

QSI8 Technical Bulletin – Thursday; July 12, 2007

Case-hardened screws not prohibited for cabinet assembly or installation.

During writing of the 8th edition Quality Standards Illustrated (QSI), the Quality Standards Board of Review (QSBOR) shared concern of their colleagues in the construction industry that cabinetmakers were using thin drywall screws for cabinet assembly. It is well-known that this type of screw can be easily fractured by applying a sharp blow or high torque to the shaft.

In Sections 400A-T-12, pages 145-146; and 400B-T-10, pages 160-161, this concern was codified as a standard. At the time of printing the QSBOR wrote (on page 146, repeated on 161):

NOTE ABOUT SCREWS: The use of "drywall" screws is not permitted. Use heavy shank steel screws.

In an attempt to be clear, the term "drywall" was used. Though drywall screws are case hardened this does not mean that all case hardened screws are prohibited for cabinet assembly.

Regarding installation, in several instances Section 1700 of the Quality Standards Illustrated 8th Edition states, "Drywall, bugle head, or case-hardened screws" are "not permitted" in any grade.

This language intended to prohibit case hardened drywall screws (typically bugle headed) and not all case hardened screws. Indeed there are many case hardened screws engineered specifically for installation purposes. To resolve confusion and clarify intent, Section 1700 references appearing to prohibit all case hardened screws should be understood to read as follows:

"Case hardened drywall screws" are "not permitted"

Please print and photocopy this bulletin and place it Sections 400 and 1700 of your copy of the 8th edition Quality Standards Illustrated (QSI).