

IF YOU'VE EVER ASKED YOURSELF "WHY?" about something related to structural steel design or construction, *Modern Steel Construction's* monthly Steel Interchange column is for you! Send your questions or comments to solutions@aisc.org.

HSS Steel Availability

What yield strengths are typically available for HSS2×2×¼ and HSS3×3×¼?

HSS is generally supplied to the fabricator through a local service center from an inventory of common sizes. The two sizes you list are quite common and most likely available in your region. For additional information please try the Steel Availability link at www.aisc.org/availability, a handy resource to find manufacturers of various shapes commonly used in structural steel applications. Generally speaking, sizes with multiple manufacturers are carried by steel service centers. Should you require more information on availability, use the "Contact Information for Steel Service Centers" to find a contact in your area.

Kurt Gustafson, S.E., P.E.

Installation Torque

What is the normal torque for ASTM A325 and A490 bolts used in non-slip-critical connections?

There are three types of joints: snug-tightened, pretensioned, and slip-critical. There is no "normal torque" defined for any of these cases. Rather, it is the level of installed pretension that matters.

In the first case—snug-tightened—the installation requirements are only that the connection be brought into firm contact with the full effort of an ironworker using an ordinary spud wrench. Where snug-tightened installation is permitted, the actual level of pretension that results does not matter.

steel interchange

Steel Interchange is a forum to exchange useful and practical professional ideas and information on all phases of steel building and bridge construction. Opinions and suggestions are welcome on any subject covered in this magazine.

The opinions expressed in Steel Interchange do not necessarily represent an official position of the American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc. and have not been reviewed. It is recognized that the design of structures is within the scope and expertise of a competent licensed structural engineer, architect or other licensed professional for the application of principles to a particular structure.

If you have a question or problem that your fellow readers might help you solve, please forward it to us. At the same time, feel free to respond to any of the questions that you have read here. Contact Steel Interchange via AISC's Steel Solutions Center:

One Steel Solutions Center, 1204 - 6.22 To 3.34 quit-2