

NASH NEWS

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RELEASED! DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR WORKING HEIGHTS

The Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC) has released the draft Code of Practice for the prevention of Falls in Housing Construction for public comment. Among the items the Code is proposing are:

- Working at heights greater than 2 metres will generally require fall protection.
- Fall protection is specified when laying flooring when the floor is greater than 2 metres above the ground. It is unclear when the edge protection is removed when installing wall framing. Guardrails must be fitted to upper level window and door openings.
- Wherever practical roof trusses should be placed by crane on the wall top plate at the time of delivery. The trusses should be placed in the order required to minimise the amount of handling by the truss erectors, ie. in the installation order.
- Truss centres are preferred at 600mm centres with battens at 600mm max centres. The trusses may be placed at 900mm centres with battens at 450mm centres provided a safe method is developed for fixing of strap bracing and ridge ties. If the truss centres exceed 900mm centres, other fall protection must be used such as safety mesh or fall prevention sarking to control the risks for the batten installers.
- Physical edge protection is required for all roofing tasks.

All members are encouraged to read and comment on the draft as it has significant impacts on the steel framing industry. Copies of the Code can be downloaded from the ASCC website www.ascc.gov.au

Once the comments on the draft Code have been assessed and the Code is finalised it will be declared by the ASCC. The States will then call it up in their regulations.

Comments close on 31 July 2008.

The National Code of Practice for the Prevention of Falls in General Construction applies to all other forms of construction and was recently declared by the ASCC. It can be downloaded from the ASCC web site. The States have indicated that they will reference it in their safety regulations shortly.



STEEL FRAMES FOR VANUATU

Canberra based NASH member, Eco-Villa, has fabricated and transported steel-framed housing for the Indigenous community of Malo, Vanuatu. Eco-Villa components are designed so that unskilled labour, with minimal guidance, can erect the structure with just a jack hammer and a drill. The Vanuatu Eco-Villas were erected in just 6 days and it is anticipated that the Eco-Villa team will be kept busy with a list of similar projects both internationally and within Australia.

The community benefits to be gained from an Eco-Villa are both short and long term. In many situations concerning aid projects, the community is encouraged to build their own Eco-Villas (under supervision), thereby developing a sense of ownership and forming a connection with their project, whilst greatly reducing labour costs. Steel-framed and cyclone and earthquake resistant, the construction of the two, two-storey Eco-Villas of one school and one dormitory “just mushroomed out of the jungle on the island of Malo in under six days,” as observed by local, Pastor William David.

The Eco-Villa and the Malo team proved that steel framing is workable in the jungle with no services, electricity or water. They could be located almost anywhere in the world, constructed with unskilled labour to provide instant termite and rot resistant shelter.

The benefits gained from such an exercise are numerous. Not only do the people that are immediately involved in the project gain new skills, but a sense of satisfaction and community belonging is also obtained, which often reflects a sense of greater overall community participation and connection. Eco-Villa provides communities with something they can be proud of and will ultimately respect resulting in a more successful outcome.

Builder
Vaiduhu Community with assistance from
the Eco-Villa team

Fabricator
Eco-Villa, Hume ACT

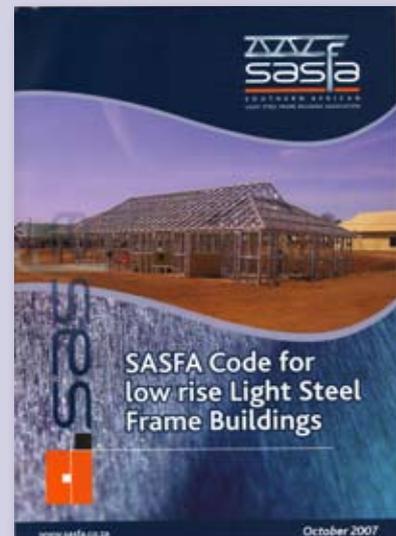




NASH STANDARD FORMS THE BASIS FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND NEW ZEALAND

The NASH Standard for Residential and Low-rise Steel Framing, Part 1: Design Criteria has formed the basis of the Southern African Light Steel Frame Building Association (SASFA) Code for Low-rise Light Steel Frame Building. It was chosen because the environmental conditions in Southern Africa closely match those in Australia and also to capitalise on Australia's experience and expertise with light steel framing. In accordance with their regulatory systems the SASFA Code has been submitted to the South African Bureau of Standards as the basis for the official national standard.

In New Zealand, NASH is proposing to base their Standard on the NASH Australian Standard. Our Australian Standard needs some amendment to cater for New Zealand earthquake conditions and flow-on regulatory issues resulting from the timber industry's problems with leaky buildings. NASH NZ is proposing to have their Code referenced in the NZ Building Code. It is anticipated that this will lead in the future to a combined Australian and New Zealand Standard.



DID YOU KNOW?

Following recent testing carried out at the University of WA, NiTies are now rated as a medium duty brick tie. Polymer brick ties are recommended for enclosed steel frames within one kilometre of the coast. Ni-Ties are manufactured by Novaplas in Perth.



PETER WEBB

LIFE MEMBER

Peter was presented with his NASH Life Membership Certificate by Will Osmo, National President of NASH, at the ICIP Benchmarking Workshop.

Peter first became involved with NASH when he returned to Brisbane from Perth in 1991 to become State Manager for Union Steel – Sheet & Coil. He became actively involved with the local Queensland Chapter and undertook various roles on the local Executive. In 1997, Peter became the Chapter Chairman and joined the National Council of NASH. This role broadened his understanding of the similarities and differences across the Australian steel frame industry.

