



DSA BULLETIN 07-03

Effective

Date: Sept. 26, 2007

**To: DSA Staff and
Interested Parties**

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

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

The Division of the State Architect (DSA) hereby alerts all stakeholders of a potentially serious quality issue that has come to DSA's attention regarding structural tube steel.

In the past six months tube steel manufactured in China and fabricated for school construction projects in California has been found to have defective seam welds. These defects include lack of fusion, splits and cracking. Some of these defects run the full length of the tube steel, and some even show evidence of failed attempts to repair the defects.

Please note that these defects can be microscopic and difficult to detect using only visual examination. Other methods should be considered, such as non-destructive testing (NDT) to determine if the seam welds are sound.

Defects of this nature could significantly reduce the load carrying capacity and durability of tube steel. For current or pending construction projects, DSA strongly recommends that responsible parties:

- Verify material ID and mill certification of all tube steel.
- Make a careful visual examination of all seam welds.

DSA is continuing to investigate this issue, collecting data and assessing the magnitude of the problem, and appreciates your cooperation. In addition to standard reporting requirements, please report defective welds or discrepancies to Eric France at DSA Headquarters: (916) 445-2193 or eric.france@dgs.ca.gov

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