

Hand Calculation

Problem Statement:

Determine if HSS 8 x 6 x 1/4 steel column is safe and meet all the required demands

Column size: HSS 8 x 6 x 1/4

Column Height

$$L := 18 \text{ ft}$$

Axial Dead load

$$D_L := 29 \text{ kip}$$

Axial Live load

$$L_L := 50 \text{ kip}$$

Girt Wind load (parallel to Y-axis)

$$W_L := 5 \text{ kip}$$

Wind load location above base

$$Y := 9 \text{ ft}$$

Beam Stability Flexure about X-X

$$L_{ux} := 18 \text{ ft}$$

Buckling unbraced length about X-X

$$L_{uxx} := 18 \text{ ft} \quad (\text{strong axis})$$

Buckling unbraced length about Y-Y

$$L_{uyy} := 9 \text{ ft} \quad (\text{weak axis})$$

A500 Grade C material Yield strength

$$F_y := 50 \text{ ksi}$$

Steel Modulus of Elasticity

$$E := 29000 \text{ ksi}$$

Use AISC 360-22 for properties of HSS 8 x 6 x 1/4

Design Method: ASD

Column is pinned at the top and at the bottom

$$K_x := 1 \quad \text{and} \quad K_y := 1$$

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate Max Axial Load

$$P_{u1} := D_L + L_L = 79 \text{ kip}$$

Axial Wind Load is zero, hence, $W := 0 \text{ kip}$

$$P_{u2} := D_L + 0.75 \cdot L_L + 0.45 \cdot W = 66.5 \text{ kip}$$

Step 2: Calculate Max Applied Moment (X-X Strong Axis)

$$a := 9 \text{ ft}$$

$$b := 9 \text{ ft}$$

$$M_W := \frac{W_L \cdot a \cdot b}{L} = 22.5 \text{ kip} \cdot \text{ft}$$

$$\text{Moment due to dead load} \quad M_{DL} := 0 \text{ kip} \cdot \text{ft}$$

$$\text{Moment due to live load} \quad M_{LL} := 0 \text{ kip} \cdot \text{ft}$$

$$M_{x1} := M_{DL} + 0.6 \cdot M_W = 13.5 \text{ kip} \cdot \text{ft}$$

$$M_{x2} := M_{DL} + 0.75 \cdot M_{LL} + 0.45 \cdot M_W = 10.125 \text{ (kip} \cdot \text{ft)}$$

Step 3: Calculate Max Applied Shear (X-X Strong Axis)

$$V_W := \frac{W_L}{2} = 2.5 \text{ kip}$$

Applied Shear due to dead load $V_{DL} := 0 \text{ kip}$

$$V_{x-x} := V_{DL} + 0.6 \cdot V_W = 1.5 \text{ kip}$$

Step 4: Axial Design- Check member for Slender Elements (AISC-SPEC Table B4.1a)

From AISC-Table 1-11, we obtain the following:

Wall 1 - Width to thickness ratio

$$\lambda_1 := 31.3$$

Wall 2 - Width to thickness ratio

$$\lambda_2 := 22.8$$

The limiting width to thickness ratio

$$\lambda_r := 1.4 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{E}{F_y}} = 33.72$$

λ_1 and λ_2 are smaller than λ_r ; hence, the walls of the HSS section are non-slender

Step 5: Axial Design-Check the controlling slenderness Ratio

Radius of Gyration $r_x := 3.03 \text{ in}$

Radius of Gyration $r_y := 2.43 \text{ in}$

Effective Slenderness Ratio about X-X axis:

$$\frac{K_x \cdot L_{uxx}}{r_x} = 71.287$$

Effective Slenderness Ratio about Y-Y axis:

$$\frac{K_y \cdot L_{uyy}}{r_y} = 44.444$$

The controlling slenderness ratio axis is the X-X axis, hence

$$L_c := K_x \cdot L_{uxx} \quad r := r_x$$

$$\frac{L_c}{r} = 71.287$$

Step 6: Axial Design- Determine the Flexural Elastic Buckling Stress

$$\text{Elastic Buckling Stress, } F_e := \frac{\pi^2 \cdot E}{\left(\frac{L_c}{r}\right)^2} = 56.32 \text{ ksi}$$

