



**Office of Materials Technology
Structural Materials and Pavement Markings Division
Procedures for the Qualification of Steel Producers, Fabricators and Suppliers**

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) Office of Materials Technology (OMT) maintains a listing of qualified metal producers, fabricators and suppliers approved to supply specific metal and *alternative bridge products* to Maryland State Highway Administration and Maryland Department of Transportation construction projects. Facilities on the list have demonstrated the ability to produce and supply metal and *alternative bridge* products in conformance with the specification requirements. For further information on this program, please contact Division Chief, David Malburg P.E. of the Structural Materials and Pavement Marking Division at 443-572-5298 or dmalburg@mdot.maryland.gov

Qualification does not imply that material from these facilities can be used on SHA projects without the normal Quality Control/Quality Assurance testing inspection and acceptance procedures.

An approved list of facilities is intended to provide prime contractors sources of metal products and *alternative bridge product producers* which have been previously evaluated and approved as a means of expediting the source approval process. Sources are listed in alphabetical order and the order should NOT be construed as a rating of those facilities.

- All *Steel Bridge* Fabricators performing work for Administration projects shall be qualified under the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) Certification Program for Steel Bridge Fabricators or Bridge and Highway Metal Component Manufacturers as described in the:

Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration
Standard Specifications for Construction and Materials July 2022
Category 400 Structures Section 430 — Metal Structures
[2022 Standard Specifications for Construction and Materials.pdf \(maryland.gov\)](#)

- All alternative material bridge fabricators (Non-Steel) will be required to provide the Administration with a copy the most recent Quality Control Plan (QCP) describing the following information,
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Procedure:

Fabrication facilities producing metal components under the Maryland Standard Specifications for Construction and Materials shall be approved by the Office of Materials Technology (OMT) before the start of fabrication. The following describes the procedure by which fabrication facilities not presently on the approved list can be considered for placement on that list.

- 1) The prime contractor with a current and executed MDOT/SHA contract may list, on a Source

of Supply, a facility presently not on the approved list.

- 2) OMT will notify in writing that facility that they have been named to provide specific material(s) for a Maryland SHA project. This notice will also contain a request for specific information, including points of contact(s).
- 3) Once confirmed the facility intends to supply the specific materials, the company/fabricator will be required to submit a detailed Quality Control Plan (QCP) to the OMT Metals Team for review to metals@mdot.maryland.gov The QCP shall follow guidelines detailed in:

Steel Bridge Fabrication QC/QA Guidelines American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials National Steel Bridge Alliance AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration G4.1-2019 [G4.1—Steel Bridge Fabrication QC/QA Guidelines \(aisc.org\)](#)

The review of this document may require up to 30 days after being received by OMT.

- 4) Following the review and acceptance of the QCP, a facility inspection/audit may be conducted by the Metals Team or their authorized representative, to verify the facility's capabilities and qualifications of the Quality Control personnel. The facility will have up to 30 days to correct any discrepancies noted during the facility inspection. Once the review has been completed, and all discrepancies have been corrected, the fabricator, along with the prime contractor will be notified of the facility's approval. The facility will then be placed on the "Qualified Producers, Fabricators and Suppliers" list.
- 5) Work will be permitted to begin in accordance with the Maryland Standard Specifications for Construction and Materials.
- 6) Approvals will remain in effect indefinitely provided the facility continues to possess the ability and capacity to produce materials in accordance with the specific standards and/or specifications. Facility must also maintain AISC Certification.
- 7) Any lapse in fabrication of materials under SHA Maryland Standard Specifications for Construction, greater than twelve (12) months may require additional information be submitted or require re-inspection of the facility.
- 8) For material categories, Metal Traffic Barrier/Guide Rail, Elastomeric Bearings Steel, Reinforcement Bar, and Steel Wire Reinforcement, Welded, manufacturers must be in good standing with and National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP) <https://data.ntpep.org/UP3/Products>

- 9) For Metal Traffic Barrier End Treatments subject to MASH testing requirements, the end treatment must have a current FHWA letter of Eligibility and, based on the crash data, will be categorized as to SHA type, and placed on approved products list.

Cost:

The QCP review and facility inspection/audit will be performed at no cost to the fabricator, and/or prime contractor, provided the prime contractor has named the fabricator on the Source of Supply Letter, as outlined above. However, if the prime contractor fails to use the facility, after completion of approval process, the administration reserves the right to assess back charges for expenses accrued by SHA during the review and approval process.

Alternative Pay Option: The Fabrication/Manufacturing Facility may request approval as outlined above without being named by a prime contractor, provided the following three (3) steps are included:

- 1) The fabrication facility must make a written request to:

Eric M. Frempong, Ph.D., P.E.
Director
Office of Materials Technology
7450 Traffic Drive, Hanover, MD 21076
efrempong@mdot.maryland.gov
(Toll Free) 1.800.323.6742
443.572.5100

This request shall acknowledge that the fabricator is willing to pay all reasonable expenses accrued by SHA during the review and approval process.

- 2) A detailed estimate, along with specific instructions on setting up an account will be forwarded to the fabricator.
- 3) Once an account has been established with SHA, the Metals Team will start the approval process as outlined in the above section, excluding step one.

Confidentiality:

All information provided by a Producer, Fabricator or Supplier will be kept confidential by SHA and OMT. An exception could occur when the Producer, Fabricator or Supplier makes it publicly available or when agreed upon with SHA and OMT. If the need arises for the release of confidential information by either law or contractual requirements, the Producer, Fabricator or Supplier would be informed of the release of information unless prohibited by law. This confidentiality includes information obtained from sources other than the Producer, Fabricator or Supplier (e.g., complainant, regulators).