



# CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF TESTING AND INSPECTION AGENCIES

**Meeting Minutes  
October 26, 2007  
Best Western Island Palms  
2051 Shelter Island Drive  
San Diego, CA 92106**

## **General Business Meeting**

1. Call to Order – Elizabeth Levi
  - a. Time – 2:05 p.m.
  - b. Self-introductions:

*Eric France (DSA)*

*Cliff Craig (DCI)*

*Michael Laney (Terracon)*

*Dennis Heider (Heider Engineering)*

*Justin Bevins (PSI)*

*Dan Lind (Inland Foundation)*

*Mark Reeser (Ninyo & Moore)*

*Dave Wozniak (TESD)*

*John Byerly (Byerly, Inc.)*

*Denise DeGroff (Reliant)*

*Ed Trasoras (SCST)*

*Miki Craig (DCI)*

*Elizabeth Levi (BSK)*

*Ernest Bovenizer (Terracon)*

*Nikki Heider (Heider Engineering)*

*Ashley Brigmon (PSI)*

*Jim Backman (CEL)*

*Mark Strahm (Inland Foundation)*

*Marty Lowenthal (TESD)*

*Steve Sequeira (Inspection Resources)*

*Dan Cherrier (BSK)*

*Cindy Dickens (Reliant)*

*Mistell Lyles (SCST)*

2. DSA Roundtable Discussion

- a. DSA should be educating the school districts' facility department heads about requirements, including new or revised Circulars. Often, because of lack of knowledge or misinformation spread about in the industry we are viewed as "trouble makers" or uncooperative when we notify school districts and IOR's about requirements that we must follow.

*DSA is drafting documents to train/educate the districts and project inspectors regarding some of the issues. Circulars, bulletins and IR's are being converted into just IR's. DSA is attempting to update the IR's to the new code, which will eventually become available on DSA's website. Both versions of the IR's (UBC and CBC) will be available.*

*DSA cannot mandate any specific training for Districts, but it is attempting to do so through the project inspectors. A question was raised as to whether or not DSA would distribute the IR's to the school districts. It will be attempting to do so, possibly through CASH.*

*Substantial project closing effort by DSA is still in progress (final verified reports). There were about 7000 initially. Training classes for requirements of closing out projects is available through DSA Academy.*

*It was mentioned that some architects were requesting verified reports for work the lab(s) did not do and was not requested or scheduled by the project inspector(s). The testing agencies are rarely invited to preconstruction meetings where this might be addressed. The relationship with the project*



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*inspectors is very low; they have impact with District for job awards. Eric France suggested taking this issue over his head. Dan Cherrier met with David Thorman, State Architect) and his two new deputies. They are hoping all Regional offices will be operating as a cohesive unit by next year. Hopefully some action will happen. Dennis Billet and Kathy Hicks would be good people to contact with this problem.*

- b. If we have requirements to follow, they should be followed by all concerned parties. There are many firms (non-DSA approved laboratories) providing services to school district that are not following requirements and there are no apparent penalties for this. Why aren't DSA field engineers checking closely who is providing what items of inspection and testing and reviewing the requirements that must be followed? As long as no one is being questioned and requirements are being ignored, the behavior will continue. If improper reports or inspections or tests made by improper people were immediately rejected I believe there would be immediate change.

*Eric France commented he doesn't hear much about this issue unless a testing agency calls about it. He can only act if he is given specifics. He understands it is difficult to "rat out" a competitor and keep it confidential. He will be happy to provide any lab with the names and phone numbers of the supervisor in each field office where there might be such a problem. These issues can also be placed on the agenda of the DSA T&I subcommittee by CCTIA in order to protect the individual agencies.*

*The DSA field engineer is supposed to issue written approval for project inspectors to provide site testing and/or sampling for the testing agency of record, but labs have almost never seen one. This type of waiver is intended to be for minor work only, but this does not seem to be the case.*

- c. Some school districts and field engineers have preconstruction meetings with the IOR, contractor, architect, structural engineer and testing lab. Responsibilities are clearly laid out and the project begins in an organized fashion. With some districts we find out that we are going to provide "some" lab testing when it shows up at our back door.