$$\frac{F_y}{F_e} = 0.888 < 2.25$$

Hence, we use AISC SPEC Eq E3-2 to determine the Nominal Flexural Buckling stress, F_n

$$F_n := \left(0.658^{\frac{F_y}{F_e}}\right) \cdot F_y = 34.48 \text{ ksi}$$

Step 7: Axial Design - Determine the Nominal Compressive Strength

$$A_g := 6.17 \cdot \text{in}^2$$

$$P_n := F_n \cdot A_g = 212.76 \text{ kip}$$

Step 8: Axial Design - Determine the Allowable Compressive Strength

$$\Omega := 1.67$$

$$P_{all} := \frac{P_n}{\Omega} = 127.399 \text{ kip}$$

Step 9: Flexural Design - Determine the Nominal Flexural Strength due to Yielding limit state

From AISC Table 1-11, the plastic section modulus $Z_x := 16.9 \text{ in}^3$

$$M_{n_yield} := Z_x \cdot F_y = 845 \text{ kip} \cdot \text{in} \quad (\text{SPEC Eq F7-1})$$

Note: Member flange and web are compact. Hence, Nominal Flexural Strength due to web and flange local buckling does not apply to this section (SPEC F7-2 and F7-3 do not apply)

Step 10: Flexural Design- Determine the Nominal Flexural Strength due to Lateral Torsional Buckling (LTB)

Beam Stability Flexure about X-X: $L_{ux} = 18 \text{ ft}$

From AISC SPEC Section F7-4: $L_{ux} = 216 \text{ in}$

From AISC Table 1-11: $J := 70.3 \text{ in}^4$

$$M_p := Z_x \cdot F_y = 845 \text{ kip} \cdot \text{in}$$

$$L_p := 0.13 \cdot E \cdot r_y \cdot \frac{\sqrt{J \cdot A_g}}{M_p} = 225.793 \text{ in} \quad (\text{SPEC Eq F7-12})$$

$L_{ux} < L_p$; hence, the limit state of lateral torsional buckling does not control

Step 11: Determine the Allowable Flexural Capacity

$$\Omega = 1.67$$

$$M_{nx} := M_{n_yield} = 845 \text{ kip} \cdot \text{in}$$

$$M_{x_all} := \frac{M_{nx}}{\Omega} = 42.166 \text{ kip} \cdot \text{ft}$$

Step 12: Determine the Nominal Shear Strength

$$K_v := 5 \qquad \frac{h}{t_w} = 31.3$$

$$1.1 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{K_v \cdot E}{F_y}} = 59.24$$

$31.3 < 59.24$; hence, $C_{V2} := 1$ based on AISC SPEC Eq G2-9

$$A_w := 3.4 \text{ in}^2$$

$$V_n := 0.6 \cdot F_y \cdot A_w \cdot C_{V2} = 102 \text{ kip}$$

Step 13: Determine the Allowable Shear Strength

$$\Omega = 1.67$$

$$V_{x_all} := \frac{V_n}{\Omega} = 61.08 \text{ kip}$$

Step 14: Demand to Capacity Ratio Check

- Axial check:

$$P_{u1} = 79 \text{ kip} \qquad P_{u2} = 66.5 \text{ kip}$$

$$DCR_{axial1} := \frac{P_{u1}}{P_{all}} = 0.62 < 1 \text{ PASS } \checkmark$$

$$DCR_{axial2} := \frac{P_{u2}}{P_{all}} = 0.52 < 1 \text{ PASS } \checkmark$$

- Flexural Check:

$$DCR_{flex1} := \frac{M_{x_{x1}}}{M_{x_{all}}} = 0.32 < 1 \text{ PASS } \checkmark$$

$$DCR_{flex2} := \frac{M_{x_{x2}}}{M_{x_{all}}} = 0.24 < 1 \text{ PASS } \checkmark$$

- Shear Check:

$$DCR_{shear} := \frac{V_{x_{x}}}{V_{x_{all}}} = 0.025 < 1 \text{ PASS } \checkmark$$

- Combined Loading Check:

This check only applies with the factorial loads based on the controlling load combination

