

1704.3 Steel construction. The *special inspections* for steel elements of buildings and structures shall be as required by Section 1704.3 and Table 1704.3.

Exceptions:

1. *Special inspection* of the steel fabrication process shall not be required where the fabricator does not perform any welding, thermal cutting or heating operation of any kind as part of the fabrication process. In such cases, the fabricator shall be required to submit a detailed procedure for material control that demonstrates the fabricator's ability to maintain suitable records and procedures such that, at any time during the fabrication process, the material specification, grade and mill test reports for the main stress-carrying elements are capable of being determined.

2. The special inspector need not be continuously present during welding of the following items, provided the materials, welding procedures and qualifications of welders are verified prior to the start of the work; periodic inspections are made of the work in progress and a visual inspection of all welds is made prior to completion or prior to shipment of shop welding.

- 2.1. Single-pass fillet welds not exceeding $\frac{5}{16}$ inch (7.9 mm) in size.
- 2.2. Floor and roof deck welding.
- 2.3. Welded studs when used for structural diaphragm.
- 2.4. Welded sheet steel for cold-formed steel members.
- 2.5. Welding of stairs and railing systems.