

**STEEL DECK INSTITUTE**  
**PROCEDURES FOR ANSI-APPROVED**  
**STANDARDS FOR STEEL DECK**

**Revised through**  
**05 May 2025**

**Steel Deck Institute**  
**PO Box 70**  
**Florence, SC 29501**

## **PREFACE**

These revised procedures dated 05 May 2025 were reviewed and approved by the Steel Deck Institute Board of Directors. Upon ANSI approval, these revised procedures will replace previous versions of these operating procedures.

The changes made on 06 November 2023 to accommodate the responsibility for Standards transferred from the American Iron and Steel Institute which are not related to steel deck are retained.

**STEEL DECK INSTITUTE  
PROCEDURES FOR ANSI-APPROVED  
STANDARDS FOR STEEL DECK**

**1. GENERAL**

**1.1 Scope**

- 1.1.1 These Procedures shall govern the activities of the Steel Deck Institute (SDI) related to the development, reaffirmation, revision, and withdrawal of American National Standards for the design and construction of steel deck and accessories and for structural members cold-formed to shape from carbon or low alloy steels.

NONMANDATORY NOTE: The addition of “structural members cold-formed to shape from carbon or low alloy steels” is intended to accommodate the responsibility for Standards transferred from the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) to the SDI in December 2023. At such time as all of these former AISI Standards which are not directly related to steel deck and accessories are transferred to a new permanent standards developer, requirements related to this added scope will be removed from these procedures.

- 1.1.2 When submitting standards for American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval, SDI will submit all required ANSI forms [or their equivalent] and comply with all required ANSI administrative practices in accordance with the ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards.

- 1.1.3 The scope is to develop and maintain consensus standards for steel roof and floor deck and related accessories, and for structural members cold-formed to shape from carbon or low alloy steels.

- 1.1.4 Standards developed or maintained by the SDI shall be developed and maintained using the Canvass Process.

- 1.1.5 Within these Procedures, any reference to written communication also includes email or fax communication.

- 1.1.6 Within these Procedures, any reference to days means calendar days unless specifically noted otherwise.

- 1.1.7 Votes by the SDI Board of Directors may be cast at an in-person meeting, teleconference meeting, or electronic meeting of the Board, or by letter ballot.

**1.2 Revisions To Procedures**

- 1.2.1 Proposed revisions to these Procedures shall be submitted to the SDI Managing Director in writing with an explanation or the reason for the proposed revision. The SDI Managing Director shall submit the proposed revision to the SDI Board of Directors for consideration, comment and action.

## **2. PROJECT INITIATION**

**2.1 Authorization** - The SDI Standards Committee shall have the authority to initiate a project to develop, reaffirm, revise, or withdraw a standard, with the approval of the SDI Board of Directors.

### **2.2 Notification**

**2.2.1 New or Revised Standards** - At the initiation of a project to develop or revise a standard, notification shall be transmitted to ANSI using the Project Initiation Notification System (PINS) form, or its equivalent, for announcement in Standards Action.

**2.2.2 Reaffirmed or Withdrawn Standards** - A PINS form shall not be required at the initiation of a project to reaffirm or withdraw a standard.

### **2.3 Comments Indicating Possible Duplication or Conflicts**

**2.3.1** If the SDI Managing Director receives written comments within 30 days from the publication date of a PINS announcement and said comments assert that a proposed standard duplicates or conflicts with an existing American National Standard (ANS) or a candidate ANS that has been announced previously in Standards Action, the requirements of the ANSI Essential Requirements, Section 2.5.1.2 and 2.5.1.3 shall be followed.

### **2.4 Discontinuance of a Project**

**2.4.1** Discontinuance of a project after the PINS announcement shall be handled in accordance with these Procedures.

**2.4.2** The SDI Standards Committee shall be permitted to abandon the processing of a proposed new or revised standard or portion thereof if the SDI Board of Directors approves such an action.

**2.4.3** The SDI Managing Director shall notify ANSI within 15 days of such actions, which will be announced in Standards Action.

