



# Sustainability Certification for Constructional Steels

## Contents (click to navigate)

Introduction	02
Drivers of sustainability - why act now?	04
The CARES Sustainable Constructional Steel (SCS) scheme	06
Accelerating and scaling change	11
Conclusion	12
References	13

# Introduction



**This Part 4 of the Guide builds on Part 3, which focuses on the key performance characteristics of reinforcing steels and how manufacturing processes routes influence them. It looks at the wider set of impacts which relate to sustainable development both directly embodied in the steel products and related to the whole life cycle of them, from raw materials to transport to the construction site.**

It describes how CARES, a profit for purpose certification body and competent authority set up by the UK government and industry, has worked with its stakeholders to develop and enhance its Sustainable Constructional Steel (SCS) certification scheme to help meet the demand and drive improvements to sustainability performance. Profit for purpose means that any profits are reinvested in line with CARES mission, with no shareholders, there is no distribution of any profits. Examples used in this guide show how UK and international drivers for improved sustainability are influencing the steel market internationally. The certification is relevant for, and increasingly being used internationally.

The rationale is to provide designers, engineers, contractors, clients and other stakeholders with reliable information on both management approaches to addressing significant ethical, social, environmental and socio-economic impacts and performance associated with the production and use of constructional steels.



Download the CARES Cloud App

## The Role of Sustainability and the CARES Sustainable Constructional Steel (SCS) scheme

The last ten years has seen a significant shift in the understanding and application of sustainability across the construction supply chain. It has developed from site based environmental management to encompass; labour rights, community considerations, business ethics as well as low carbon, environmentally improved materials, buildings and infrastructure. These expectations run across the entire construction value chain from raw material sourcing, through product manufacture and transport to the construction site, use and end of life of construction materials.

Legislation, customer expectations, a strong business case for efficiency and cost reduction are all driving change in construction. Green Star in Australia, BREEAM, LEED, Al Sa'fat, Estidama Pearl, CEEQUAL and numerous<sup>1</sup> other building, infrastructure and transportation rating frameworks provide the structure and incentives for the specification of sustainable materials. Periodically, new criteria are introduced, and performance thresholds raised. This shift has fuelled an increasing demand for accurate, accessible and timely information on the environmental, social and ethical impacts of different materials and construction products.

Expanding scope and improving construction product standards has not been without challenges. To achieve the objectives of lower carbon usage, efficient use of natural resources and confidence that labour and welfare standards are maintained in the supply chain, there is a need for relevant, reliable and trusted data. Third-Party Certification Bodies play a key role in providing independent data validation, auditing and reporting. This information not only provides confidence to the designers, specifiers and owners of buildings and infrastructure but also enables them to compare competing suppliers' performance and management practices and product performance.

In 2009 CARES started to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to plan and develop its Sustainable Constructional Steels certification scheme. It builds on mandatory third-party verified product quality, environmental and health and safety certification and at the time of writing, is in its ninth version. Based on full traceability downstream of production, and traceability and responsible sourcing requirements for raw material inputs, the scheme provides an objective and workable approach to the identification, collection, auditing and reporting of sustainability data and management approaches at a supplier level. It also enables sector performance to be communicated.

Companies under the scheme can be confident that their data is being produced in accordance with industry and international standards. Through the CARES Rosette Rating System, they can demonstrate higher levels of performance. Buyers have the confidence that they are selecting products which are produced under a system seeking to continuously improve sustainability performance.



Continued...

# Drivers of sustainability - why act now?

Sustainability is increasingly well understood, yet still defined in many ways. For clarity, we refer to the commonly accepted definition of sustainable development from the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987, which states that “Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Whilst legislation is now common in many markets, the UK, the EU and certain American states, like California, have typically been at the forefront of the introduction of sustainability legislation and standards. Recent legislative and standardisation trends indicate a broadening of the range of issues which require systematic management and increased performance expectations and a greater focus on all stages of the value chain.