*CCTIA should contact DSA as in item (b) above pertaining to project closeout procedures (Circular 17-1) to rectify this issue. Additionally, this should be placed back on the agenda with the T&I Committee. Dan Cherrier is concerned the new committee chair may not be interested in addressing this again (show me the bodies-type guy), but we need to push the issue in order for David Thorman to understand that cleaning things up is not done. Discussion about enforcement of IR's – see September meeting minutes for definition of enforcement by DSA.*

- d. Poor sampling practices by the Project Inspector.

*All the testing agency can do is follow the LEA program practices (check box on report), and specify during project closeout (final) that the lab did not do the sampling. Eric commented he sees some poor practices with employees of testing agencies also, and industry should concentrate on that first.*



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- e. Soils testing performed by non-LEA approved labs.

*This item has been elevated to DSA's Testing & Inspection Committee, which has it on its next meeting agenda. DSA's position is that a licensed geotechnical engineer may practice anywhere in the State, and conduct associated lab and field testing. It is too soon to know how the committee will deal with it. LEA-approved geotechnical firms may subcontract the materials testing to another LEA-approved testing agency. Some So Cal school districts will not allow this practice – possibly due to subcontract language in their contracts. Discussion ensued regarding the double standard pertaining to the authority and credibility of geotechnical engineers over civil engineers. Why is the civil not allowed to practice like the geotechnical engineer is?*

- f. The DSA Project Inspectors hired by the school districts, at least in the Inland Empire area, are under the impression that the testing laboratory is a laboratory. Emphasis is on the LABORATORY. The DSA Project Inspectors have in the past, and still continue to do the onsite testing by themselves or by people hired by them as employees. Samples are sent to the school district-hired testing laboratory for testing only. In most cases we do not even know who made or collected the samples.

*Similar to questions above – not readdressed.*

- g. When will DSA Form 5's be returned "approved from DSA" prior to inspectors being requested to work on DSA projects?

*A firm in attendance was recently requested to submit Form 5's after the final verified reports were issued. Gerald Freeman at DSA would be a great person to contact for this issue. Eric suggests we submit these electronically. Form 5's are supposed to be submitted 10 days before the inspector begins work. During discussion, it was noted that we rarely receive 10 days notice – and if we did, may not yet know who will be assigned.*

*Jeff Enzler (DSA) is heading up a new group called Field Engineers Supervisory Team (FEST). Contact him regarding abandoned Form 150 for special inspectors or eliminating the requirement for Form 5's for LEA-employed technicians/inspectors.*

- h. When will DSA start to review project inspector performance on a regular basis? I've been a DSA inspector for over 6 years and have never had an evaluation report from a DSA engineer. Also, I believe there are more than a few DSA project inspectors that are making written statements that they are on the jobsite, when in fact, they are not.

*Field engineers are supposed to do an evaluation of the project inspector at the end of each project. If performance is not satisfactory, this happens pretty quickly. Eric doesn't know what the average publication turnaround is.*



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*It was noted project inspectors might cover multiple projects when they are small, and therefore may not be there every day. This may create a scenario where something gets done when they are not on site. It was suggested CCTIA pose this question to FEST as well.*

- i. Does DSA have a policy against using an LEA approved lab on a project where the Project Inspector is an employee of that lab?

*It is acceptable for an agency to provide both. The District must employ the lab. The District must employ the project inspector. The code does not say this cannot be the same entity.*

- j. Will DSA ever allow 4x8 concrete compressive test specimens per ASTM C31-06? If so when and what needs to happen in the mean time?

*The applicable standard is still 6x12. Eric is working with DSA to address the smaller specimens - more news to follow. Project documents may specify 4x8, in which case is acceptable to use them as the specifications have been through the proper approval process (plan check).*

- k. If DSA continues to require NDT personnel be qualified in accordance with ASNT-CP-189, will all testing labs in the state be regularly audited to be sure that this standard is enforced equally among all companies providing such services as an LEA lab?

