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The picture on the cover of AISC's Design Guide 29: Vertical Bracing Connections—Analysis and Design conflicts with the advice given in Chapter 3 of the guide. Chapter 3 cautions against the use of plates alone at the brace-to-gusset connection and states: "Small wide-flange braces with this orientation are typically connected to the gussets by WTs or double angles back-to-back on the near and far side of the gusset. Alternatively, single angles on each side of the brace could be employed. If the brace is subjected to compression as well as tension, plates should not be used in place of the WTs or angles." It also states: "Plates can be used to attach the web, and 'claw' angles can be used to attach the flanges. The outstanding angle legs provide for stability."











I have specified ASTM A992 steel for a structural steel frame. The bidders have asked if the connection plates and angles will be A572 Grade 50 steel. Is A572 Grade 50 an acceptable substitution for A992? Are there cost impacts to my requiring A992 for everything?