

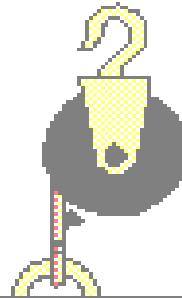
# Technical Bulletin

FROM SPEIGHT, MARSHALL & FRANCIS,  
P.C.

Structural Engineers  
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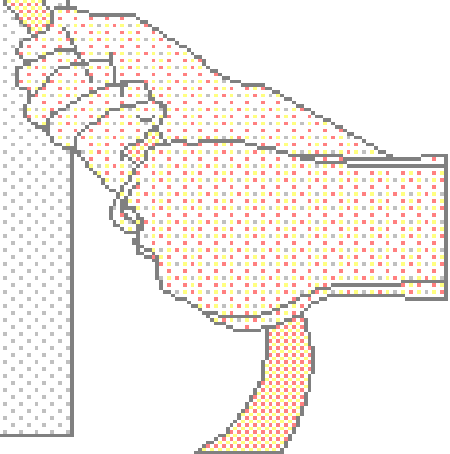
On a regular basis, we plan to distribute these informational leaflets about crucial - but often ambiguous - structural engineering topics. With the knowledge our featured subjects, our goal is to help our clients improve their profitability while reducing their liability. We suggest distributing a copy of our technical bulletins throughout your office and keeping them on hand for quick reference.

## SPECIAL INSPECTIONS (PART I)



### Introduction:

This "Technical Bulletin" from Speight, Marshall & Francis, P.C. is the first of a series discussing the topic of Special Inspections. The chief goal of Special Inspections is to enhance life safety through improved quality of construction. It should be understood that Special Inspections is only applicable to the building portion of projects and does not include sitework and testing.



## History:

In response to the fatal 1981 Kansas City Hyatt stair collapse, BOCA began to develop code text requirements for the on-site inspections of critical structural components. In 1982, the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Investigation and Oversight, chaired by Albert Gore, Jr., held investigative hearings to examine the cause of structural failures. The subcommittee concluded that the Structural Engineer of Record (SER) or designer is often not present on the job site during the construction of principal structural components. The absence of the SER has permitted flaws and changes on site to go unnoticed or uncorrected.



The subcommittee identified more than twenty contributing factors common to structural failures, with the following two factors among the most critical:

1. The need for improved organization on construction projects and better communications between participants.
2. The need for construction inspections by the SER during the construction of principal structural components.

## BOCA's Response:

BOCA responded by enacting and enforcing Special Inspections provisions. Section 1705 of the BOCA code (1996 Edition) describes in detail the minimal inspections required under Special Inspections. In future technical bulletins, we will discuss each phase of the Special Inspections process. Our hope is that upon completing the series, we can compile a "notebook" of technical bulletins that can be used by our clients to assist in explaining Special Inspections to the owners.

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