

Quality Control for Stainless Steel

There are many types of stainless steel. The most used in construction are the Type 304 and Type 316 grades. Type 304 is the most common stainless steel used in construction. Type 316 stainless steel is used for more severe environments like coastal applications, below-grade applications, and anywhere the metal is exposed to chemicals.

ASTM A240 is the standard that ensures your stainless steel has the correct chemical composition, but how do you ensure that the stainless steel has not been contaminated in either the production or forming stages? You can specify that the stainless steel meets DFARS (Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement), ensuring that even imported stainless steel meets U.S. quality standards. A product labeled as Type 304 or Type 316 does not guarantee it meets the U.S. DFARS.



Imported stainless steel drip edge that has corroded because it was not held to the DFARS standards

DFARS documentation is done on a job-by-job basis and tracks the production roll numbers that prove that the product meets the DFARS requirements. DFARS is available upon request with tracking information and a certification letter from the mill. The “Buy American Act” does not mean the material meets standards. It just means they assembled or finished your product in the U.S., so protect yourself and ask that your stainless steel meets DFARS standards.



*Department Federal Acquisition
Regulation Supplement logo*