## **3. STANDARDS ACTIVITIES ORGANIZATION**

### **3.1 SDI Board of Directors**

**3.1.1 General** – The SDI Board of Directors shall be the issuer of standards for the Steel Deck Institute.

**3.1.2 Votes** – The vote of the SDI Board of Directors regarding any action on the issuance or withdrawal of standards or discontinuance of projects shall be by a 75% majority affirmative vote of all Directors. In calculating the required affirmative vote within the SDI Board of Directors, those who abstain or do not vote shall not be included in the calculation of the vote.

### **3.2 SDI Standards Committee**

3.2.1 *General* – The SDI Standards Committee shall provide for the administration of the SDI standards development process.

3.2.2 *Authority* –The SDI Standards Committee shall be responsible for applying these Procedures to the establishment and administration of standards activities of the SDI. The SDI Standards Committee shall perform those duties assigned by these Procedures and other duties as may be assigned to it by the SDI Board of Directors. The SDI Standards Committee shall be permitted to establish task groups to implement these procedures.

3.2.3 *Meetings* - The SDI Standards Committee may call meetings as necessary and convenient for the transaction of business. Meetings may be held in-person, by teleconference, or by other electronic means.

### **3.3 SDI Managing Director**

3.3.1 *Authority* –The SDI Managing Director shall be responsible for performing the functions outlined within these Procedures and other duties as may be assigned by the SDI Standards Committee or the SDI Board of Directors. The SDI Managing Director shall be permitted to delegate responsibility for implementation of these procedures to the SDI Technical Director or other SDI personnel or consultants.

### **3.4 SDI Standards Canvass Groups**

3.4.1 *General* – SDI Standards Canvass Groups shall be established by the SDI Standards Committee as needed, and shall be responsible for reviewing standards which fall within the scope of these Procedures. Canvass Groups shall serve on an ad-hoc basis when required to review a standard, and shall have no continuing existence beyond the completion of the subject canvass.

3.4.2 *Participation Requirements* – SDI Standards Canvass Groups shall be sufficiently diverse to ensure reasonable balance without dominance by any single interest category, individual, or organization. Voting membership on SDI Standards Canvass Groups shall be open to any person directly and materially interested in the standards, subject to the selection procedure hereinafter set forth, the balance requirements established in Section 3.4.2.4, and the size limitations as contemplated in Section 3.4.2.5. Voting membership on an SDI Standards Canvass Group shall not be conditional upon membership in any organization.

3.4.2.1 *Selection* – Canvasees shall be selected using the following procedures:

- (1) The SDI Standards Committee shall develop a list of potential canvasees consisting of those organizations, companies, government agencies, standards developers, individuals, etc., known to be, or who have indicated that they are, directly and materially affected by the standard. In order to determine canvass participation, SDI shall conduct a pre-canvass interest survey, informing potential canvasees in writing about the use of SDI's canvass process for developing evidence of consensus, and, requesting that potential canvasees indicate both their interest in participation and self-selected interest category. SDI's pre-interest survey shall contain the title, designation, scope, description and intended application of the standard, and an explanation of the ANSI function. The time for response shall be at least 30 days from the date of SDI's letter and shall be so noted

in the letter. Once an interest survey has been completed for a standard, it need not be repeated for subsequent balloting of the document. In addition, SDI may conduct a single interest survey for a group or category of standards.

- (2) Additionally, the SDI Standards Committee shall be permitted to request that ANSI announce the initiation of the canvass in Standards Action to elicit additional canvasees. This announcement shall include a statement that the canvass list is available upon request from the SDI Managing Director, or alternately, a URL address where an electronic version of the canvass list is posted. The review period shall be thirty days from the date of publication. The potential canvasee shall submit an interest survey for consideration. Any resulting proposals for addition to the canvass list shall be referred directly to the SDI Standards Committee.

3.4.2.2 *Process* - Submitted interest surveys shall be considered by the SDI Standards Committee, which shall have authority to accept or reject any potential canvasee. In accepting or rejecting potential canvasees, the SDI Standards Committee shall consider the following:

- (1) Need for active participation by canvasees of each interest category, individual, or organization.
- (2) Balance and potential for dominance by canvasees of a single interest category, individual, or organization.
- (3) Qualifications and interest expressed by the applicant and willingness to participate.