*DSA has been requiring CP-189 for quite some time. AISC requires it, so DSA is getting everyone up to new code standards. It requires a Level III and written practice manual (also signed by RE). The applicable ASTM standard for this work requires a third party audit of the agency's NDT practice. DSA is not enforcing this provision by requiring an outside Level III inspect all LEA labs.*

- l. Will DSA stop the practice of some LEA-listed test laboratories "pre-inspecting" structural components for a particular supplier prior to the order being placed for those components on a DSA-permitted job? (except for RBIP inspections)

*Eric does not know if this will go away anytime soon. CCTIA's President will request the person who wrote this to elaborate so Eric can better understand where this is headed,*

- m. Is it permissible for an independent DSA Project Inspector to subcontract (and add markup to) LEA testing services?

*Absolutely not. The Code requires the testing agency to have a contract directly with the District, so there is no opportunity for the project inspector to do subcontract or markup the cost of the services.*

- n. What is the status of the DSA Assistant Inspector program?



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*Class 4 examination is now required in lieu. The title will go away as the certifications expire, but there will continue to be assistants on the job – just titled differently.*

- o. Can DSA address the masonry coring and shear testing requirement? According to the Masonry Institute, this test was developed for multiple wythe brick masonry walls. We now have CMU block with a solid web attaching the 2 face shells, so grout bond strength is not critical to connect the face shells. So, what is the purpose of the face shell shear test? If it is to check for voids, there are better non-destructive test methods.

*It is not going to go away. The amendment moved forward during the code adoption process. The requirement helps to keep contractors consolidating and reconsolidating as they should – sort of a terror tactic. Discussion ensued that the compression and shear tests provide no useful information to the design engineer. Failures (20% rate seems to be average) cause the SE an enormous amount of work to clear with DSA that serves no purpose in providing for the safety of the project. Otherwise, the lab must do more and more coring until it finally obtains passing results, thereby causing unnecessary damage to onsite masonry.*

- p. Rebar sampling – do you have to be there for the entire cutting and bundling process in order to tag it?

*Samples that are pre-cut and pre-bent do not meet Code. The inspector should be present to identify the bundles to mill certs, see bundles broken, and have samples cut for testing. If something goes wrong in this process, the testing agency should use site-sampling procedures with the project inspector's concurrence.*

*Eric mentioned concerns that some masonry fabricators will not allow the testing agencies in to do material identification and sampling, claiming it is a safety hazard.*

- q. Defective Tube Steel – Has Anyone Seen Any Yet?

*(see DSA Bulletin 07-03-update attached) Updated bulletin is available on DSA's website, which now includes photos. There are a number of schools affected throughout the State. Welding inspectors should not be complacent and should check ALL tube steel. This is still a fact-finding project for DSA. DSA has not specified which NDT method they want used – handling on project-by-project basis. It is critical mill certs are reviewed to assist in narrowing down and identifying which fabricator(s) may be involved. Most of the defective material is being found with MT, but problem is appearing sporadically in some tubes that is only been identifiable by UT. DSA has been unable to determine if this is being caused by a particular weld process. All labs are requested to contact DSA if they run across any project (including commercial) with this problem.*

*This issue may be outside the D1.1 standard, so Level III's must develop procedure for testing. Five or six agencies have developed specific procedures. DSA has had difficulty in obtaining tube*



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*samples with defects. They disappear fast. Using a straight beam transducer is effective in determining wall thickness and if it was flashed back; but then it still needs to be shot with an angle beam.*

*Eric is pushing to identify the best test methods for identifying the problem, but DSA does not want to direct the projects. It is leaving action plans up to the design team at this time.*

### 3. Approval of Minutes

- a. September 27, 2007 – approved as corrected

*Corrected to include Dan Cherrier in attendance listing.*

### 4. Financial Report

- a. October 2007

*Postponed to November meeting.*

### 5. Committee Reports

- a. ICC/Local Jurisdictions – Miki Craig

*Submittal packages for the Bay Area coalition recognition program are due November 30<sup>th</sup>.*

- b. ASTM – Jeff Cannon (E36)

*No report.*

- c. SEAONC CQA – Cliff Craig

*The committee is working diligently on a draft guideline to assist structural engineers in preparing the new Statement of Special Inspection required by the IBC. They made a major step ahead by adopting ICC's Model Program recommendation, and will use this as the basis for their guideline. CCTIA will receive credit for its input and assistance in this effort,*

*Programs concerning aggregates, WPS guidelines and other topics will be on the SEAONC website soon.*

*The City of San Francisco is now requiring SE's performing special inspections also be certified by ICC, etc.*

