


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 S. Zussman, AIA, NCARB - QA/QC Vice President

- ⦿ We should be reviewing the specifications, typically Section 080000, 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 two documents:
 - ⦿ Steel Door Institute Tech Letter 127I-23
 - ⦿ ANSI/SDI A250.8-2023; 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 Quality Department to draft a letter which will identify the potential concerns.



TECHNICAL DATA SERIES INDUSTRY ALERT	SDI 127 I—23
<h2>Grouting Frames in Drywall</h2>	
<p>Some architectural specifications require frames in stud and drywall partitions to be filled with grout for sound deadening or to enhance structural integrity.</p> <p>The Steel Door Institute is opposed to this practice for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <i>Guidelines for Acoustical Performance of Standard Steel Doors and Frames</i> (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. <p>Higher STC (Sound Transmission Class) products (over STC 40) may require that the frame be grouted with a cement-based grout or mortar as this was the tested condition. In these cases, the frames should be grouted and thoroughly cured prior to installation of the frame in the drywall wall.</p> <p style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;">It is therefore the opinion of the Steel Door Institute that grouting should not be specified or used for drywall construction except as described above.</p>	
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**Do NOT use
STRUCTO-LITE®
Only Grout**

**This Bulletin
addresses grout 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.**