3.4.2.3 *Interest Categories* - All canvasees shall be classified as Producers, Users or General Interest representatives in accordance with the following definitions. Canvasees shall self-designate their interest category:

- (1) *Producer* - An individual employed by or otherwise representing an organization that produces or supplies steel deck or steel deck accessories shall be classified as a Producer.
- (2) *User* - An individual employed by or otherwise representing an organization that purchases, uses, or specifies steel deck or steel deck accessories shall be classified as a User. This category includes, but is not limited to, design engineers, architects, representatives of government agencies that purchase or specify steel deck, owners, builders, fabricators, installers, or distributors.
- (3) *General Interest* - General Interest members are neither Producers nor Users. This category includes, but is not limited to, educators, researchers, representatives of regulatory agencies, software developers, technical or professional societies, and manufacturers of related products.
- (4) For Standards transferred from AISI, the words "steel deck" in the definition of interest categories shall be changed to "cold-formed structural members."

3.4.2.4 *Balance* - No single interest category shall constitute a majority of the canvasees within an SDI Standards Canvass Group. There shall be a limit of one canvasee from any company or organization. The SDI does not anticipate developing safety standards, however, if a safety standard is developed, balance requirements for safety standards will be followed as required by the ANSI Essential Requirements.

3.4.2.5 *Canvass Group Size* - An SDI Standards Canvass shall consist of not less than 9, nor more than 18 canvasees, depending upon interest expressed by parties who are affected by the standard and the scope of the standard. In cases of exceptional expressions of interest by affected parties, the SDI Standards Committee shall be permitted to exceed the upper limit of 18 canvasees,

while maintaining the balance requirements of 3.4.2.4.

3.4.2.6 *Changes in Status* -- Canvasees shall notify the SDI Managing Director of any changes that would change their declared interest category.

3.4.2.7 *Termination of Participation* - The SDI Standards Committee shall be authorized to terminate the participation of a canvasee for inactivity. A canvasee shall be considered inactive for failure to return two consecutive ballots issued on a standard.

## **4. OPERATIONS**

### **4.1 Administration**

4.1.1 *SDI Managing Director* –The SDI Managing Director shall perform the following functions:

- (1) Oversee compliance with these Procedures, including legal review as necessary.
- (2) Process all canvasee interest surveys in accordance with Section 4.1.2.
- (3) Maintain rosters of the SDI Canvass Groups in accordance with Section 4.1.3.
- (4) Maintain all records pertaining to the SDI Standards Committee in accordance with Section 4.1.4.
- (5) Provide administrative support for the SDI Standards Committee.
- (6) Publish approved standards and revisions thereto.
- (7) Perform other administrative functions as required.

4.1.2 *Canvass Group Applications* – The SDI Managing Director shall process all interest surveys for SDI Canvass Groups, and shall notify the applicants of the actions taken.

4.1.3 *Canvass Group Membership Rosters* - The SDI Managing Director shall prepare and maintain a roster documenting the classification of each canvasee and the results of SDI's attempts to achieve balance.

4.1.4 *Records* - Records shall be accessible to directly and materially interested parties, subject to reasonable conditions of time, location, cost and convenience. Records concerning new, reaffirmed, or revised standards shall be retained for at least one complete standards cycle (until the standard is reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn). Records concerning withdrawn standards shall be retained for at least five years from the date of withdrawal.

### **4.1.5 Correspondence**

4.1.5.1 All official SDI Standards Committee correspondence, including reports and letter ballots, shall be distributed by the SDI Managing Director.

4.1.5.2 External inquiries related to the SDI Standards Committee, SDI Canvass Groups and SDI standards shall be directed to the SDI Managing Director. SDI Standards Committee members should advise individuals who contact them that responses to all inquiries are handled by the SDI Managing Director.

### **4.2 Standards Development**

4.2.1 *Duplication and Conflicts with Other Standards* – The SDI Standards Committee shall make every effort to avoid conflicts with other standards of ANSI-accredited standards developing organizations. The SDI Standards Committee shall adjudicate all unresolved conflicts in accordance with Section 2.3.

4.2.2 *Metric Policy* – Where applicable, all standards not written using the International System of Units (SI) shall include appropriate conversions correlating non-SI units to the corresponding SI equivalent.

