



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
STEEL SHED GROUP

Steel Shed NEWS

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Keeping sheds in check

A couple of weeks ago at a building certifier meeting it was posed to me that “there must be some national body that oversees shed designs? “ The answer is NO, there isn’t.

It was for that reason that the Australian Steel Institute (ASI) established the Steel Shed Group which followed similar concerns from industry participants for the steel shed industry to improve standards.

The Group was founded with three principal aims:

- Keep engineering compliant to Australian Standards
- Provide adequate and correct documentation
- Improve the credibility of the shed industry.

Whilst Australian Standards, including the Wind Actions Code AS/NZS1170.2 and Cold Formed Structures Code AS/NZS4600 are familiar to design engineers, the interpretation and application of these codes by engineers for shed design has historically been far from uniform.

There was clearly a need for a Design Guide for Sheds to provide direction for design engineers on the correct application of the design codes. Not a document intended to replace the standards, rather to provide direction for the application of standards.

On the basis of having a common reference point, design engineers and shed manufacturers are able to evaluate their designs in accordance with the Guide. The Guide was released to engineers in December 2008 and is available for purchase from the Australian Steel Institute Library (www.steel.org.au).

Shed manufacturer members have been given the opportunity to evaluate their designs and make any required changes. The Guide is a suitable tool for optimising shed designs to the relevant codes.

The Steel Shed Group has provided opportunity for major shed manufacturers members to participate in a third party design check conducted by independent consulting engineers to provide assurance to our members of their compliance with Australian Standards. This opportunity is currently being extended to all manufacturer members. All members are required to have design compliant engineering under the Building Code of Australia.

To date, Fair Dinkum Homes and Sheds, Ranbuild, Garage World, Endurance Structures, Williams River Steel, Tri-Steel, Metromax, Titan, Capital Steel Buildings, Totalspan, Ahrens M&S and QLD Shed Markets have all submitted plans for third party review.

Once approved, members' compliance will be advised to all certifiers and councils in Australia. The third party design check is also part of the accreditation program for steel sheds that will be launched in coming months.

It should be noted that all shed designs are required to comply with current Australian Standards and all shed companies are required to have engineering that complies with current codes.

The Steel Shed Group regularly liaises with professional bodies including the Board of Professional Engineers QLD who have authority to act on complaints lodged with them for non-complaint engineering.

I am happy to discuss any issues relating to design compliance.

Neil Creek
National Manager
Steel Shed Group

Mobile: 0407 107415
Tel: (07) 3853 5204
Fax: (07) 3219 9653
Email: neilc@steel.org.au
Website: www.steel.org.au