Work that used to go to Carpenters is given to Sheet Metal Workers

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In recent months, sheet metal workers have claimed and won jurisdictional assignments of gypsum drywall and studs used in fabrication and installation of vents, shafts, ducts, plenums and similar structures. In the past, this work has traditionally been performed by and assigned to carpenters -- or in some cases to lathers. However, for many years the Sheet Metal Workers have unsuccessfully claimed such work where it ‘replaces’ sheet metal ducts for air handling.

Despite the traditional assignment of this work to the Carpenters, the Impartial Jurisdictional Disputes Board has -- in several recent cases -- assigned this type of work to sheet metal workers. These assignments have created serious problems for contractors who employ carpenters.

It now appears the Sheet Metal Workers are mounting an intensive campaign to win jurisdictional assignments of gypsum drywall shaft partitions. The first step in their apparent strategy is to accumulate numerous decisions of the Impartial Jurisdictional Disputes Board awarding the work to them, possibly as a basis for strikes or picketing in support of their demands for the work, or a claim to the work in a jurisdictional hearing before the National Labor Rela-