4.2.3 *Patents and Commercial Terms and Conditions* - For the purpose of development, approval and maintenance of American National Standards, the SDI shall comply with applicable American National Standards Institute (ANSI) policies related to patents and commercial terms and conditions.

4.2.4 *Antitrust Policy* - American National Standards shall be developed in accordance with applicable antitrust and competition laws and meetings amongst competitors to develop American National Standards are to be conducted in accordance with these laws.

## 5. RULES FOR PROCESSING SDI STANDARDS BY CANVASS

5.1 ***Standards Balloting*** - All standards shall be reviewed by letter ballot of the canvassees.

5.2 ***Voting*** - Each canvassée shall vote one of the following positions on letter ballots:

- (1) Affirmative.
- (2) Affirmative with comment.
- (3) Negative, with reasons. The negative ballot shall include the reasons, and if possible, should include specific wording or actions that will resolve the objection.
- (4) Abstain.

5.3 ***Voting Period*** – Except as otherwise permitted under Section 5.3.1, the closure date for letter ballots shall be at least 30 days from the date of the transmittal of the ballots. The SDI Managing Director shall be authorized to grant an extension of the voting period for up to an additional 30 days upon request of a canvassée, if, in the Managing Director's opinion, adequate substantiating reasons for the request are provided. Any canvassée subsequently added shall have the same amount of time to respond as the other canvassees.

5.3.1 ***Limited Voting Periods*** – A limited voting period of not less than 14 days shall be permitted when in the opinion of the SDI Managing Director, the subject matter of the ballot is limited in scope and a shorter voting period is reasonable. This reduced voting period may be used for, but not limited to recirculation ballots of limited scope.

5.4 ***Vote Changes*** - The SDI Managing Director shall confirm with the voter in writing any vote changes.

5.5 ***Approved Actions*** - Standards shall be considered approved when all of the following conditions have been met:



- (1) At least 75 percent of the canvasees have returned their letter ballot.
- (2) At least 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of the votes cast, excluding abstentions and negatives without reasons, are affirmative.
- (3) All negative votes with reasons have been addressed in accordance with 5.7.

5.6 **Reporting Votes** - The results of each vote on all standards shall be reported to the SDI Standards Committee and the Canvass Group as follows:

- (1) Number of canvasees.
- (2) Number of canvasees voting affirmatively.
- (3) Number of canvasees voting negatively with reasons.
- (4) Number of canvasees voting negatively without reasons.
- (5) Number of canvasees abstaining.
- (6) Number of canvasees not returning ballots.

5.7 **Negative Votes** - Negative votes on a letter ballot shall be addressed in accordance with this section. All negative voters shall be provided with a written disposition of their comments and the reasons therefore, and shall be informed of their right to appeal in writing under Section 6.

5.7.1 **Negative Votes With Reasons** - Negative votes with reasons shall be forwarded by the SDI Managing Director to the SDI Standards Committee. The SDI Standards Committee shall review the negative vote with the voter and efforts shall be made to resolve the negative. All negative votes shall be addressed by the SDI Standards Committee, as follows:

- (1) **Substantive Persuasive Negative Votes** - If the SDI Standards Committee determines that the negative vote is persuasive and substantive changes are required, the revised provision shall be subject to a recirculation ballot by the canvasees. Substantive changes shall be considered those that directly and materially affect the use of the standard. If the negative voter does not withdraw or change their vote, the unresolved objection along with attempts at resolution shall be recirculated in order to afford all canvasees the opportunity to respond, reaffirm, or change their vote.
- (2) **Editorial Persuasive Negative Votes** - If the SDI Standards Committee determines that the negative vote is persuasive and editorial changes are required, the revised provision need not be re-balloted. Editorial changes shall be considered those that do not directly and materially affect the use of the standard. If the negative voter does not withdraw or change their vote, the unresolved objection along with attempts at resolution shall be recirculated in order to afford all canvasees the opportunity to respond, reaffirm, or change their vote.
- (3) **Previously Considered Negative Votes** - If the reasons for a negative vote have been previously considered by the SDI Standards Committee, it shall not be necessary to reconsider the vote unless new information has been submitted. If no new information is submitted, the previous decision of the SDI Standards Committee shall stand. The negative voter shall be provided with a written disposition and reasons therefore and that if the negative voter does not withdraw or change their vote, the unresolved objection along with attempts at resolution shall be recirculated in order to afford all canvasees the opportunity to respond, reaffirm, or change their vote.