The UK Modern Slavery Act<sup>2</sup>, for example, introduced in March 2016, requires any business with a worldwide annual turnover above £36 million to publicly report, in a statement, its efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking across its entire value chain. The statement must be easy to find from the home page of companies’ website. This has similar requirements to the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act<sup>3</sup>, which took effect in 2012.

Current legislative developments include broadening the scope of Due Diligence to include environmental impacts, including climate change. This is built from the foundation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises<sup>4</sup>, the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct<sup>5</sup> and relating to Conflict

and High-Risk Areas<sup>6</sup>. The EU is introducing its Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive<sup>7</sup> which obliges companies to demonstrate the action they are taking to identify and prevent, bring to an end, or mitigate the actual and potential impacts of their activities on the environment and on human rights abuses. This applies across the whole value chain.

In terms of transparency and disclosure, the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)<sup>8</sup> which entered into force in January 2023, modernises and strengthens the rules concerning the social and environmental information that companies must report. It is indicative of enhanced regulatory reporting requirements being introduced across the globe. It widened the set of large companies, as well as listed SMEs, required to report on sustainability – encompassing approximately 50,000 companies in total. Its scope includes:

- environmental impacts, including; climate change (scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation) resource use and circular economy aspects, biodiversity
- social, labour and human rights, including; labour rights as per ILO conventions and gender equity and wider non-discrimination
- governance issues including anticorruption and bribery issues, and diversity in their board of directors.

Continued...

## The agreement of 195 nation states is to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2°C and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The Paris Accord<sup>9</sup> regarding climate change is another significant example of increased demands for evidence of sustainability. The agreement of 195 nation states is to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2°C and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen our ability to deal with and recover from the impacts of climate change.

Whilst allowing nation states to present their own 'Nationally Determined Contributions' (their action plans), it essentially lays the foundations for an accelerated transition towards a low carbon economy and ultimately a fossil free future. Construction companies will have to respond and demonstrate their contribution to national reductions. The September 2018 IPCC Special Report on limiting global warming to 1.5°C<sup>10</sup> indicated that the risks and costs of inaction or insufficient action to limit emissions so that temperatures increase is limited to 1.5°C rise significantly. This has spurred increased action from responsible business with many steel companies announcing near zero carbon emissions steel production targets. For example, SSAB for all operations by 2040 and ArcelorMittal Flat products Europe by 2050. Many nations have also announced net zero emissions targets, with many enshrined in legislation, for example the UK by 2050<sup>11</sup>.

Further, major infrastructure and construction projects are incorporating sustainability into procurement frameworks. For example, High Speed 2, the first new railway to be built north of London, UK, in 120 years, is evaluating all its contractors and their subcontractors against a balanced scorecard<sup>12</sup>. The scorecard incorporates social, environmental and economic management and performance. This is used when selecting suppliers as well as when monitoring performance during project delivery.

Similar requirements are increasingly being incorporated into industry initiatives and construction rating systems around the world. For example, in Australia, the Australian Steel Institute (ASI) has a focus on environmental sustainability through efficient use of resources, intelligent design of products and their uses, the reduction of greenhouse emissions and water use and on enabling the circular economy<sup>13</sup>. Building rating systems, for example, BREEAM promote the use of sustainable construction materials<sup>14</sup>.

**Continued...**



# The CARES Sustainable Constructional Steel (SCS) scheme

In response to these drivers, CARES introduced its Sustainable Reinforcing Steel Certification scheme in 2009. The scheme covered production and processing of reinforcing carbon steels for use in concrete. Its scope was expanded in 2012 to include welded fabric and reinforcing stainless steel, in 2012 to include structural steels and for hot rolled flat steels in 2016. It applies to primary producers of constructional steels and reinforcement fabricators who process that steel into building products used in construction projects, such as steel reinforcement frameworks for structural concrete pillars.

