



**UK Certification  
Authority for  
Reinforcing Steels**

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CC8619MJP

18<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. The expiry date of certificates issued during the transition period will not extend beyond 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

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

Transition assessments to the new requirements of SRC Appendices 11 & 12 must be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> 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



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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