In 2000, Peter moved to Melbourne as National Marketing Manager for Email Metals - Sheet and Coil and he became the National Treasurer of NASH. In 2002, he transitioned over to Smorgon Steel. At the end of 2006, following Peter's appointment to National Manager of Smorgon (now BlueScope Steel) Pipeline Supplies, he chose not to seek re-election as National Treasurer due to his time resource constraints.

Will Osmo thanked Peter on behalf of the steel framing industry for the guidance and commitment he has provided to the Association. Peter thanked Will and congratulated NASH on the success of the national workshop and the participation from all state and key players.



Peter Webb (r) receiving Life member certificate from NASH President Will Osmo (l)

WHY DID CYNTHIA CHOOSE A STEEL FRAME IN ADELAIDE?

Currently Cynthia lives in a solid brick house in an Adelaide suburb that is suffering from cracking due to the expansive clay soil. To overcome this and achieve a crack-free home she did her research and has chosen a steel frame for her new home. She also observed that steel framing was competitively priced.

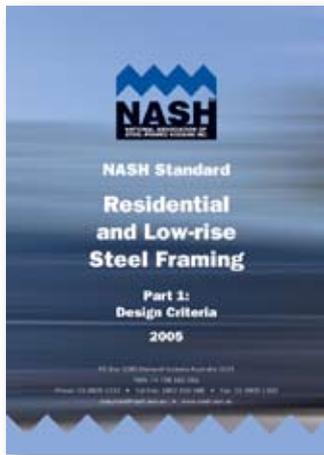
REFERENCING STANDARDS

ARE YOU SUB-STANDARD?

The 2008 edition of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) was released in May 2008. It is a timely reminder to check that you are operating to the latest edition of the relevant standards referenced in the BCA.

On drawings and specifications it is simplest to reference only the NASH Standard.

NASH Standard – Residential and Low-rise Steel Framing Part 1: Design Criteria 2005 including Amendment A.



This in turn references the following relevant standards:

AS 1163 - 1991 Structural steel hollow sections

AS/NZS 1170 Structural design actions

Part 0: 2002 General principles

Part 1: 2002 Permanent, imposed and other actions

Part 2: 2002 Wind actions

Part 3: 2003 Snow and ice actions

AS1170 Structural design actions. Part 4 – 2006 Earthquake Actions in Australia

AS/NZS 1365: 1996 Tolerances for flat-rolled steel products

AS 2870 - 1996 Residential slabs and footings - Construction

AS/NZS 3679.1: 1996 Structural steel – Hot-rolled bars and sections

AS 4055 - 2006 Wind loads for housing

AS 4100 - 1998 Steel Structures

AS/NZS 4600: 2005 Cold-formed steel structures

NASH INTRODUCES CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBERS

The National Council of NASH at its May meeting adopted a Code of Ethics for NASH.

The NASH Constitution includes the following Objective in relation to Conduct:

“To promote within the steel framing industry sound and ethical commercial practices and the maintenance of the highest standards of design and quality of workmanship.”

It also includes the following Membership Obligation:

“Members of NASH Inc are expected to maintain exemplary standards of business conduct and not act in any way detrimental to the goals of the Association. Members are expected to remain financial within the Association.”

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to guide members in the conduct of their business activities by clarifying the meaning of “sound ethical and commercial practices” and “exemplary standards of business conduct”.

All new members will be required to accept the Codes of Ethics and existing members will be deemed to accept it on renewal of their membership. A Certificate of the Code of Ethics will be sent to all members with certificate of membership.



ARTHUR HOSKING - FABRICATOR REPRESENTATIVE

Arthur is our fabricator representative on the NASH National Council. He is Managing Director of Custom Steel Frames, a large steel frame fabricator based in the central NSW city of Dubbo. From their modern air-conditioned factory, they provide frames to both the residential and commercial markets.

Arthur also designs and builds his own roll-formers and other equipment to keep up with refined procedures, growth and new products.

He is passionate about improving the efficiency of the steel framing industry to ensure its sustainability. This led him to join the NASH ICIP Benchmarking Consortium where he contributed significantly to the success of the project.

Arthur is a BHP trained mechanical engineer and his experience includes commissioning and setting up maintenance procedures and operations at the Westernport Steelworks, now part of BlueScope Steel. He has held engineering roles with Sperry New Holland and General Electric, mostly on production efficiency improvement, automation and cost improvement. He has run his own building company and dedicated his attention to steel framing in 1985.

To reduce the cost of installation of roof trusses, Arthur has developed the practice of assembling the roof trusses, battens and other roof steel work on the concrete slab and then fixing the roof sheeting and fascia. The whole roof is then lifted off the concrete slab whilst the load bearing walls are quickly installed and the roof is then lowered onto the walls. Arthur has found this not only overcomes any issues relating to working at heights but also cuts the installation time on suitable projects.

In his spare time, he is an avid fisherman and golfer as well as being a keen bird watcher.



Janice and Arthur Hosking

LOGO AND GUIDELINES ON THE WEB

Financial members of NASH are encouraged to display the NASH logo as part of their promotional activities. The logo and guidelines for its use can now be downloaded from the 'members only' section of the website www.nash.asn.au





4TH NEW ZEALAND METALS INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 2008

The conference theme is Building Sustainability and it will be held at Sky City, Auckland, 29-31 October 2008. There is a full day stream dedicated to steel framing scheduled Friday 31 October. For more information visit the website www.hera.org.nz

MEMBERS

NASH welcomes the following new members:

Company	Chapter	Activity	Contact
Steelx Pty Ltd	QLD	Supplier of kit homes and sheds	Phillip Gale
NNN Ltd	NZ	Fabricator	Sergery Nikiporenkov
Framecad Solutions	VIC	Supply of steel framing machines, software, service, support & training	Peter Blythe
Hostec Australia	VIC	Fabricator	Cindy Qui

Ken Watson
NASH Executive Director