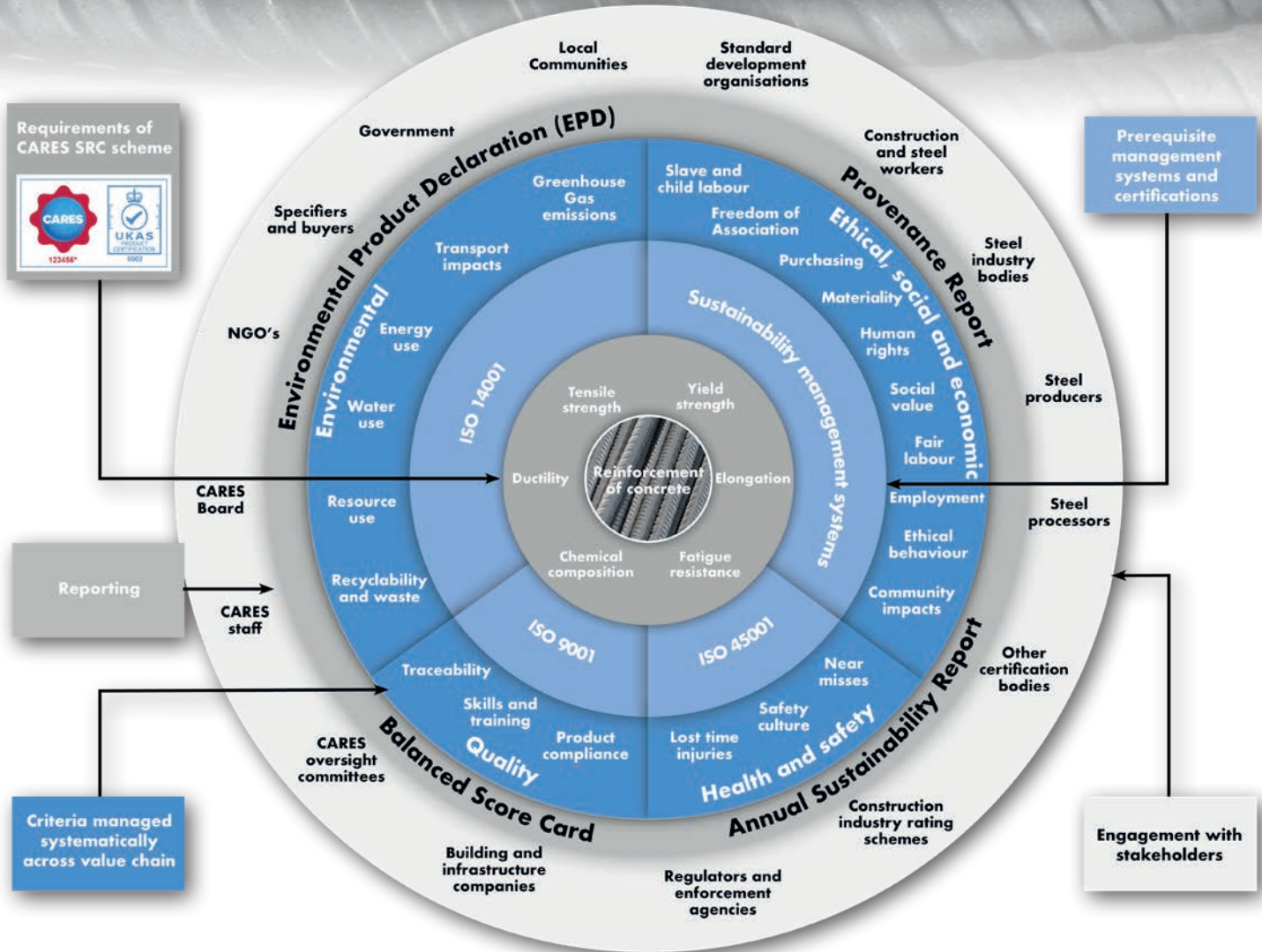
The SCS scheme aims to deliver improved sustainability and resilience in the construction sector by providing assurance to construction product buyers that sound sustainability management practices are in place throughout their steel supply chain. It provides full traceability to the production cast, and follows the chain back to the steel scrap and other raw material suppliers to at least Tier 1 and requires a responsible sourcing approach. It also provides a way for suppliers to clearly demonstrate sustainability management practice and outcomes. The SCS scheme is subject to periodic review based on broad and open stakeholder consultation. For example, in 2016, a requirement for a full Life Cycle Assessment together with the publication of an Environmental Product Declaration, was added, together with enhanced social requirements. The scheme includes a rating system - the CARES Rosette Rating System - enabling producers to differentiate their performance against their peers and buyers to benchmark their suppliers.

