



Many specifications indicate that hollow metal frames are to be grouted solid, even in drywall partitions. We all know by now that we should never place a plaster based material, such as **STRUCTO-LITE®** in the hollow metal frame...However, we should NOT be installing any grout in a hollow metal frame when it is going against a drywall partition. The drywall will get damaged, even if we install the grout prior to installation. I have included TWO (2) hollow metal frame references that state this information, which is typically referenced in most specifications. We need to RFI the Architect or possibly discuss this concern with them prior to bidding in order to get the specification removed from the project scope.

*Corey Zussman, AIA, NCARB - Director of Quality Management*

- We should be reviewing the specifications, typically Section 08000, and if we identify the requirement, please discuss or RFI the Architect.
- We do not need to grout fill the cavity for ANY fire rating.
- We should be filling the cavity, in an acoustically identified wall, with batt insulation as identified in the attached SDI Tech note.
- We should not be spot grouting the anchors.
- When discussing or sending an RFI to the Architect, please reference these three documents:
  1. Steel Door Institute Tech Letter 127I-04 (Attached)
  2. ANSI/SDI A250.8-2003; Section 4.2.2 "Frame Installation"

**"GROUTING SHALL NOT BE USED FOR FRAMES INSTALLED IN DRYWALL WALLS."**
- If, for any reason, the Architect still wants us to grout fill the frames in a drywall partition, please call the Director of Quality Management to draft a letter which will identify the potential concerns.

This Bulletin  
Supersedes  
previous Quality  
Bulletins on this  
topic.

This Bulletin  
addresses grout  
and/or  
**STRUCTO-LITE®** in  
hollow metal frames  
going into a drywall  
partition...  
*When grouting into  
a CMU or concrete  
wall, use a 4" slump  
grout troweled into  
place only.*



<b>TECHNICAL DATA SERIES</b> <b>INDUSTRY ALERT</b>	<b>SDI</b> <b>127I - 04</b>
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# Grouting Frames in Drywall

Some Architectural Specifications require frames in stud and drywall partitions to be filled with grout for sound deadening or to enhance structural integrity.

The STEEL DOOR INSTITUTE is opposed to this practice for the following reasons:

- ANSI A250.8-2003 (also 1998) paragraph 4.2.2 and ANSI A250.11-2001 paragraph 2.2 both address the question of grouting frames. The paragraph cited in ANSI A250.8 gives a bit more information on the problems related to moisture in grout.
- In drywall construction, this moisture has two places to go. It can soak into the drywall, potentially destroying its cohesive integrity and thus the ability to retain anchors or frame integrity, or it can leach downward where it will cause premature rusting of anchors, screws, stud connections, bottom of frames, etc.
- Grouting does not appreciably afford any additional structural rigidity to the frame. As an example, slip-on drywall frames have passed fire and hose stream tests, cycle tests, and in some cases impact tests without being grouted.
- If the intention is for sound deadening, SDI 128-97 (Section 3) should be consulted. In addition, the same insulation as used between wall studs (generally lightly packed fiberglass) will serve as a sound deadener without the potential for damage to the frame or wallboard.

It is therefore the opinion of the STEEL DOOR INSTITUTE that grouting should **never** be specified for drywall construction.

