To specify reinforcement steel that meets government and private sector responsible sourcing requirements and to gain rating credits in building rating schemes, such as the BREEAM UK New Construction: 2018, use the text below in your specifications.

To confirm any edits/changes or for more information, please contact us.

--------------------------

### Steel Reinforcement

All reinforcement shall conform to the 2005 versions of BS 4449, BS 4482 or BS 4483 as appropriate. All stainless-steel reinforcement shall conform to BS 6744:2005. All reinforcement shall be cut and bent in accordance with BS 8666:2005. The reinforcement shall be obtained from firms holding valid CARES product conformity scheme certificate of approval for the production and supply of the steel reinforcement.

### Reinforcement traceability system

All reinforcement delivered to site shall be fully traceable to the cast/heat/batch number, reinforcement supplier and reinforcement manufacturer. The reinforcement product test data and a valid CARES certificate of approval shall be provided for the reinforcement supplier(s) and reinforcement manufacturer(s). Each bundle of reinforcement - straight bar, cut/bent, fabric, reinforcement mat, or pre-assembled welded fabrication - shall be identifiable with a suitable and durable tag or label securely attached to the product.

### Digital construction

All reinforcement manufacturers and suppliers shall use the ‘CARES Cloud’ digital traceability platform (app and website) and digital record.

### Sustainable construction and responsible sourcing

All reinforcement suppliers shall hold a valid CARES Sustainability Constructional Steels Scheme Certificate of Approval for the manufacture and/or fabrication issued by CARES. This certificate can be enhanced by providing the Rosette Rating System ratings achieved by the manufacturer and/or fabricator, where achieved. The reinforcement manufacturer shall additionally provide an independently verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) which conforms to EN 15804.

### Reinforcement handling

**Storage**

All reinforcement shall be delivered in properly identified tagged bundles, reinforcement mats or pre-assembled welded fabrications and shall be stored on site in a manner so as not to become contaminated by deleterious materials or otherwise damaged. Fabric shall be stored flat.
Handling

Reinforcement shall not be dropped from height, mechanically damaged or shock loaded in any way.

Pre-assembled welded fabrications delivered to site

Only firms that have achieved certification to CARES SRC Appendix 12 - Quality and operations assessment schedule for the manufacture of pre-assembled welded fabrications using welded semi-structural and/or structural joints to BS EN ISO 17660 and BS 8548, or equivalent, under factory conditions, shall be permitted to bid for or undertake contracts to supply pre-assembled welded fabrications.

Only firms that have achieved certification to CARES SRC 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, or equivalent, under factory conditions, shall be permitted to bid for or undertake contracts to supply pre-assembled tack-welded fabrications.

Continuity strips

All continuity strip manufacturers shall hold a valid CARES Technical Approval scheme Certificate of Approval (or fully equivalent scheme).

All continuity strip suppliers shall hold a valid CARES Technical Approval scheme Certificate of Approval (or fully equivalent scheme).

Mechanical Couplers

All mechanical coupler manufacturers shall hold a valid CARES Technical Approval scheme Certificate of Approval (or fully equivalent scheme).

All mechanical coupler suppliers shall hold a valid CARES Technical Approval scheme Certificate of Approval (or fully equivalent scheme).

Punching shear reinforcement systems

All punching shear reinforcement system manufacturers shall hold a valid CARES Technical Approval scheme Certificate of Approval (or fully equivalent scheme).

All punching shear reinforcement system reinforcement suppliers shall hold a valid CARES Technical Approval scheme Certificate of Approval (or fully equivalent scheme).
Why specify the CARES assured supply chain?

Technological advances and digital tools have brought fundamental improvements in the way we design and deliver projects. Yet the prevalence of these tools has also opened opportunities for those with different motives. The ready reliance on digital data means information can be shared seamlessly and relied on instinctively. When fake data is entered into this system the consequences can be devastating. There have been many high-profile instances of data being manipulated in this way to secure commercial advantage; distorting test results or building false confidence in a product’s performance characteristics. The result is that trust is shattered; confidence in the accuracy of information evaporates – and the technology which offered so much potential is regarded with suspicion.

