to be based on either an all steel design in which discrete braces are provide along the member’s length, or based on a sheathing braced design.

The Wall Stud Standard stipulates that when sheathing braced design is used, the wall stud shall be evaluated without the sheathing bracing for the dead loads and loads that may occur during construction or in the event that the sheathing has been removed or has accidentally become ineffective. The load combination is taken from ASCE 7-02 (ASCE, 2002) for special event loading conditions:

\[ 1.2D + (0.5L \text{ or } 0.2S) + 0.2W \]  
(Eq. C3-1)

Although the design approach for sheathing braced design is based upon engineering principals, the Wall Stud Standard limits the sheathing braced design to wall stud assemblies assuming that identical sheathing is attached to both sides of the wall stud. This limit recognizes that identical sheathing will aid in minimizing the twisting of the section. If only single sided sheathing is used, additional twisting of the section will occur thus placing a greater demand on the sheathing; therefore, the stud must be designed and braced as an all-steel assembly.

The provision that wall studs with sheathing attached to both sides that is not identical shall be permitted to be designed based on the assumption that the weaker of the two sheathings is attached to both sides is based on engineering judgment. Determination of which of the two sheathings is weaker shall consider the sheathing strength, sheathing stiffness and sheathing-to-wall stud connection capacity, as applicable.

C3.2 Wall Studs in Compression

Prior to 2004, the Specification (AISI, 2004a) contained requirements for sheathing braced design in its Section D4(b). In 2004, these provisions were removed. The Specification now permits sheathing braced design in accordance with an appropriate theory, tests, or rational engineering analysis.

Sheathing braced design in the Wall Stud Standard is based on rational analysis assuming that the sheathing braces the stud at the location of each sheathing-to-stud fastener location. Axial load in the stud is limited, therefore, by the capacity of the sheathing or sheathing-to-wall stud connection. Using the bracing principles as defined by Winter (1960) and summarized by Salmon and Johnson (1996) in which the brace force is given as follows:

\[ F_{br} = K (\Delta + \Delta_o) = 0.02 P \]  
(Eq. C3-2)

Where:

\[ \Delta = \Delta_o = \frac{L}{384} \]

\[ L = \text{total stud height} \]
K = 4P/L

The limit of L/384 is based on the maximum bow of 1/32 inch/foot as prescribed by Table A5.1 of the General Provisions. The tests indicated a failure of the sheathing, not the screw to stud attachment. Thus, the Wall Stud Standard does not directly stipulate a design requirement to check the screw to stud capacity or the screw capacity in shear.

The strength of gypsum sheathing attached with No. 8 and No. 6 screws is based on tests by Miller (1989) and Lee (1995), respectively. Based on engineering judgment, a factor of safety of 2.0 was applied to the ultimate load when determining the allowable load for the gypsum wallboard. The ultimate loads are based on the averaging of test data provided in Miller (1989) and Lee (1995).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sheathing</th>
<th>Screw Size</th>
<th>Ultimate Load (per screw)</th>
<th>Allowable Load (per screw)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2 inch</td>
<td>No. 6</td>
<td>0.117 kips (0.516 kN)</td>
<td>0.058 kips (0.258 kN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 inch</td>
<td>No. 8</td>
<td>0.134 kips (0.596 kN)</td>
<td>0.067 kips (0.298 kN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8 inch</td>
<td>No. 6</td>
<td>0.136 kips (0.605 kN)</td>
<td>0.068 kips (0.302 kN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8 inch</td>
<td>No. 8</td>
<td>0.156 kips (0.694 kN)</td>
<td>0.078 kips (0.347 kN)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The unbraced length with respect to the minor axis and the unbraced length for torsion are taken as twice the distance between the sheathing connectors in the event that an occasional attachment is defective to a degree that it is completely inoperative.

If plywood sheathing is attached to both flanges of the wall stud by screws spaced no greater than 12 inches (305 mm) on center, both the plywood and the stud must be checked. The following outlines a possible design solution for plywood attached to a wall stud:

Evaluation of the Plywood:
Using NDS (AFPA, 1997) Section 11.3,

Nominal Design Value, Z = D ln Fem/Rd
D = 0.164" (No. 8 Screw)
ln = sheathing thickness = 0.5"
Rd = 2.2 for D ≤ 0.17"
Fem = 1900 psi (lowest bearing strength value – the values are based on the specific gravity of the wood)
Z = 0.164 x 0.5 x 1900 / 2.2 = 70.82 lbs.

Brace Force, Fbr = 0.02 P, where P is the axial load in the stud.
P = 70.82/0.02 = 3,540 lbs = 3.5 kips per screw x 2 screws = 7.0 kips per stud

Evaluation of the Steel Wall Stud:
The screw capacity in the stud can be evaluated using Section E4.3 of the Specification, where:
Pns = 4.2 (t^0.5d) F_u ≤ 2.7 tdF_u
\[ \Omega = 3.0 \]

If \( P_{ns}/\Omega < Z \), the brace force analysis to determine \( P \) should be based on the lower value. The capacity per screw is computed by the following equation.

\[ P = (P_{ns}/\Omega < Z)/0.02 \]

Because the Wall Stud Standard requires that sheathing must be attached to both flanges of the wall stud, the nominal axial load in the wall stud is twice the value of \( P \).

**C4 Connection Design**

**C4.1 Fastening Methods**

Self-drilling screws are the primary fastener type used in cold-formed steel construction, although the Wall Stud Standard does not preclude the use of other fastener types. Installation guidelines for self-drilling screws are provided by the General Provisions.

To maintain acceptable durability of a welded connection, the General Provisions requires that the weld area must be treated with a corrosion resistant coating.