- (4) *Not Related Negative Votes* - If the negative vote is not directly related to the item being balloted, the negative vote shall be considered as new business for the next review cycle of the standard in question. The consensus body member shall be advised that the negative vote was deemed not related to the proposal under consideration and shall be considered as new business for the next review cycle.
- (5) *Not Persuasive Negative Votes* - If the SDI Standards Committee determines that the negative vote is not persuasive, the unresolved objection(s) along with attempts at resolution shall be considered by the canvasees by recirculation letter ballot, as follows:
  - i. A recirculation ballot shall be issued that allows the canvasees to respond, reaffirm, or change their vote. Canvasees will be informed that if a reconsideration ballot is not returned, their previous vote will stand.
  - ii. Recirculation ballots shall be considered using the criteria of Section 5.5.
  - iii. Each negative voter with an unresolved comment shall be informed in writing that decisions may be appealed in writing in accordance with Section 6.

**5.7.2 Negative Votes Without Reasons** - Negative votes which are not accompanied by reasons shall be recorded by the SDI Managing Director as “negative without reasons” and no further action shall be required.

**5.8 SDI Standards Committee Approval of Final Committee Draft Standards** – After consensus has been achieved by the canvasees, the SDI Managing Director shall send the proposed draft standard and final report regarding procedural matters to the SDI Standards Committee for review and approval.

## **5.9 Public Review and Comment**

### **5.9.1 Notification**

**5.9.1.1** Upon SDI Standards Committee approval, the SDI Managing Director shall transmit proposals for new standards or reaffirmation, revision, or withdrawal of existing standards to ANSI for listing in Standards Action in order to provide an opportunity for public comment. The comment period shall be one of the following:

- (1) A minimum of thirty (30) days if the full text of the revision(s) can be published in Standards Action;
- (2) A minimum of forty-five (45) days if the document is available in an electronic format, deliverable within one day of a request, and the source (e.g., URL or an E-mail address) from which it can be obtained by the public is provided to ANSI for announcement in Standards Action; or
- (3) A minimum of sixty (60) days, if neither of the aforementioned options is applicable.

**5.9.1.2** The SDI Managing Director, with the concurrence of the SDI Standards Committee, shall determine whether public review shall be concurrent with the final canvass.

### 5.9.2 *Handling of Comments*

5.9.2.1 All comments that are received during the public review and comment period shall be considered by the SDI Standards Committee and the commenter shall be notified, in writing of the SDI Standards Committee's decision/response and the reasons therefore.

5.9.2.2 Comments received subsequent to the closing of the public review and comment period shall be handled or considered as new business for the next edition of the standard in question.

5.9.2.3 Timely comments that are not related to the proposal under consideration shall be documented and considered in the same manner as submittal of a new proposal. The commenter shall be notified that their comment is deemed unrelated to the proposal under consideration and shall be documented by the SDI and considered in the same manner as the submittal of a new proposal.

5.9.2.4 Response letters to public review commenters shall clearly indicate that unless a continuing objection is received by the specified date, the comment will be considered resolved.

### 5.9.3 *Continuing Objections*

5.9.3.1 If resolution is not achieved, each such objector shall be informed in writing that an appeals process exists within these procedures.

5.9.3.2 Each objection resulting from public review or submitted by a canvasee which is not resolved shall be reported to the ANSI Board of Standards Review.

### 5.9.4 *Substantive Changes and Unresolved Objections*

5.9.4.1 Any substantive change to a proposed standard shall be subject to a recirculation letter ballot by the canvasees, in accordance with Section 5, and listed in Standards Action for public review and comment, in accordance with Section 5.9.

5.9.4.2 Any unresolved objection resulting from the public comments to a proposed standard shall be subject to a recirculation letter ballot by the canvasees, in accordance with Section 5.

5.9.5 *Editorial Comments* - Any editorial change resulting from the resolution of the public comments to a proposed standard need not be re-balloted. Editorial changes shall be considered those that do not directly and materially affect the use of the standard.