*The committee spent some discussing the coalition program and its issues, lack of uniformity, and implementation.*



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### d. DSA – Dan Cherrier

*Dan attended the annual meeting of DSA's Advisory Board.*

*Soils reports for school projects – Board has just realized geotechnical investigation reports have not been reviewed during the plan check process. Developing a method and responsibility for doing that is to be addressed by the Codes and Standards Subcommittee.*

*CGS has substantially revised Note 48 which will be posted to the website around the end of October or early of November.*

*DSA's T&I Committee Meeting has an item on the agenda concerning allowing non-LEA firms to continue to provide testing of soils? One side says the geotechnical engineer is responsible for the final report so he/she should be allowed to do anything soils. The other point of view is that LEA firms have gone through all the "hoops" so should be the only ones allowed to provide testing. Discussion of the merits for both views ensued. It was asked if the testing for investigations could somehow be separated from the testing provided during construction of the foundation pad? Should only the geotechnical engineer's lab facility be accredited by DSA, leaving any field testing out of the process?*

*Consensus of agencies in attendance at this meeting – All soils testing agencies should be required to obtain LEA accreditation!*

### e. ACI – Cliff Craig

*Not hearing many complaints – so no news must be good news. So Cal attendees we asked how well the program is working in the area? Most responded that it was acceptable. There are lots of venues in area, but participants need to apply about 2 months in advance.*

*ACI is still pursuing providing a national soils certification.*

### f. Membership – Jim Backman/Mike Parker

*Ninyo & Moore's application will be voted on at the next Board meeting.*

*We have received an application from Geotek, Inc. Arrangements have not yet been made to audit its facility.*

### g. Code Change – Dan Cherrier

*BSC is hearing our concerns during public comment periods, but we need to add more voices to carry weight. Industry needs to attend these meetings! One possibility would be to coordinate the next trip to Sacramento. Please contact Dan if you are interested in attending.*



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- h. Newsletter – Mike Parker

*No report*

- i. Internal Auditing – Terry Eglan

*No report*

- j. ASFE – Rick Van Horn/Jeff Cannon

*No report*

- k. Standard of Practice – Miki Craig

*The CAP program continues to be of assistance in Northern California.*

*The committee is preparing to start the rewrite of CCTIA's "Blue Book". Volunteers from throughout the membership would be welcome. This is a huge task. Please contact Miki at [info@cctia.org](mailto:info@cctia.org) if you would like to help.*

- l. Education – Miki Craig

*The November 10<sup>th</sup> program is accepting registrations at this time. An additional program will be scheduled sometime in February. The committee hopes to provide programs in So Cal beginning next year.*

- m. FAQ's – Terry Eglan/Will Wahbeh

*No report*

### 6. Old Business

- a. 2008 Annual Business Meeting

*The 2008 CCTIA ABM is being held at Treasure Island in Las Vegas, January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Rooms are available for \$179 a night. The Board will set the cost of the ABM program in next few weeks.*

### 7. New Business

- a. How can CGEA & CCTIA better coordinate their efforts? Lots of common goals – how do we facilitate discussion and action?



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*President Elizabeth Levi will set up dialogue with CGEA representatives.*

8. Adjournment

- a. Time – 4:58 p.m.
- b. Next meeting – November 15, 2007, Four Points Sheraton, Pleasanton

Respectfully submitted,  
Miki Craig  
Past President/Acting Secretary



## **DSA BULLETIN 07-03 - UPDATE**

Updated: October 29, 2007  
Issued: September 26, 2007

**To: DSA Staff and  
Interested Parties**

**From: Division of the State Architect  
Department of General Services  
State of California**

**SUBJECT: Update to  
Defective Product Alert: Structural Tube Steel**

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The Division of the State Architect (DSA) continues to monitor the quality issues relating to defective seam welds on structural tube steel, also known as hollow structural sections (HSS). The DSA has received reports indicating that defective HSS has been discovered and addressed on some school projects.

At this time the defects discovered appear to be limited to the following seam weld discontinuities: small cracks propagating from the root (inside) of the weld to the outside surface; lack of fusion at the root up to one half of the thickness, and; full depth cracking and splits. The defects have been found sporadically in some members and full length in others. In some cases, defective pieces exhibit grind marks from repair attempts.

