

**IF YOU'VE EVER ASKED YOURSELF "WHY?"** about something related to structural steel design or construction, *Modern Steel Construction's* monthly Steel Interchange column is for you! Send your questions or comments to [solutions@aisc.org](mailto:solutions@aisc.org).

## Elliptical Hollow Sections

**AISC 360-05 currently does not address the design of elliptical hollow sections. I was wondering if there are any other resources that can be used to design with these shapes.**

The AISC website has a page related to HSS at [www.aisc.org/hss](http://www.aisc.org/hss). It provides information for rectangular and round HSS. Elliptical HSS are currently not as common (and not typically produced) in the U.S. However, the International Committee for the Development and Study of Tubular Structures (CIDECT) publishes design guides that have information on elliptical shapes ([www.aisc.org/cidect](http://www.aisc.org/cidect)).

There are some producers and possibly service centers that have elliptical shapes available for your project. However, they may not be produced to an ASTM standard. A link to a list of producers and service centers can be found on our steel availability web page ([www.aisc.org/availability](http://www.aisc.org/availability)).

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## High-Strength Bolts

**Are high-strength bolts, nuts and washers required to be produced by the same manufacturer?**

Neither the AISC nor RCSC specifications require that bolts, nuts