In this example, the controlling load combination is:

$$D + 0.75 \cdot L + 0.45 \cdot W$$

Based on AISC SPEC Section H 1. 1, we must check $\frac{P_r}{P_c}$ ratio to determine which interaction equation to use

$$P_r := P_{u2} = 66.5 \text{ kip} \quad P_c := P_{all} = 127.399 \text{ kip}$$

$$\frac{P_r}{P_c} = 0.522 > 0.2$$

Hence, use Equation H1-a

$$DCR_{comb} := \frac{P_r}{P_c} + \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{M_{x_{x2}}}{M_{x_{all}}} = 0.735 < 1 \text{ PASS } \checkmark$$

Step 15: Lateral Deflection Check

$$\text{Lateral Deflection Limit: } \frac{L}{360} = 0.6 \text{ in}$$

$$\text{From AISC Table 1-11, } I := 56.6 \text{ in}^4$$

$$\Delta := \frac{W_L \cdot L^3}{48 \cdot E \cdot I} = 0.64 \text{ in}$$

The controlling load combination for deflection is

$$\Delta_w := 0.42 \cdot \Delta = 0.269 \text{ in} < 0.64 \text{ PASS } \checkmark$$

See the following ENERCALC printed calc report for comparison



Project Title: Steel Column Module
Engineer: ENERCALC Engr. Div.
Project ID: ENERCALC
Project Descr: Verification Example

Steel Column

Project File: Steel Column.ec6

LIC#: KW-06000215, Build:20.25.11.24

Licensed ENERCALC User

(c) ENERCALC, LLC 1982-2025

DESCRIPTION: Steel Column Calculation

Code References

Governing Code : IBC 2027
Referenced Design Standard(s) : AISC 360-22
Load Combinations Used : IBC 2018

General Information

Steel Section Name : **HSS8x6x1/4**
Analysis Method : Allowable Strength
Steel Stress Grade : A500, Grade C, $F_y = 50$ ksi, Carbon Steel
 F_y : Steel Yield : 50.0 ksi
 E : Elastic Bending Modulus : 29,000.0 ksi
Overall Column Height : 18.0 ft
Top & Bottom Fixity : Top & Bottom Pinned
Brace condition :
Unbraced Length for buckling ABOUT X-X Axis = 18.0 ft, $K = 1.0$
Unbraced Length for buckling ABOUT Y-Y Axis = 9 ft, $K = 1.0$

Applied Loads

Service loads entered. Load Factors will be applied for calculations.

AXIAL LOADS . . .
Gravity Roof Loads: Axial Load at 18.0 ft, $D = 29.0$, $L = 50.0$ k
BENDING LOADS . . .
Lat. Point Load at 9.0 ft creating M_x -x, $W = 5.0$ k

DESIGN SUMMARY

Bending & Shear Check Results

PASS Max. Axial+Bending Stress Ratio = **0.7340** : 1
Load Combination : +D+0.750L+0.450W
Location of max.above base : 8.940 ft
At maximum location values are . . .
 P_a : Axial : 66.50 k
 P_n / Ω : Allowable : 127.399 k
 M_a -x : Applied : 10.057 k-ft
 M_n -x / Ω : Allowable : 42.166 k-ft
 M_a -y : Applied : 0.0 k-ft
 M_n -y / Ω : Allowable : 34.681 k-ft
Maximum Load Reactions . .
Top along X-X : 0.0 k
Bottom along X-X : 0.0 k
Top along Y-Y : 1.50 k
Bottom along Y-Y : 1.50 k
Maximum Load Deflections . .
Along Y-Y : 0.2713 in at 9.060ft above base
for load combination : +D+0.420W
Along X-X : 0.0 in at 0.0ft above base
for load combination :
PASS Maximum Shear Stress Ratio = **0.02454** : 1
Load Combination : +D+0.60W
Location of max.above base : 9.060 ft
At maximum location values are . . .
 V_a : Applied : 1.50 k
 V_n / Ω : Allowable : 61.119 k

