5020100 SHEAR CONNECTORS
COMMENTS FROM INTERNAL/INDUSTRY REVIEW

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RANDY CROPP
CONE & GRAHAM, INC.

Comment: (Internal 2-23-10)
Can we get the basis for this change is this OSHA because I had originally thought that we could add the shear connectors in the shop.

Response: Without consulting the Transportation Industry, in September of 2009, OSHA rescinded their policy to allow shop installed shear connectors if 100% fall protection is provided; therefore, they will now only allow shear connectors to be installed after deck forms are in place. The Department along with other states made an effort to get them to reconsider but to no avail so that is why we have revised the specification.

A DCE memo covering this issue has been prepared and will be issued soon. I personally discussed our concerns with Garvin Branch, Director of Construction Standards at OSHA, and he said that he was aware of our concerns but could not be encouraging about a reversal of the policy any time soon, if ever. I did an informal and limited survey of Florida Contractors before a talked to Mr. Branch and found out that about 2/3 to 3/4 of them voluntarily install shear connectors in the field because for their particular operation it is an advantage. So the impact of the OSHA change should not be major since a minority of Contractors prefer shop installed connectors.

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Comments: (Industry 3-4-10)
The sentence "Field weld shear connectors located on the top flange only after the deck forms are in place," might read better as "After the deck forms are in place, field weld shear connectors located on the top flange."

Response:

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Thomas Bowles
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Comments: (3-8-10)
Rather than restrict the shop installation of shear connectors, the Dept. should focus on additional shop fabrication requirements to prepare the beams for SIP or Conventional Deck Forms thereby eliminating all field operations involving welding or other risky installations of form accessories.

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