The SCS scheme is accredited to BS 8902:2009 (Responsible Sourcing Sector Certification Schemes for Construction Products)<sup>15</sup> by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) and is recognised by BREEAM UK New Construction 2022<sup>16</sup> and many other building rating schemes internationally. Company-specific verified Environmental Product Declarations (EPD's) to BS EN 15804:2012+A2:2019<sup>17</sup>, a mandatory requirement of the scheme, are accepted in the USGBC's LEED certification<sup>18</sup>. There are other certifications, guidance and charters which have more limited requirements, or are applicable to different types of Steels, e.g. , the Steel Construction Sustainability Charter<sup>19</sup> and with a similar broad scope and applicable to all steel production, launched in 2019, ResponsibleSteel<sup>20</sup>.

## **The concept of an extended product and its application to reinforcing bar.**

The concept of extended product responsibility can be used to illustrate the demands placed upon a modern construction material supply chain - the scope of the CARES scheme, as shown in Figure 1 overleaf.

Figure 1. Concept of ‘extended’ product responsibility applied to reinforcing steel



At the centre of the diagram is the product’s core benefit: the reinforcement of concrete within a construction project. Shown around the core are other attributes relating to that product’s performance, e.g. strength and ductility. These attributes are stated in a product standard, e.g. BS 4449<sup>21</sup> and hence constitute the ‘specified product’. All companies in the CARES-approved supply chain must also have: an environmental management system certified to ISO 14001:2015<sup>22</sup>; a quality management system certified to ISO 9001:2015<sup>23</sup>; a Health and Safety Management System certified to ISO 45001:2018<sup>24</sup>; a traceability mechanism; and an independently verified environmental product declaration (EPD) to EN 15804.

Beyond the physical product, buyers are increasingly making purchasing decisions based on the broader impacts of its supply chain. The concept of ‘Materiality’ – the issues and impacts that are most significant and relevant to the organisation and its stakeholders along the entire value chain - is used to inform the selection and prioritisation of impacts, a selection of which are shown in the darker blue ring in Figure 1. Companies must demonstrate effective management of these and improved performance. Finally, the steel supply chain, is informed by the inclusion and consideration of a wide range of stakeholder opinion (represented as the background outermost circle in Figure 1). This should be actively sought, to promote continual improvement towards sustainability performance.

Continued...

## Basis of the scheme

The principles of; inclusivity, materiality, integrity, stewardship and transparency provide the basis for the CARES SCS Scheme. Companies must demonstrate how these are incorporated into their management practices. They are also assessed against a series of criteria covering the issues illustrated in Figure 1 and are required to report and demonstrate continual improvement of sustainability performance. The scheme also includes a maturity matrix, which provides characteristics that demonstrate an evolution of management practices, enabling organizations to track their progress over time. It is designed to align to leading standards and initiatives as illustrated.

Certification process and levels of assurance provided  
To achieve SCS certification, a company's product, quality, environmental, health and safety and sustainability management systems are all examined. A two-stage audit process is completed based on checking evidence on site against a self-completed Sustainability Key Performance Indicator (KPI) workbook and Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). CARES auditors audit over 100 criteria and performance indicators for each approved supplier under the headings shown in Figure 1.

There are 71 mandatory requirements and 46 credit based criteria. Version 9 of the SCS scheme introduced mandatory performance thresholds relating to maximum GHG.