**5.10 *Unresolved Comments*** – All canvasees or public commenters with unresolved comments related to a negative with reason" vote shall be informed of their right to appeal in writing in accordance with Section 6.

**5.11 *Approving Standards*** – The SDI Standards Committee shall issue a final report on the public comment period certifying compliance with these Procedures and shall approve the standard after confirmation that it was developed in compliance with these Procedures.

**5.12 *Revision or Reaffirmation*** – The SDI Board of Directors, with input from the SDI Standards Committee, shall establish a schedule providing for the review and needed revision or

reaffirmation of SDI standards at intervals not to exceed five (5) years. This review shall evaluate if the standard requires revision or if the standard should be reaffirmed without revision.

## 6. APPEALS

### 6.1 *Complaint*

6.1.1 Parties who are directly and materially interested and who have been or will be adversely affected by an SDI Standards Committee action or inaction shall have the right to appeal such action or inaction. Appeals are permitted on grounds of procedural noncompliance with these Procedures or the ANSI Essential Requirements. Appeals regarding content of the standard(s) are not permitted.

6.1.2 The appellant shall file a written complaint with the SDI Managing Director within 30 days after the date of notification of any action or, at any time, with respect to any action to which the appellant was not given notice or with respect to inaction. The SDI Managing Director shall notify and circulate the written complaint to the SDI Standards Committee for their review and consideration.

6.1.3 The complaint shall state the nature of the objection, the procedures that are at issue, the actions or inaction at issue, and the specific remedial action(s) that would satisfy the appellant's concerns.

6.2 ***Response*** - Within 45 days after the receipt of the complaint, the SDI Managing Director, on behalf of the SDI Standards Committee, shall respond in writing to the appellant, specifically addressing each allegation in the complaint to the extent possible. The SDI Managing Director's response shall attempt to resolve, informally, the complaint of the appellant.

### 6.3 *Appeals Panel and Hearing*

6.3.1 If the appellant does not accept the finding in the response noted in Section 6.2, the appellant may request that the complaint be heard by an appeals panel. This request must be received in writing by the SDI within 10 days of when the response was provided to the appellant. In this case, the SDI Managing Director shall appoint an appeals panel to hold a hearing on a date agreeable to all participants, with at least 30 days but not more than 60 days working notice. If the request from the appellant is not received within the 10 day time frame, the appellant shall be considered to have waived their right to an appeal.

6.3.2 The appeals panel shall consist of three individuals who have not been directly involved in the dispute. At least two members of the panel shall be acceptable to the appellant and at least two shall be acceptable to the SDI Managing Director. If the appellant and the SDI Managing Director are not able to mutually agree to the individuals within 15 days of beginning the selection process, the members of the panel shall be selected by the SDI Managing Director.

6.3.3 The hearing shall be permitted to be held as a face-to-face meeting or by teleconference or other electronic means, as determined by the SDI Managing Director.

6.3.4 A fee of \$750.00 (USD) shall be paid by the appellant to the SDI as part of the appeals panel and hearing process. This fee may be reduced or waived upon presentation of sufficient evidence of financial hardship on the part of the appellant. Any request for waiver or reduction in fee

must be submitted with the request for hearing. The SDI Managing Director, upon consideration of the evidence submitted, will make the decision if a reduction or waiver of the fee is to be granted.

#### **6.4 *Conduct of the Hearing***

6.4.1 The appellant has the responsibility of demonstrating improper actions or inaction, the adverse effects there from and the efficacy of the requested remedial action.

6.4.2 The SDI Managing Director has the responsibility to demonstrate that the SDI Standards Committee took all actions in question in compliance with these Procedures and that the requested remedial action would be ineffective or detrimental.

#### **6.5 *Decision***

6.5.1 The appeals panel shall render its decision in writing within 30 days, stating its findings of fact and conclusions, with reasons therefore and citing the evidence. If there is not a unanimous decision by the appeals panel, a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s majority opinion shall be sufficient.

6.5.2 The SDI Managing Director shall notify in writing the appellant, the SDI Standards Committee and the SDI Board of Directors of the decision of the appeals panel.

### **7. INTERPRETATIONS**

7.1 ***General*** - Formal interpretations are for the purpose of providing formal explanations of the meaning or intent of any specific provision or provisions of any document.

