

This month's product promotions, company news and more.



Welcome Back!

Welcome to a special November edition of "In The Know With Ohio Valley Drywall Supply." We're glad to connect with you again!

Steel and Product Certifications: What You Need to Know

Obtaining certifications on steel and other products has become an essential part of the construction process. Below, we outline the steps that should be taken to ensure that all certifications are generated in the correct manner.



Here's what you need to know.

How to Properly Complete Certs

All requests must be made prior to the start of the construction process - preferably during the quoting process - to ensure that they are done according to the proper channel and chain of command. Each individual purchase order must also list the certification requirements for that individual project.

The most commonly requested documents for high-profile jobs include:

- Steel mill certs
- ST2 and ST3 docs
- LEED certs
- FSC lumber

The Office Of Budget states the following:

- **Structural steel products** require a statement on the mill cert that says it was "milled, melted, and manufactured in the U.S.A."
- **Non-structural steel products** require either a statement on the mill cert that says it was "milled, melted, and manufactured in the U.S.A.", or an appropriate ST form (i.e. ST2, ST3, etc.), or an Exemption Request.
 - Recycled products are acceptable if they meet all documentation guidelines.
 - ST forms do not need to be approved by the Office of Budget before the steel

- arrives onsite, therefore construction schedules will not be impacted.
- There are specific requirements set forth for exemption requests, including listing the time of the active construction phase as the year.

Copies of all forms are available online.

[Visit the Pennsylvania Office of Budget website.](#)

Why You Must Be Proactive

All requests for forms must be made during the **bidding** process, and there should be one on file for each individual purchase order (PO). This is the only way we can guarantee a cert.

Often times projects ask for certs after the completion of the job, which is problematic due to the marketplace and also because of government regulations. Take note of the following:

- Nearly 40% of all steel used within the United States is not produced domestically. It generally takes time to verify that any steel required to be American-made is pre-ordered ahead of time, and that all documents are shored ahead of the project.
- Certain products like corner bead are rarely - if ever - produced by domestic steel mills (the majority of all thin gauge tin steel for those products is purchased offshore). This is why it is so critical that we account for these types of products, and all products, ahead of time to assure that they were sourced from domestic steel.
- It is a jailable offense to falsify a cert, so any requests for signature at the end of a project cannot be provided. Remember that only company officers are permitted to sign certs.
- There is more government funding for certified products and therefore they are becoming more popular, however rules and regulations have increased dramatically - creating a lot of unknowns.

For all of these reasons, it is imperative that any requests for certs are made during the bidding process and acknowledged on each individual purchase order. Many times we cannot provide certs once the projects have started.

Have questions? [Contact a professional at one of our yards.](#)

For more information about Ohio Valley Drywall Supply, including our services and product offerings, [visit our website.](#)

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With two yards located just outside of Pittsburgh, PA and Washington, PA.