Inspectors are cautioned that defects can be narrow in width, sometimes covered in grease and possibly difficult to detect using only visual examination methods. Other methods of flaw detection should be considered, such as non-destructive testing (NDT), when defects are suspected. The structural engineer of record should determine if NDT is warranted.

For current or pending construction projects, DSA continues to recommend that responsible parties, as a minimum, conduct:

- A thorough material ID and mill certification review for all steel products.
- A careful visual examination of seam welds on both the inside and outside of all HSS products.

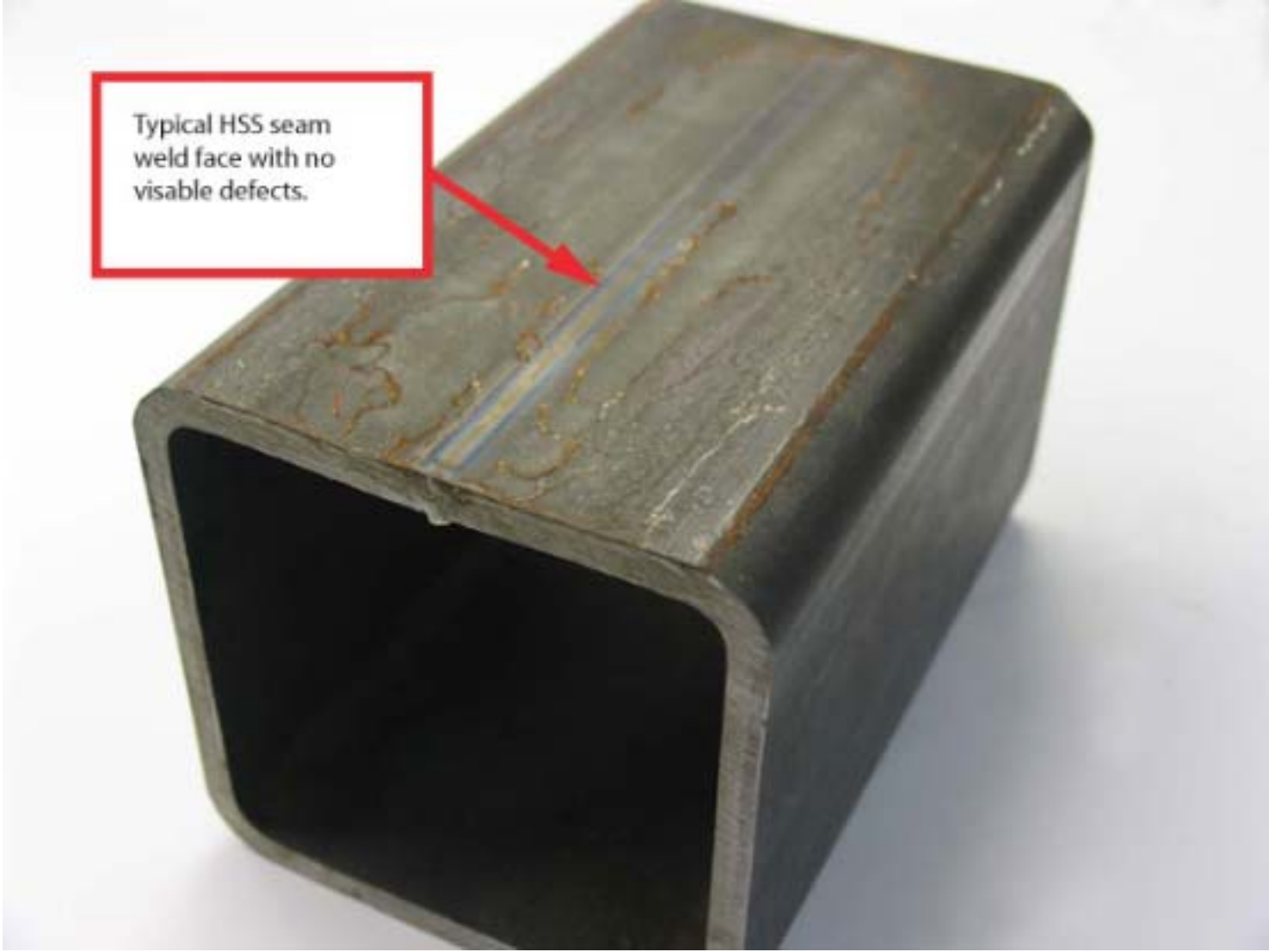
DSA will continue to investigate this issue, collecting data and assessing the magnitude of the problem. In addition to the standard California Building Code (CBC) reporting requirements, please report any defective welds or discrepancies to DSA Headquarters:

Eric France (916) 445-2193 or [eric.france@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:eric.france@dgs.ca.gov).