CARES has now stepped into this space to restore trust in one of the most important elements in a project’s development: constructional steels sitting at the heart of every significant development.

Once used, and sited within the development’s concrete reinforcement, this steel cannot be removed even if there is a product failure or a manufacturing deficiency. There is no ‘product recall’ when things go wrong with steel in the structure of a prized project. Its performance must be assured from the outset. Without confidence, built on trust in the steel embedded in the structure, the project is fundamentally flawed. CARES delivers that trust through its cherished independence, proven track record, industry knowledge and auditing approach.

Background

Over its 35-year history as a not-for-profit, product conformity certification body, CARES has built an unrivalled reputation for diligence, accuracy and independence. This reputation has led to CARES being invited to provide its services in more than 40 markets globally. CARES’ reach continues to grow and in 2017 CARES opened its first overseas office, in Hong Kong, recognising the burgeoning demand for certification and assurance services across South East Asia. Demand is accelerating.

A critical factor in clients’ requesting CARES services is the growing appreciation of the aggregated knowledge shared among CARES team of expert international auditors. Hands-on inspection at the point of manufacture and processing is the recognised ‘gold standard’ in product assurance, in turn lifting client confidence to the point where there is instinctive trust in CARES certification results.

Understanding a product’s provenance in this way brings additional benefits to those specifying critical materials entering the construction supply chain. Designers, engineers, consultants, specifiers and main contractors can seamlessly rely on the information they receive from CARES when the product’s provenance is captured in a simple, secure, tool. This is the step change now underway.

Following a significant investment in research and development CARES has launched its own digital route to reinforcing steel certainty: the CARES Cloud. It represents a game changing moment.

This product draws together not only confidence in CARES’ assurance processes, but invaluable simplicity in a world of increasingly complex supply chains.
Future proofing

Making sure products are effectively tested, marketed and traceable complements CARES’ independent assurance of product compliance from the CARES-assured supply chain. This supply chain includes the manufacturers and processors of reinforcing steels and enables real-time analysis of the product entering the supply chain, including a level of detail which transforms the understanding of that product’s characteristics.

With the CARES Cloud an accurate carbon footprint value for each tonne of reinforcing steel delivered to a particular project is instantly measured; information relating to the manufacturing facilities; the product’s composition and even details relating to the manufacturer’s employment practices can be overlaid to create a full picture of the product’s sustainability characteristics. This is particularly important in public sector procurement where the ongoing search for accurate sustainability performance measurement will be enhanced through access to the CARES Cloud.

As the level of detail demanded by procurement bodies increases, then the scope for enhanced data – bringing further transparency – creates a virtuous circle, futureproofing information across the project’s lifetime. This offers invaluable understanding for safety critical materials such as rebar, where performance knowledge will surely change and develop over time.

The ‘Triple-lock’ underpinning CARES Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Assurance</th>
<th>Sustainability Performance</th>
<th>Digital Transparency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The overall aim of certifying products is creating confidence that a product fulfils specified requirements. The value of certification is the degree of confidence and trust that is established by an impartial and competent demonstration of specified requirements by a third party. Clients and specifiers can specify CARES-approved reinforcement suppliers with confidence that products comply with relevant reinforcement standards without costly, on-site testing.</td>
<td>The CARES sustainable constructional steel (SCS) scheme provides companies in the reinforcing steel supply chain with a proven route to product and organisational level sustainability management and performance. In addition, it provides the means to achieving credits in the green building rating systems such as BREEAM, Pearl Estidama and LEED. Accurate, accessible and timely information on the environmental and social impact of material use is increasingly important for designers, contractors and procurers to satisfy green building rating systems.</td>
<td>The CARES digital platform covers all stages in the supply chain from receipt of raw materials; the manufacture and processing of steel products through to delivery to the end user. It delivers product test results and sustainability credentials that are traceable across the whole supply chain ensuring that rebar is effectively tested, marketed and traced. Critically, it will also confirm where these products are installed in the structure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>