Mandatory performance requirements including minimum thresholds for the most material criteria:

1. GHG emissions shall be monitored, reported and under the defined performance thresholds
2. Health and Safety - Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) data shall be published and publicly accessible
3. Responsible Sourcing
  - a) (for producers) at least 60% of suppliers by mass shall be evaluated for their ethical, social, environmental and economic impacts
  - b) (for processors) shall purchase from SCS certified producers or from organisations possessing a valid sustainability certificate acceptable to CARES

If all requirements are met, SCS certification is awarded. CARES conduct annual audits to ensure the scheme requirements are being maintained and performance continually improved. It collects, audits, collates and reports the sector sustainability performance data in line with requirements set out in BS 8902 - Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products and the Scheme Principles. The scheme itself is subject to accreditation audits by UKAS, which confirm its independence and that it meets all requirements of BS 8902. The Environmental Product Declarations are valid for three years and subject to an additional layer of independent verification by The UK Building Research Establishment (BRE).

## Scheme impact

CARES collate performance information and publish a summary annual scheme sustainability report<sup>25</sup>. In addition to information about the scheme, its governance and approved companies; performance data from selected Key Performance Indicators has been published since 2011. Data for the most recent available period, 2021 show, for example, a high-level of recycled content (96%) in the product, that waste going to landfill has reduced from 58kg in 2015 to 13kg per metric tonne of finished product and that the Global Warming Potential (GWP) measured as kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e per tonne of carbon steel bar produced, has fallen slightly to 818. Indicators seeking to drive performance improvements up the supply chain include the % of suppliers evaluated against responsible sourcing policy and criteria (27% in 2021 with a target of 75% by 2025) and that all certified companies must now publish their own sustainability reports, with a target of 100% by 2025.

In terms of market impact, the SCS scheme and the third-party verified EPD are widely recognised and cited in authoritative publications such as by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Institution for Structural Engineers, the International Federation for Structural Concrete and the Institution of Civil Engineers. The schemes are broadly specified by Clients and contractors in multiple markets.

Continued...