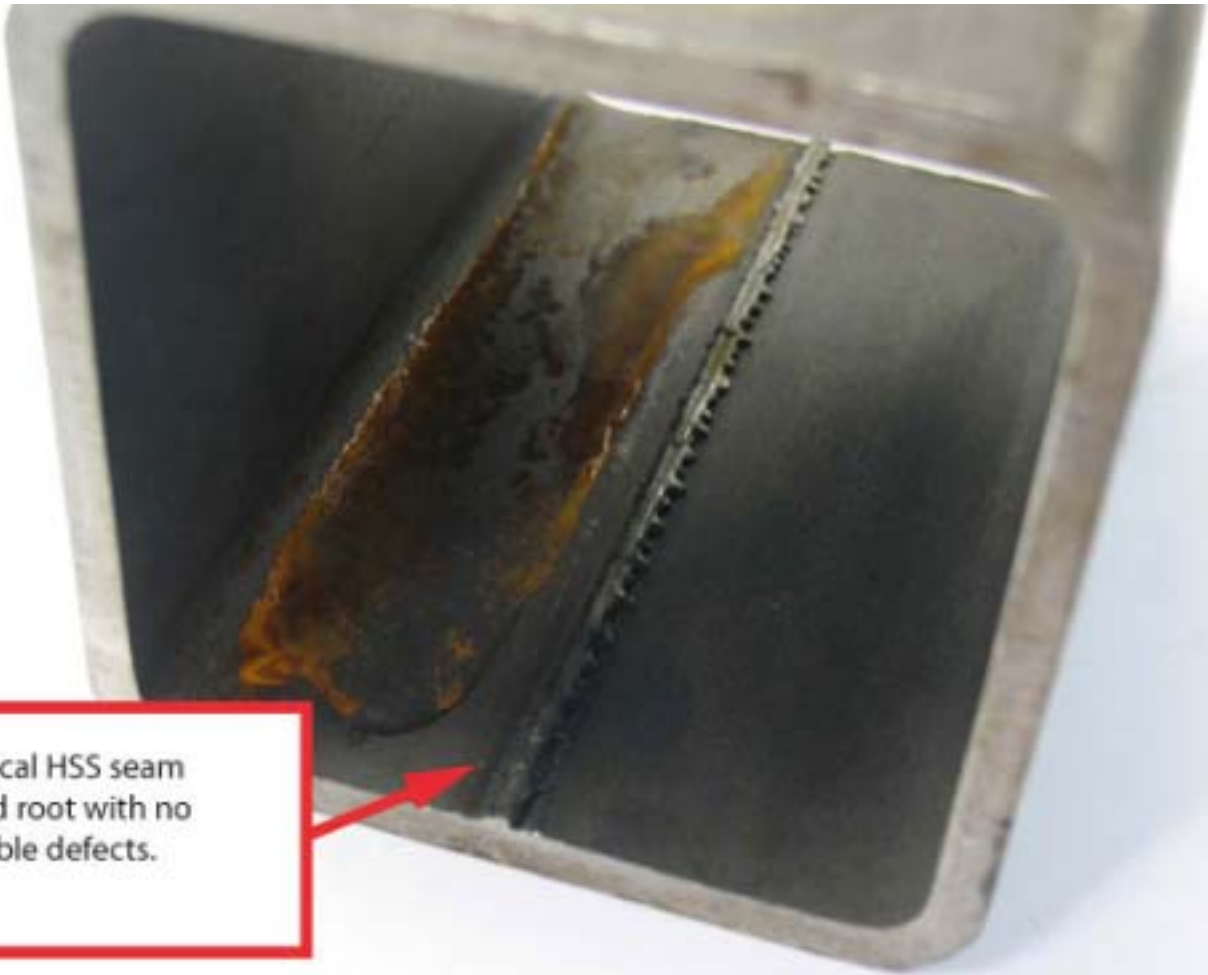
DSA appreciates your cooperation.

