

A Resolution of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Materials

Whereas, the State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) recognize that it is in the public interest to ensure that fabricated structural components made for highway, transit and pedestrian bridges are manufactured to the high standards to ensure safety through consistency of results and quality; and,

Whereas, the State Departments of Transportation rely on proven certification programs in accepting fabricated structural components, and such certification programs have as their goals: training and evaluation of personnel, evaluation of production and quality control procedures as measured against national industry standards and agency specification requirements; and,

Whereas, it is accepted that nationally recognized technical institutes are comprised of membership representing all segments of bridge stakeholders and develop consensus standards for their industries; sponsor relevant research; draw upon and energize established technical committees; publish technical training, design, and standards manuals; have staff positions held by engineers and subject experts; and qualify and monitor their third-party independent auditors who are trained to provide critical assessment and bring consistency to their work; and,

Whereas, such certification programs have as additional goals, continuous quality improvement, the identification of best practices, the discovery of potential problems and issues and the dissemination of these topics to the entire industry; and,

Whereas, AASHTO bridge design and rating specifications are developed and calibrated to levels of safety provided by the quality inherent to such industry certification programs; and

Whereas, reductions in DOT staff and the wider use of performance based construction specifications will lead to increased effort to evaluate and assess quality; and,

Now, therefore, be it resolved on the occasion of the 2009 General Meeting of the AASHTO Subcommittee on Materials, the members in attendance express their support for and endorse the resolution for national industry certification programs for personnel, production and quality control related to fabricated structural bridge components and processes passed by the AASHTO Subcommittee on Materials Bridges and Structures at their 2009 annual meeting.