CC8619MJP

18th May 2017

All approved and applicant firms for the manufacture of pre-assembled reinforcement fabrications

Dear All

The British Standards Institute (BSI) published BS 8548:2017 Guidance for arc welding of reinforcing steel in January 2017 and there has recently been a significant growth in the specification of pre-assembled welded fabrications. This document aims to clarify the requirements of BS EN ISO 17660-1 and BS EN ISO 17660-2, providing suitable guidance for the arc welding of carbon steel reinforcing bars produced in accordance with BS 4449 and BS 4482.

CARES have introduced 2 new appendices to the Steel for the Reinforcement of Concrete scheme to align with the requirements of BS EN ISO 17660 and BS 8548.

Appendix 11 - Quality and operations assessment schedule for the manufacture of pre-assembled welded fabrications using tack welded joints to BS EN ISO 17660 and BS 8548 under factory conditions.

Appendix 12 - Quality and operations assessment schedule for the manufacture of pre-assembled welded fabrications using welded semistructural and/or structural joints to BS EN ISO 17660 and BS 8548 under factory conditions.

These appendices will eventually replace Appendices 6 & 10 which cover tack and semistructural joints and were aligned to the BS 7123: 1989 standard for “Metal arc welding of steel for concrete reinforcement”.

Validity of certifications and applications (new users)

SRC Appendices 6 & 10 certification will not be valid after 31st December 2018. The expiry date of certificates issued during the transition period will not extend beyond 31st December 2018.

CARES will not accept new applications to SRC Appendices 6 & 10 after 1st July 2017.

Transition assessments to the new requirements of SRC Appendices 11 & 12 must be completed by 30th June 2018.

Organisations currently certified by CARES to SRC Appendices 6 & 10

Transition audits can be timed to coincide with routine surveillance audits or as a separate transition audit examining only the requirements of SRC Appendices 11 & 12. If the
transition is performed alongside a routine surveillance audit then continued compliance to the requirements of SRC Appendices 6 & 10 will also need to be verified.

CARES certified companies involved in the welding of steel for concrete reinforcement are advised to take the following actions as soon as possible:

- a) Familiarize yourself with the new documents. Some things have changed but many remain the same
- b) Identify organisational gaps which need to be addressed to meet the new requirements
- c) Develop an implementation plan
- d) Provide appropriate training and awareness for all relevant parties
- e) Update the existing QMS to meet the revised requirements and provide verification of effectiveness.
- f) Send an email to CARES when you are ready to be assessed to the requirements of the new standard and appendices 11 & 12.

Please feel free to contact me should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Palmer
Deputy Scheme Manager - Steel