Check the DSA web site for future developments at <http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/Labs>

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Typical HSS seam  
weld face with no  
visible defects.

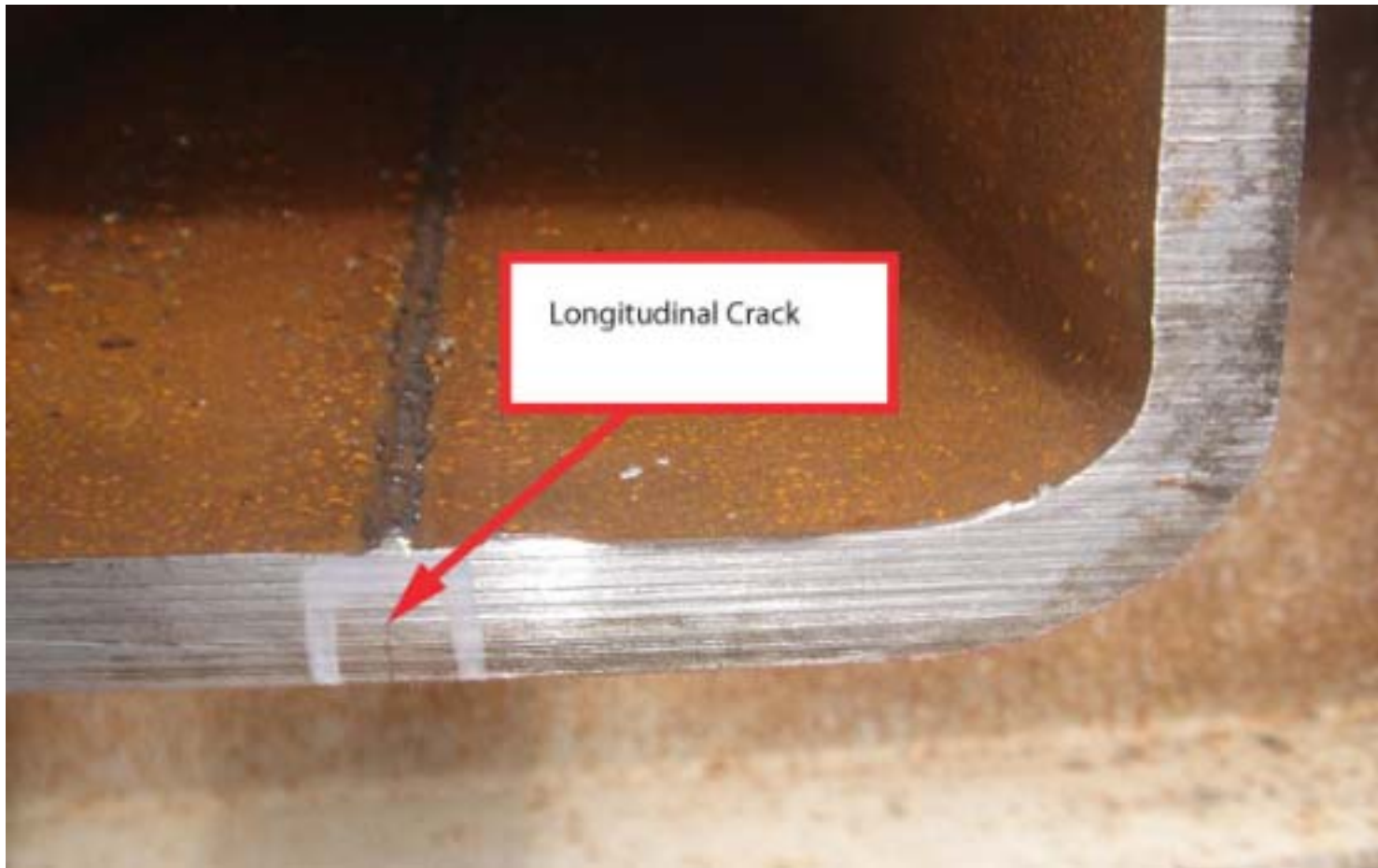


Typical HSS seam  
weld root with no  
visible defects.

