2.7 NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (NRCA)

Membership of this century-old organization consists mostly of roofing contractors but also includes manufacturers, suppliers, consultants, and specifiers of roofing. NRCA offers a variety of educational programs, tests, and evaluations of new and existing roofing materials and disseminates technical information to its members. Rather than develop its own design standards or performance requirements, NRCA prefers to support other standard-writing bodies. Of particular interest to the specifiers of metal building systems is *The NRCA Roofing and Waterproofing Manual,* which contains the "Architectural Sheet Metal and Metal Roofing" section. This section offers a wealth of information about metal roofing, from general to very specific, including a "Sheet Metal Details" section. The manual also contains a section on reproofing. Another NRCA publication, *Residential Steep-Slope Roofing Materials Guide,* deals with the likes of asphalt shingles and clay tile. NRCA also publishes a monthly magazine, *Professional Roofing.*

NRCA is located at 10255 W. Higgins Road, Suite 600, Rosemont, IL 60018-5607; its telephone number is (708) 299-9070, and its website is www.nrca.net.

2.8 LIGHT GAGE STRUCTURAL INSTITUTE (LGSI)

Most metal building systems manufacturers produce their own cold-formed metal building components, but there are also independent producers of roof purlins, eave struts, and wall girts used in preengineered buildings. For years, these producers felt underrepresented by the existing trade organizations. As was already mentioned, light-gage cold-formed construction is governed by the rather complex and often changing AISI Specification. After a Specification revision in 1986, several producers of light-gage framing felt the need to work together to address the major changes in Specification provisions. In 1989, they formed the Light Gage Structural Institute.

The main engineering result of the Institute's activities was a publication of its *Light Gage Structural Steel Framing System Design Handbook,*[8] which contains tables of design properties and allowable load-bearing capacities for typical C and Z steel sections produced by LGSI members. This information is quite valuable, as we shall see in Chap. 5.

Apart from producing technical information, LGSI is active in promoting quality of light-gage-framing manufacturing. Manufacturing plants of the member companies receive up to four unannounced annual inspections by LGSI's representatives. The inspectors verify thickness and material properties of the steel used by the manufacturer and perform product measurements for compliance with LGSI guidelines; a special sticker is affixed to each inspected steel bundle.

Light Gage Structural Institute can be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 38217, Houston, TX 77238; its phone number is (713) 445-8555, and its website is www.loseke.com/lgsi.html.

2.9 CENTER FOR COLD-FORMED STEEL STRUCTURES (CCFSS)

The CCFSS was created in 1990, by an initial grant from AISI, to provide a coordinated way of dealing with research and education efforts for cold-formed steel structures. The CCFSS's goal is to pool the technical resources of academia, product manufacturers, consultants, and government agencies and improve the theory and practice of designing with cold-formed steel. The center is physically located at and is run by the faculty of University of Missouri-Rolla, an institution at the forefront of research in this area.

Of primary interest to specifiers of metal building systems is the center's website, which has handy links to the center's sponsors, such as AISI (including its specifications and standards), MBMA, and MCA. There are other useful links to a list of computer programs for the design of light-gage framing, the schedule of continuing education and seminars, and the research publications dealing with cold-formed steel.

The Center for Cold-Formed Steel Structures is located in the Butler-Carlton Civil Engineering Hall, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, MO 65409-0030. Its website is www.umr.edu/~ccfss/.

2.10 MODERN TRADE COMMUNICATIONS INC.

Modern Trade Communications is best known for publishing three magazines that serve different segments of the metal building industry:

- *Metal Architecture,* of interest to architects and other specifiers of metal building systems
- *Metal Construction News* (formerly *Metal Building News*), the first tabloid-size industry magazine intended mostly for builders, manufacturers, and suppliers
- *Metal Home Digest,* dealing with residential applications of metal building systems

These three publications, especially *Metal Architecture,* should be of value to anyone interested in staying abreast of the latest industry developments.

Modern Trade Communications Inc. is located at 109 Portage Street, Woodville, OH 43469; the telephone number is (419) 849-3109, and its website is www.moderntrade.com.

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2. "MBMA Opens Membership to Industry Suppliers," *Metal Construction News,* February 1996.
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5. *Metal Building Systems Manual,* formerly *Low Rise Building Systems Manual,* Metal Building Manufacturers Association, Inc., Cleveland, OH, 2002.
6. *Manual of Steel Construction, Allowable Stress Design,* American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc., Chicago, IL, 1989.
7. Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members, American Iron & Steel Institute, Washington, DC, 1986, with 1989 Addendum.
8. *Light Gage Structural Steel Framing System Design Handbook,* LGSI, Plano, TX, 1998.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1 Which trade organization represents builders of metal building systems?

2 When was MBMA formed?

3 Name the authoritative design specification dealing with cold-formed framing.

4 List any two areas of MBMA's activity.

5 Which MBMA official serves as a de facto main technical representative of the industry?