

Elevated Slab Tolerances

For a steel-framed project with concrete slabs on metal deck, I know that the AISC *Code of Standard Practice* sets the tolerances for the steel, but what typically defines the tolerances for the top of concrete slab on metal deck? Normally, the concrete subcontractor uses the ACI "F" number criteria from the cast-in-place section of the project specifications, but is this correct if one just references the basic ACI and AISC standards without additional project specifications?

Remember that top-of-concrete elevations for a framed slab are as much a function of the design process as they are of the construction process. The "F" numbering system is really a measurement of the contractor's performance of the slab finishing process, rather than of the actual elevation of a framed slab. Therefore, to answer your question, the engineer really needs to be involved in the process of determining what is required to achieve acceptable slab elevation results.

I wrote a SteelWise article for