**C4.2 Stud-to-Track Connection for C-Section Studs**

When the track thickness is equal to or greater than the stud thickness, an increase in web crippling strength can be realized. This increased strength is attributed to the favorable synergistic effect of the stud-to-track assembly. The provisions are based on research conducted at the University of Waterloo (Fox and Schuster, 2000) and the University of Missouri-Rolla (Bolte, 2003).

Two proposed design equations were considered for adoption by Section C4.2 of the Wall Stud Standard for evaluating the design strength of the stud-to-track connection for curtain wall applications. The proposed UMR equation (Bolte, 2003) reflected the specific contribution of the screw as follows:

\[ P_{nst} = P_n + \Delta P_{not} \]

Where:

\[ \Delta = 0.756 \]

\[ P_n = \text{web crippling capacity in accordance with Section C3.4.1 of the Specification for end-one-flange loading} \]

\[ P_{nst} = \text{nominal strength for the stud-to-track connection when subjected to transverse loads} \]

\[ P_{not} = \text{screw pull-out capacity in accordance with Section E4.4.1 of the Specification} \]

The proposed University of Waterloo equation was based on a formulation proposed by Fox and Schuster (2000). The design formulation for the stud-to-track connection was based on a pure web crippling behavior consistent with Section C3.4 of the Specification. To reflect the positive contribution of the screw attachment, Fox and Schuster (2000) proposed modified web crippling coefficients as follows:
\[
P_n = C t^2 F_y \sin \theta \left( 1 - C_R \sqrt{\frac{R}{t}} \right) \left( 1 + C_N \sqrt{\frac{N}{t}} \right) \left( 1 - C_h \sqrt{\frac{h}{t}} \right)
\]

Where:
- \( P_n \) = nominal crippling strength per Section C3.4.1 of the Specification with the following coefficients
- \( C \) = Web crippling coefficient = 5.6
- \( C_R \) = Inside bend radius coefficient = 0.01
- \( C_N \) = Bearing length coefficient = 0.30
- \( C_h \) = Web slenderness coefficient = 0.14
- \( R \) = stud inside bend radius
- \( N \) = stud bearing length
- \( h \) = depth of flat portion of stud web measured along plane of web
- \( t \) = stud design thickness
- \( \theta \) = angle between plane of web and plane of bearing surface, \( 45^\circ < \theta \leq 90^\circ \)

Based on the additional tests, performed at UMR and the University of Waterloo, the following coefficients are recommended:
- \( C \) = Web crippling coefficient = 3.7
- \( C_R \) = Web slenderness coefficient = 0.19
- \( C_N \) = Bearing length coefficient = 0.74
- \( C_h \) = Inside bend radius coefficient = 0.019

Although there are pros and cons to each design equation, statistically they yield similar results as shown in the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Waterloo Model</th>
<th>UM-R Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>1.001</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coeff. of Variation</td>
<td>0.101</td>
<td>0.078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Omega )</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>1.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \phi )</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The factor of safety and resistance factor are based on assuming a member failure mode, not a connection failure mode.

Although both the UMR and University of Waterloo design methods will yield similar design strengths, for simplicity of design it was decided to adopt the University of Waterloo design method for the Wall Stud Standard. For simplicity, since \( \theta = 90^\circ \) and; therefore, \( \sin \theta = 1 \), the \( \sin \theta \) term was eliminated from Equation C4.2-1 in the Wall Stud Standard.

When the track thickness is less than the stud thickness, the proposed provisions are based on the study by Fox and Schuster (2000).
The 0.5 applied to $P_{nst}$ for locations adjacent to wall openings is based on a study by Daudet (2001).

**C4.3 Deflection Track Connection for C-Section Studs**

The provisions contained in the *Wall Stud Standard* apply to a C-section wall stud installed in a single deflection track application and are based on research at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (Gerloff, 2004). Based on this research, the load capacity can be established by the equations in the *Wall Stud Standard*. The key parameters, as given by the equations, are defined by Figure C4.3-1.

![Deflection Track Connection](image)

**Figure C4.3-1  Deflection Track Connection**

Because the deflection track detail does not provide torsional restraint for the wall stud, it is recommended that a line of bridging be installed near the end of the member.

For Figure C4.3-1, dimension ‘$e$’ is selected for the sum of construction tolerances and the deflection of the floor above relative to the floor or foundation below. Dimension “$D$” is selected so that adequate stud to track engagement and web crippling bearing length remains when the floor below deflects relative to the floor above.

When the stud is at or near a termination in the top track, the strength and serviceability of the connection may be reduced. Industry practice is that the stud be located a distance away from the end of the track equal to half the effective track length, $w_{dt}$.

**C5 Bracing**

The *Wall Stud Standard* requirement that each brace be designed for 2% of the design compression load in the member is based on a long-standing industry practice.

Bracing requires periodic anchorage. Bracing forces are accumulative between anchorage points.
C5.1 Intermediate Brace Design

Brace forces are additive, thus the Wall Stud Standard requires consideration of combined brace forces that when designing braces for members that experience combined loading. Design guidance is provided in AISI Design Guide CF02-1 (AISI, 2002).

C6 Serviceability

The Wall Stud Standard does not stipulate serviceability limit states. However, the International Building Code (ICC, 2003) does set forth deflection limits in Sections 1604.3 and 1405.9.1.1, and the NFPA (NFPA, 2003) sets forth similar provisions in Section 37.1.2.8.
D. INSTALLATION

The wall stud should be nested or seated into the track to provide for adequate transfer of the forces. The maximum gap tolerance specified by the Wall Stud Standard for curtain walls is based on acceptable industry practice.
REFERENCES


