WHY PREFABRICATION?

The time, cost and quality requirements of commercial and industrial construction projects are an ever-increasing challenge to mechanical contractors. In our current business climate, this is critical. An in-house fabrication shop can reduce on-site labor costs by as much as 60% or more. Fabrication begins as a consideration at the estimating and job planning stage. The ability to prefabricate, as well as preplan the job, will add to a contractor’s overall profitability.

Armistead Mechanical, Inc.'s UA Prefabrication Facility makes us unique. Unlike some of our competition, we have found a niche in prefabrication and it has expanded our customer base while making us more competitive in a demanding market. Customers are requiring a faster turnaround on projects as well as taking projects at much lower margins. Our UA fabrication facility can produce and ship product to anywhere in the United States and Canada under a Union Agreement at a higher quality and more efficient pace. We also provide this service to other mechanical contractors.

Prefabrication businesses vary from a shop that does only prefabrication (like a subcontractor) to a shop that may do limited prefabrication on the jobsite only (any piping contractor). We try to prefabricate as much of our own contract work as possible. Because we have the facilities, the equipment, the UA label and a highly qualified work staff to do any type of piping, we have opened the door for more opportunity while becoming more efficient.

In some cases, it may not be cost-effective for a company to implement prefabrication within the most efficient methods. Armistead Mechanical, Inc.'s fabrication facility has been established only after much thought, study, planning and commitment from all departments and levels in the company. Ongoing training and QA/QC programs keep us on the top of industry standards and practices concerning prefabrication. This results in increased benefits in the form of scheduling, quality, speed and cost.
Here are some of the attractive aspects of prefabrication:

A controlled environment
- Weather is taken out of the equation for working on the job.
- Everything you need is at your fingertips.
- Production is easily assessed and analyzed.
- Job scheduling and shipping is under your control.
- Material handling is reduced with proper handling equipment.
- Material handling is reduced in the work field.
- Over ordering of field material is reduced.
- Labor production is extremely higher.

Quality
- The right equipment is in a protected site and set up in a systematic design.
- Testing and quality assurance is performed as part of production.
- A prefabrication facility is statistically much safer!
Factors to Consider

Hiring a contractor who provides prefabrication services gives your project the edge.

1. **Speed.** Work in a pipe fabrication shop is done more quickly than work done in the field. Automation in machinery and the assembly line process will produce layout, cuts, and welds faster than is possible in the field. Once a module or subassembly is assembled and tested at the shop, it can be transported safely and conveniently to the jobsite and quickly installed as a single unit. Faster installation improves job work flow all along the line.

2. **Quality.** Applications for such industries as pharmaceutical and chemicals must not only meet the highest workmanship standards, they must also comply with strict government and industry guidelines. Pre-assembly allows fabrication to more critical tolerances. Inspection and testing can be performed more efficiently in the shop and any problems can be corrected before installation in the field.

3. **Scheduling.** The fabrication shop allows more people to work on a project than is possible at the jobsite. Instead of loading a job-site with men working elbow-to-elbow getting in each other’s way, work is done at the fabrication shop and shipped to the project site for installation. In addition, work can be done in advance of a critical project such as a weekend shutdown of a process line. Every hour that the process is shut down costs the customer money. Prefabricating 50 to 90 percent of the installation before the process is turned off will save the customer money. This sharpens the competitive edge that can result in more work for the contractor.