Figure 2. Comparison of relevant, Sustainability Indicators cross selected initiatives and standards (summarised)										
CARES Sustainable Constructional Steels Scheme Indicator areas		Sustainable Development Goals			UN Global Compact Principles		ISO 26000 Social Responsibility Standard	ISO 20400: 2017 Sustainable Procurement	BS 8902:2009 Responsible sourcing of construction products	BES 6001:2022 Framework Standard for Responsible Sourcing v4
Human Rights and Ethical Labour Practices	3 Good Health and Wellbeing, 5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality	Support and Respect Human Rights	Human Rights	Human Rights	Workers' conditions	Human Rights and Modern Slavery				
Human Rights and Ethical Labour Practices	3 Good Health and Wellbeing, 5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality	Non-complicity with Human Rights Abuses	Human Rights	Human Rights	Workers' conditions	Human Rights and Modern Slavery				
Freedom of Association	8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality, 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	Freedom of Association and collective bargaining	Labour practices	Labour practices	Freedom to join trade unions	Fundamental rights at work				
Child, Juvenile and Forced Labour	5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality, 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	Elimination of forced and compulsory labour	Labour practices	Labour practices	Slave labour	Fundamental rights at work				
Child, Juvenile and Forced Labour	5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality, 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	Abolition of child labour	Labour practices	Labour practices	Child labour	Fundamental rights at work				
Safe and Healthy Working Conditions	3 Good Health and Wellbeing, 5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality		Labour practices	Labour practices	Safe and healthy working conditions	Health and Safety Management Systems in the Supply Chain				
Human Rights and Ethical Labour Practices	5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality, 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	Elimination of discrimination	Fair operating practices	Fair operating practices	Equality re. gender, ethnicity, religion, politics	Fundamental rights at work				
Human Rights and Ethical Labour Practices - Fair wages - Employee Terms of Employment	5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality		Fair operating practices	Fair operating practices	Fair wages					
Ethical Business Practices - Ethical Supply Chain Practices	8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality, 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	Work against corruption in all its forms	Fair operating practices	Fair operating practices	Working hours and holidays					
Life-cycle Assessment - Biodiversity and Eco-toxicity	8 Decent Work, 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	Precautionary approach to environment	Fair operating practices	Refers to ISO 26000	Ethical business practice	Business Ethics				
Waste and by-product management - Recycled Content	14 Life below Water, 15 Life on Land	Environmental initiatives	The environment	Sustainable resource use	Recyclability, recycled content, renewability, Eco-toxicity	Life-cycle assessment				
Primary Material Use and Materials Efficiency	14 Life below Water, 15 Life on Land	Environmental initiatives	The environment	Prevention of pollution		Eco-toxicity				
Greenhouse Gas Emissions/GWP	9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 11 Sustainable Communities, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production,	Environmental initiatives	The environment	Sustainable resource use	Waste management	Waste prevention and management				
Energy and Water Use	9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 11 Sustainable Communities, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production,	Environmental initiatives	The environment	Sustainable resource use	Harvesting or extraction impacts	Resource Use and Product Circularity				
Transport Impacts	13 Climate Action	Environmental initiatives	The environment	Climate change mitigation and adaptation	Greenhouse gas emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions				
Energy and Water Use	7 Affordable and Clean Energy, 11 Sustainable Communities and Cities	Environmental initiatives	The environment	Sustainable resource use	Energy usage	Energy Use				
Transport Impacts	11 Sustainable Communities and Cities	Environmental initiatives	The environment	Environment	Transport impacts	Transport impact				
Energy and Water Use	6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 11 Sustainable Communities and Cities, 14 Life below Water	Environmental initiatives	The environment	Sustainable resource use	Water usage	Water usage or abstraction				
Biodiversity and Eco-toxicity	14 Life below Water, 15 Life on Land	Environmental initiatives	The environment	Protection of the environment, biodiversity and restoration of natural habitats	Biodiversity	Biodiversity and Site stewardship				
Land remediation	9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 11 Sustainable Communities, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, 15 Life on Land	Environmental technologies	The environment	Environment	Land remediation	Biodiversity and Site stewardship				
Skills and Training	4 Quality Education, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality			Employment creation and skills development	Skills and training	Employment and skills				
Grievance Mechanism and Procedure	8 Decent Work			Resolving grievances	Complaints and prosecutions	Complaints and prosecutions				
Stakeholder engagement - Community Relations and Initiatives	9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 11 Sustainable Communities and Cities				Contribution to the built environment	Contribution to the built environment				
Diversity and Stability of the Local Economy	11 Sustainable Communities and Cities		Community involvement	Social Dialogue	Community relations	Local Communities				
Long-term Financial Viability	5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality, 11 Sustainable Communities and Strong Institutions			Community involvement						
Diversity and Stability of the Local Economy	5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work, 10 Reduced Inequality, 11 Sustainable Communities and Strong Institutions			Social investment	Diversity and stability of the local economy	Diversity and stability of the local economy				
Long-term Financial Viability	9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 11 Sustainable Communities and Cities			Wealth and income creation	Long-term financial viability	Financial stability				

### The Rosette Rating System

While the supplier remains responsible for compliance with legal requirements and standards, the scheme enables credits to be obtained for achievement beyond compliance and minimum thresholds. Credits can be gained for performance that meets specified criteria above the mandatory certification level as part of the CARES 'Rosette Rating System'. Beyond basic certification, there are 4 additional performance levels reflecting good, better and best practices – 1 Rosette, 2 Rosettes and 3 Rosettes. The 4 Rosette rating represents an aspirational level which includes the production of near-zero emission steel, produced in a facility with a Lost Time Injury Rate below 2.

### Sustainability criteria alignment

The sustainability indicators used within the audit and assessment framework of the SCS scheme have been selected through extensive engagement with stakeholders, including: the construction industry; the steel industry; academics and government and have been approved by the CARES Sustainability Committee. They are aligned to those used in international and national; public-sector initiatives and standards as shown in Table 1.

Table 2 shows how two indicators work - Global Warming Potential (GWP), covering greenhouse gas emissions in production and transport. It also shows how the scheme requirements may influence multiple sustainability aspects.