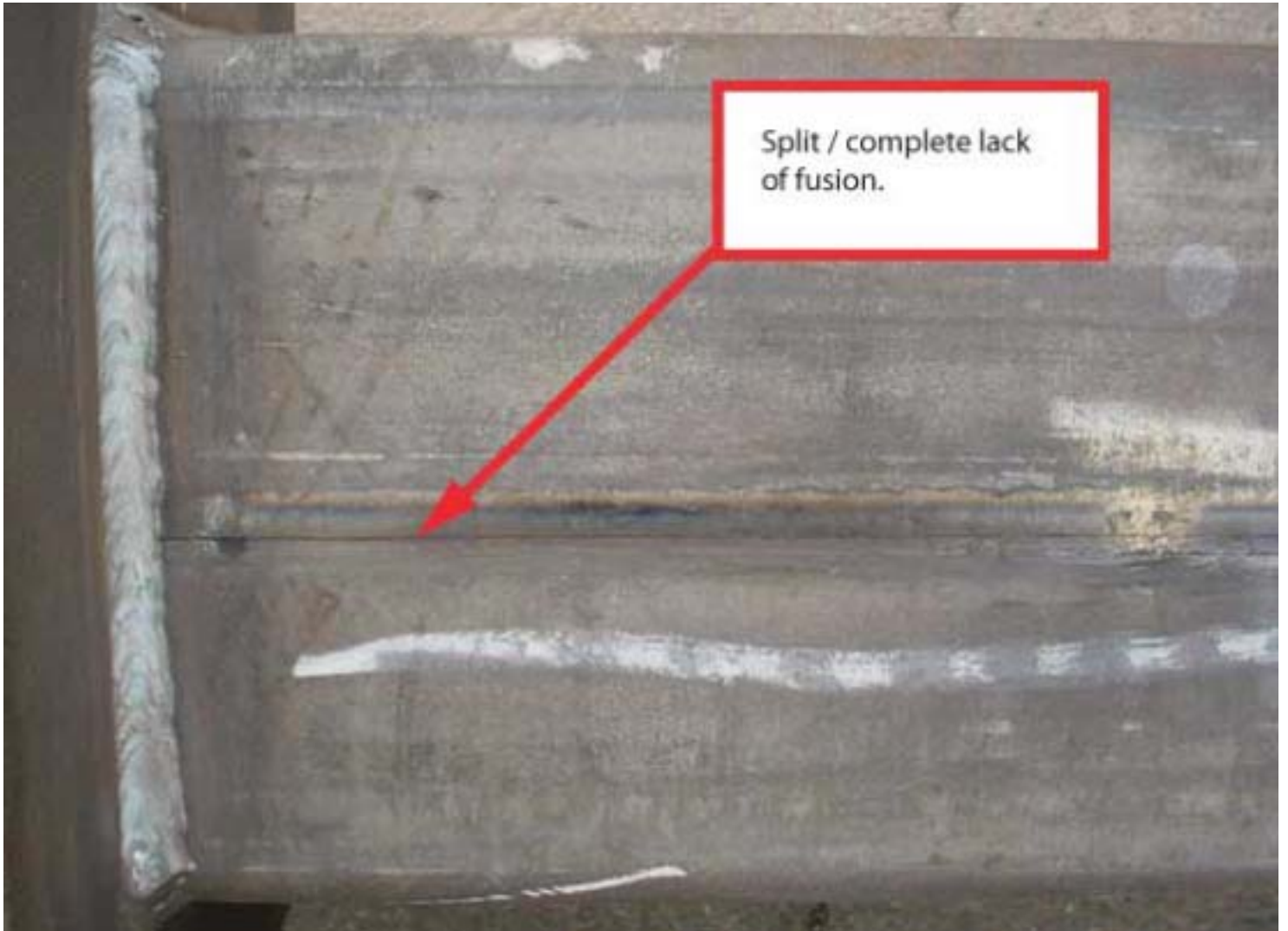
Grind marks indicate  
apparent repair  
attempts.

Longitudinal cracks,  
underfill, & incomplete  
fusion exist.





Longitudinal Crack



Split / complete lack  
of fusion.



Incomplete Joint Penetration