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Editor's Note: Tension field action is most commonly utilized in plate girder design and for special plate shear walls. See AISC's Design Guide 20, Steel Plate Shear Walls (www.aisc.org/epubs) for detailed information on the design and construction of steel plate shear walls.

5.3.7. In many design examples in the 13th Edition *Steel Construction Manual*, yielding and buckling in a gusset plate or similar fitting are checked on a Whitmore section. What is a Whitmore section?

A Whitmore section identifies a theoretically effective cross-sectional area at

the end of a connection resisting tension or compression, such as that from a brace-to-gusset-plate connection or similar fitting. As illustrated in Figure 5.3.7-1 for a WT hanger connection, the effective length for the Whitmore section L_w is determined using a spread-out angle of 30° along both sides of the connection, beginning at the start of the connection. It is applicable to both welded and bolted connections.

6.5.2. What is the definition of snug-tight bolt installation and when is it allowed?

The 2004 RCSC Specification defines a snug-tightened joint as a joint in which the bolts have been installed in accordance with Section 8.1. Note that no specific level

Editor's Note: Visit www.aisc.org/faq for
FAQs 6.6.4, 6.6.5, 6.6.6, and 6.6.7

6.9.1. The RCSC Specification discusses