

Special Inspection Services



The term “special inspections” first appeared in the Virginia building codes in the late 1980s and was adopted in the BOCA building code in 1990. Today, there is not a state in the union that does not have some type of special inspection requirement in place to govern the monitoring of the materials and workmanship that contribute to the integrity of the building structure. In addition, special inspection requirements have been put in place to assure that the approved plans and specifications are being followed and that relevant codes and reference standards are being observed.

Froehling & Robertson, Inc. has been a leader in the performance of special inspections since the term was coined. Today, F&R helps clients by undertaking the comprehensive inspection and testing of a building's structural elements – as well as some designated, non-structural building systems – during construction. The importance of having qualified firms such as F&R perform these critical inspections has never been more apparent. Not only does a thorough special inspection plan assist in ensuring the integrity of a construction project, but these code-mandated inspections represent one of the most effective tools for reducing the liability exposure faced by project owners.

On a daily basis, F&R staff performs special inspections in the specific disciplines of geotechnical engineering, foundations, soils, cast-in-place concrete, precast concrete, reinforcing steel, masonry, structural steel, sprayed fire resistive materials, EIFS, and more. F&R is able to perform these diverse types of inspections quickly and efficiently because we have on staff the professional engineers, staff engineers, construction managers, project inspectors, engineering technicians, Metals/NDT technicians, and AWS certified welding inspectors that are needed to perform these analyses. Further strengthening our special inspections capability is our proven ability to integrate our staff into the overall project workforce so as to ensure that the required inspections are performed at the right time and at the right price. From preliminary planning to final occupancy, we work closely with the owner, structural engineer, general contractor, and erector to complete the necessary inspections and testing to satisfy the special inspection requirements for the project.

Finally, because of the recognition of F&R's leadership on the special inspection issue, we have been able to institute a successful series of continuing education seminars addressing the interpretation and application of various statewide building codes as well as the International Building Code (IBC 2006). F&R has delivered hundreds of code presentations to architects, engineers, municipalities, building officials, city planners, construction managers, and general contractors, with new classes being scheduled frequently.

