



Special Inspection Clarifications for MiTek **Hardy Frame**® Panels and Brace Frames per the 2018-IBC Code

IBC Section 1704.2 outlines three conditions in which periodic special inspection is exempt. Of the three conditions listed for exemption, the first and the second pertain to **Hardy Frame**® Products:

First condition: work is minor in nature or approved by the building official. Hardy Frame® products are simple to install; typically they are connected to hold down bolts cast into the foundation and screws to connect the top channel to a collector above. Templates for accurate bolt placement and product installation labeling both aid the installer and provide easy access information for the inspector.

Second condition: unless otherwise required by the Building Official, special inspection is not required for Group U occupancies U that are accessory to a residential occupancy and includes private garages as listed in Section 312.1.

IBC Section 1705.1 requires special inspections in accordance with sections 1705.11.2, 1705.12.2 and 1705.12.3. The Sections relevant to **Hardy Frame**® Panels and Brace Frames Seismic Design Categories C, D, E or F is 1705.12.3 Cold formed steel light frame shear walls.

Response to Section 1705.12.3: All welding is performed in a quality controlled shop environment, which precludes the special inspection requirement of field welded assemblies. The installation of **Hardy Frame**® Panels and Brace Frames requires two hold down bolts to the foundation and attachment through the top channel by screwing to a collector above. For the HFX-Series, all bottom and top connections are located in the channels where they are easy to access and visually inspect. For installations other than those directly to the foundation, Section 4.3 of ESR-2089 provides very concise and brief descriptions. Additionally, MiTek Hardy Frames publishes Product Catalogs and Typical Installation Details as well as maintains a Help Desk with technical support available during all regular business hours.

In summary, because of the following:

- 1) Special Inspection is not required for occupancies in U that are accessory to residential.
- 2) Installation is simple
- 3) Inspection is minimal
- 4) Products are labeled with installation information
- 5) Requirements are published in:
 - A) ESR-2089
 - B) Hardy Frame Product Catalog
 - C) Hardy Frame Typical Installation Details
 - D) Labels affixed to all Panels and Frames

It is our opinion that inspection of **Hardy Frame**® Panels and Brace Frames can be easily performed by the Building Official and that special inspection would create an unnecessary burden and expense.