Requirement	Description	Indicator and Evidence required
Climate Change Measurement and Monitoring - The organisation shall have a system for measuring and monitoring its Global Warming Potential (GWP) and reducing its Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) and its emissions shall be under the defined performance thresholds.	Description: Global Warming Potential (GWP 100 years) is an impact assessment with global effect and a relative measure of how much heat a GHG traps in the atmosphere when calculated over 100 years; in the steel industry, GWP is mainly caused by CO <sup>2</sup> and CH <sub>4</sub> emissions in production. Processes can be continually improved to increase energy efficiency and reduce the GWP, novel production technologies can be adopted and renewable energies can be used to provide some process based energy inputs, especially for EAF production routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>kg of CO<sup>2</sup>e per tonne of steel billet</li> <li>kg of CO<sup>2</sup>e per tonne of delivered product</li> </ul> Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) Report.
Transport impacts - The organisation shall include a commitment to monitor and minimise transport impacts in its sustainability policy, implement a process to minimise transport impacts and complete the "Transport Impact" sheet within this workbook to measure its impacts.	Description: The environmental impacts of transport are significant due to major use of energy and natural resources (e.g. petroleum). This creates air pollution, including nitrous oxides and particulates and is a significant contributor to global warming through emission of CO <sup>2</sup> . Transport impacts can also include nuisance impacts on the local community such as dust, congestion and health and safety risks. Transport impacts shall be monitored and reduced. The intention is to include transport impacts of the supply of raw materials from source (rather than from agents or resellers). Transport distances should be recorded as far back up the supply chain as can be reasonably ascertained. This is a key way of mapping the supply chain (2.10.2) and supports the assessment of risk and due diligence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>kg of CO<sup>2</sup>e per tonne of delivered product</li> </ul> Completed "Transport Impact" worksheet.

# Accelerating and scaling change

Momentum is building for a significant economic transition to a more sustainable state, which is starting to transform the steel and construction sectors. This includes adopting circular economy principles of preserving and enhancing nature capital (finite and renewable resources). This involves the circulation of products, components and materials, keeping them at their highest utility at all times and designing out externalities. Industry is realising considerable benefits of monitoring circularity metrics to increase efficiencies, reduce cost and environmental impact.

Internationally, public and private sector procurement requirements are tightening, helping enable system change. For example, expectations of delivering reductions in embodied carbon from capital assets and operations mean the whole construction value chain should cooperate. The UK, Infrastructure Carbon Review<sup>26</sup> highlighted the importance of the infrastructure sector in carbon reductions. Approximately 16% of UK emissions are associated with construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure assets and the review says that by 2050, 24 million metric ton (26.46 million US tons) of carbon can be reduced, saving the economy £1.4 billion. Part of enabling this process is the creation of common standards. This has been codified in the UK through the recently updated, Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 2080 Carbon Management in Buildings and Infrastructure<sup>27</sup>.

The development of defined transition roadmaps and demand led initiatives like SteelZero<sup>28</sup>, which CARES is a member of, are enabling and building market demand for targeted emissions reductions in line with the science. The CARES SCS scheme includes criteria to recognise

the steel maker owners adoption of a science-based emissions reduction target and to reporting against the recommendations of the Task Force for Climate Related Financial Disclosures<sup>29</sup>. Mandatory Performance thresholds are helping to drive improvement.

Social impacts associated with procurement for any large infrastructure project, are also being monitored by private sector buyers or the UK Government. It's 'Procuring Growth'<sup>30</sup> white paper encourages all its departments to adopt a balanced scorecard approach, such as that adopted by the London 2012 Olympics. Ethical labour issues are also codified, for example in BES 6002 Ethical Labour Standard<sup>31</sup>, published in February 2017, which deals primarily with issues of fair employment practices and modern-day slavery. The UK Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires public-sector commissioning and procurement to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being. Methods such as 'National Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) Framework for Measuring Social Value'<sup>32</sup> enable calculation and reporting of the social value construction projects bring to a community, region and nation. Contractors are asking its supply chain to help them provide accurate information and this achieves a credit score in the SCS scheme.

The CARES' SCS accredited certification scheme is periodically reviewed to ensure that changing expectations of the market are incorporated into scheme updates. It has multiple recognitions by contractors, clients and in relevant publications and standards and is specified by many public and private sector organisations.