7.1.1 *Limitations* - A statement, written or oral, that is not processed in accordance with these procedures shall not be considered the official position of SDI and shall not be considered to be, nor be relied upon as, a formal interpretation.

NOTE: This formal interpretation procedure does not prevent any Member, Associate Member, or Consultant of the SDI, or the SDI Managing Director from expressing a personal opinion on the meaning or intent of any provision of any such document, provided that: (a) the person rendering the opinion orally or in writing clearly states that the opinion is personal and does not necessarily represent the position of the SDI and may not be considered to be or relied upon as such; and (b) written opinions are rendered only in response to written requests and a copy of the request and the response is sent to the SDI Managing Director.

7.1.2 *Nature of Formal Interpretations* - Requests for formal interpretations shall be clearly worded so as to solicit a Yes or No answer from the SDI Standards Committee.

7.1.3 *Editions to be Interpreted* - Formal interpretations shall be rendered only on the text of the current or immediate prior edition of the document, or a prior edition that is referenced by code and enforced by a governing jurisdiction.

7.1.4 *Reasons for Not Processing* - A request for a formal interpretation shall not be processed if it:

- (a) Involves a determination of compliance of a design, installation, or product or

- equivalency of protection
- (b) Involves a review of plans or specifications, or requires judgment or knowledge that can only be acquired as a result of on-site inspection
- (c) Involves text that clearly and decisively provides the requested information
- (d) Involves subjects that are not addressed in the document.

**7.2 Method of Requesting Formal Interpretations** - A request for a formal interpretation shall be made in writing to the SDI Managing Director. The request for interpretation must address a specific provision of the standard. The request shall include a statement referencing a single problem and identifying the portion (article, section, paragraph, etc.) and edition of the document on which a formal interpretation is requested. Such a request shall be in writing and shall indicate the business interest of the requester. A request involving an actual field situation shall so state, and all parties involved shall be named and notified.

### **7.3 Processing Formal Interpretations**

**7.3.1 Determination of Qualification** - The SDI Managing Director shall determine if the request for formal interpretation shall be processed in accordance with 7.1.

**7.3.2 Editing of Formal Interpretation Request** - A request for a formal interpretation may be rephrased. The rephrased version and any pertinent background information shall be sent to the requester and all parties named in the request for agreement. A deadline for receipt of agreement shall be established.

**7.3.3 Development of Proposed Interpretation** – The SDI Standards Committee, with appropriate input, shall develop the proposed interpretation.

**7.3.4 Balloting of Interpretations** – The proposed interpretation shall be voted upon by the SDI Board of Directors.

**7.3.5 Voting on Formal Interpretations** -An interpretation shall be considered approved when all of the following conditions have been met:

- (1) At least 75 percent of the members of the SDI Board of Directors have voted.
- (2) At least 75 percent of the votes cast, excluding abstentions, are affirmative.

**7.4 Issuance of a Formal Interpretation** - If the required agreement is secured and documentation is approved by the SDI Board of Directors, the requester, the SDI Standards Committee, and all named parties shall be notified by the SDI Managing Director. The formal interpretation shall be issued and shall become effective 20 days after the notification unless an Appeal is filed with the SDI Managing Director.

**7.5 Notification of Interpretations** - Notification of approved interpretations shall be sent in writing to the requester. Notification shall also be permitted to be given to other users of the standard through technical journals or other appropriate means, as approved by the SDI Standards Committee.

**7.6 Action Following Issuance of Formal Interpretation** – The SDI Standards Committee shall review both the request and the interpretation, and evaluate whether clarification of the text of the document is required. If required, the SDI Standards Committee shall incorporate such a

modification in the next edition of the standard in question. After issuance of the next edition of the standard, the formal interpretation shall be retired.

7.7 **Disclaimer** - No interpretation is binding on the SDI unless it is established in accordance with these Procedures.

## 8. WITHDRAWAL OF AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

8.1 **General** - The SDI may withdraw its approval of any American National Standard by a vote of the Board of Directors without a vote of a consensus body. Upon board approval of a withdrawal, the Managing Director shall act in accordance with Section 5.9.1.1.