Load Combination Results

Load Combination	Maximum Axial + Bending Stress Ratios			Cb _x	Cb _y	K _x L _x /R _x	K _y L _y /R _y	Maximum Shear Ratios		
	Stress Ratio	Status	Location					Stress Ratio	Status	Location
D Only	0.228	PASS	0.00 ft	1.00	1.00	71.29	44.44	0.000	PASS	0.00 ft
+D+L	0.620	PASS	0.00 ft	1.00	1.00	71.29	44.44	0.000	PASS	0.00 ft
+D+0.750L	0.522	PASS	0.00 ft	1.00	1.00	71.29	44.44	0.000	PASS	0.00 ft
+D+0.60W	0.510	PASS	8.94 ft	1.00	1.00	71.29	44.44	0.025	PASS	9.06 ft
+D+0.750L+0.450W	0.734	PASS	8.94 ft	1.00	1.00	71.29	44.44	0.018	PASS	0.00 ft
+0.60D+0.60W	0.386	PASS	8.94 ft	1.00	1.00	71.29	44.44	0.025	PASS	9.06 ft
+0.60D	0.137	PASS	0.00 ft	1.00	1.00	71.29	44.44	0.000	PASS	9.06 ft

Maximum Reactions

Note: Only non-zero reactions are listed.

Load Combination	Axial (k)	R _x (k)		R _y (k)		M _x (k-ft)		M _y (k-ft)	
	@ Base	@ Base	@ Top	@ Base	@ Top	@ Base	@ Top	@ Base	@ Top
D Only	29.000								
+D+L	79.000								
+D+0.750L	66.500								
+D+0.60W	29.000			-1.500	-1.500				
+D+0.750L+0.450W	66.500			-1.125	-1.125				
+0.60D+0.60W	17.400			-1.500	-1.500				
+0.60D	17.400								



Project Title: Steel Column Module
 Engineer: ENERCALC Engr. Div.
 Project ID: ENERCALC
 Project Descr: Verification Example

Steel Column

Project File: Steel Column.ec6

LIC# : KW-06000215, Build:20.25.11.24

Licensed ENERCALC User

(c) ENERCALC, LLC 1982-2025

DESCRIPTION: Steel Column Calculation

Extreme Reactions

Item	Extreme Value	Axial (k)	Rx (k)		Ry (k)		Mx (k-ft)		My (k-ft)	
		@ Base	@ Base	@ Top	@ Base	@ Top	@ Base	@ Top	@ Base	@ Top
Axial, Base Max		79.000								
Axial, Base Min		17.400								
Rx, Base Max										
Rx, Base Min										
Rx, Top Max										
Rx, Top Min										
Ry, Base Max										
Ry, Base Min						-1.500				
Ry, Top Max										
Ry, Top Min										-1.500

Maximum Deflections for Load Combinations

Load Combination	Max. Deflection in X dir	Distance	Max. Deflection in Y dir	Distance
D Only	0.0000 in	0.000 ft	0.000 in	0.000 ft
+D+L	0.0000 in	0.000 ft	0.000 in	0.000 ft
+D+0.750L	0.0000 in	0.000 ft	0.000 in	0.000 ft
+D+0.420W	0.0000 in	0.000 ft	0.271 in	9.060 ft
+D+0.750L+0.3150W	0.0000 in	0.000 ft	0.203 in	9.060 ft
+0.60D+0.420W	0.0000 in	0.000 ft	0.271 in	9.060 ft
+0.60D	0.0000 in	0.000 ft	0.000 in	0.000 ft

Steel Section Properties : HSS8x6x1/4

Depth	=	8.000 in	I xx	=	56.60 in^4	J	=	70.300 in^4
Design Thick	=	0.233 in	S xx	=	14.20 in^3	Cw	=	20.80 in^6
Width	=	6.000 in	R xx	=	3.030 in			
Wall Thick	=	0.250 in	Zx	=	16.900 in^3			
Area	=	6.170 in^2	I yy	=	36.400 in^4	C	=	20.800 in^3
Weight	=	22.420 plf	S yy	=	12.100 in^3			
			R yy	=	2.430 in			
			Zy	=	13.900 in^3			
Ycg	=	0.000 in						

Steel Column

Project File: Steel Column.ec6

LIC# : KW-06000215, Build:20.25.11.24

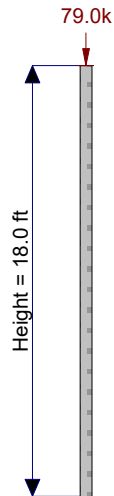
Licensed ENERCALC User

(c) ENERCALC, LLC 1982-2025

DESCRIPTION: Steel Column Calculation

Sketches

My Loads - Looking along Y-Y Axis



My Loads - Looking along X-X Axis

