

Further information for users/specifiers/procurers of reinforcing steel via the CARES approved supply chain

The CARES Sustainable Reinforcing Steel (SRS) Scheme quantifies the environmental, social and economic impact of the reinforcing steel supply chain. The scheme was established to comply with BS 8902: 2009 'Responsible sourcing sector certification schemes for construction products.' This standard provides a framework for the management, development, content and operation of sector certification schemes for responsible sourcing and supply of construction products. Procuring reinforcing steel via the CARES approved supply chain provides a holistic approach to managing a product from the point at which a material is sourced through manufacture and processing, use, recovery and recycling. Using products produced by CARES approved firms will enable the industry to demonstrate the responsible sourcing of construction products and its commitment to sustainable development.

Uniquely identifiable, products produced by CARES approved firms are fully traceable, providing customers and others with reassurance of quality and that sustainability is being actively pursued within their construction supply chain. The Scheme has been specifically developed for the reinforcing steel supply chain using the most relevant performance indicators. It provides a means by which approved firms in the reinforcing steel supply chain are able to declare product and organisational level sustainability performance.

The key features and benefits of the CARES Product Certification Scheme are as follows:

- All firms in the CARES approved supply chain have a certified Quality Management System to ISO 9001
- Verified compliance with Product Standards
- Full product traceability (chain of custody)
- Monitoring of scheme performance
- Avoid unnecessary site delays
- No need for product test data certificates

In addition to the above the key features and benefits of the CARES Sustainable Reinforcing Steel Scheme are as follows:

- All firms in the CARES approved supply chain have a certified Environmental Management System to ISO 14001
- Compliance with regulatory requirements
- Energy efficiency and waste management systems
- Independently validated carbon footprint data
- Data on recyclability and recycled content of steel products
- Product traceability (chain of custody) to production source and manufacturing process
- Social and economic issues required by BS 8902

Key features and benefits

Independently validated carbon footprint data

Product carbon footprint data can vary significantly depending on who prepares the data, what assumptions have been made, which allocation methods are used and where organizational boundaries are drawn. To understand an individual supplier's product carbon footprint the end user is required to critically examine each methodology before the data can be used with confidence.

The CARES carbon footprint tool addresses the above issues by providing a consistent basis to assess the product carbon footprint associated with the production of either carbon or stainless reinforcing steel products from "cradle-to-gate." That is, from the point at which raw materials are extracted from the environment to the point at which the finished product is ready to leave the factory. This approach facilitates comparison of different supplier's product carbon footprint data.

Product traceability to production source and manufacturing process

Reinforcing steel products produced by CARES approved firms are fully traceable (chain of custody) throughout the whole supply chain, from the molten steel through to delivery to the construction site. CARES requires an unbroken chain between the global producer and the construction site, thus enabling the local end user to know the production source and manufacturing processes used.

All reinforcing steel produced by CARES Approved companies is uniquely identified

When steel arrives on-site no further testing is required, resulting in avoidance of undue and costly delays at the construction site.

Specifying reinforcing steel from the CARES approved supply chain

UK specifications – BS 4449 2005 and BS 4483 2005

All hot rolled and cold worked steel bars specified shall conform to BS 4449 (Grade B500B or B500C) and shall be cut and bent in accordance with BS 8666. The bars shall be obtained from firms holding valid CARES (or fully equivalent schemes) product conformity and sustainable reinforcing steel scheme certificates of approval for the production and supply of the steel reinforcement.

Steel fabric reinforcement shall conform to BS 4483 (Grade B500A, B500B or B500C) and shall be cut and bent in accordance with BS 8666. Steel fabric reinforcement shall have a minimum nominal bar size of 6 mm (8 mm for Grade B500A). Steel fabric reinforcement shall be delivered to site in flat mats or pre-bent. The steel fabric shall be obtained from firms holding valid CARES (or fully equivalent schemes) product conformity and sustainable reinforcing steel scheme certificates of approval for the production and supply of the steel fabric reinforcement.

NOTE For diameters $\leq 12\text{mm}$, Grade B500A, Grade B500B or Grade B500C conforming to BS 4449:2005 may be considered. For diameters $>12\text{mm}$, Grade B500B or Grade B500C conforming to BS 4449:2005 shall be specified.

Feedback

This is a relatively new scheme where we seek to capture how the CARES Sustainable Reinforcing Steels Scheme impacts on the environment, society and the economy. We welcome your comments and feedback.