# Conclusion

The sustainability agenda is maturing, not only in demanding that a broader range of issues are being systematically managed but also to see that performance in these areas is being improved. Independent, third-party certification bodies play a key role in enabling industry to clearly demonstrate it is meeting these demands. They help to deliver confidence to construction project designers and specifiers through the provision of more transparent and reliable data and comparable information about competing construction materials. Whilst there has been a convergence in the scope of international and sector standards relating to sustainable development, there remain significant differences in the structure and approaches taken. Therefore, clearly defined boundaries for construction sector value chain elements and clear

methodologies for the collection and collation of material sustainability indicators are crucially important.

CARES, the constructional steel industry and other stakeholders have developed an objective and workable approach to the identification, collection, auditing and reporting of sustainability data and management system processes to deliver continual performance improvement. The Sustainable Constructional Steels Certification Scheme uses industry best practice and International Standards throughout the whole constructional steel supply chain to deliver more sustainable construction and infrastructure and is widely recognised by professional bodies and specifiers alike.



# Your guide to specifying Learn how to procure CARES certified steel products

specification  
guide



To specify CARES certification that meets government and private sector quality assurance and responsible sourcing requirements use the text from the guide in your project specifications.

## References

- <sup>1</sup>For example, (<https://worldgbc.org/sustainable-building-certifications/>) the World Green Building Council (WGBC) identifies over 45 such certifications globally accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>2</sup>BHis Majesty's Stationery Office (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>), accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>3</sup>California Attorney General ([https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/cybersafety/sb\\_657\\_bill\\_ch556.pdf](https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/cybersafety/sb_657_bill_ch556.pdf)) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>4</sup>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (<http://mneguidelines.oecd.org>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>5</sup>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (<http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-for-Responsible-Business-Conduct.pdf>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>6</sup>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development relating to Conflict and High Risk Areas (<http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/mining.htm>)
- <sup>7</sup>European Commission (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022L2464>) accessed 29th June 2023
- <sup>8</sup>European Commission ([https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/doing-business-eu/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/doing-business-eu/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence_en)) accessed 29th June 2023
- <sup>9</sup>The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>10</sup>International Panel on Climate Change, Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>11</sup>UK Government (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>12</sup>High Speed 2, Supplier Guide (<https://www.hs2.org.uk/documents/hs2-supplier-guide/>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>13</sup>Australian Steel Institute (<https://www.steel.org.au/what-we-do/focus-areas/sustainability/>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>14</sup>BREEAM (<https://bregroup.com/products/breeam/>) accessed 13th July 2023
- <sup>15</sup>British Standards Institution (<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030191223>) accessed 29th January 2020
- <sup>16</sup>The Building Research Establishment (<https://bregroup.com/products/breeam/breeam-technical-standards/breeam-new-construction/>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>17</sup>British Standards Institution (<https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/sustainability-of-construction-works-environmental-product-declarations-core-rules-for-the-product-category-of-construction-products-2/standard>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>18</sup>United States Green Building Council (<https://www.usgbc.org/leed>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>19</sup>British Constructional Steel Association Ltd (<https://bcsa.org.uk/resources/sustainability/>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>20</sup>ResponsibleSteel (<https://www.responsiblesteel.org/>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>21</sup>British Standards Institution (<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030190177>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>22</sup>International Standards Organisation (<https://www.iso.org/standard/60857.html>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>23</sup>International Standards Organisation (<https://www.iso.org/standard/62085.html>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>24</sup>International Standards Organisation (<https://www.iso.org/standard/63787.html>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>25</sup>Scheme Sustainability Reports can be found on the CARES website (<https://www.carescertification.com/certification-schemes/sustainable-constructional-steel>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>26</sup>Infrastructure Cost Review and Green Construction Board, 2013, (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infrastructure-carbon-review>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>27</sup>Publicly Available Specification and Guidance (<https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/standards/pas-2080/>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>28</sup>SteelZero (<https://www.theclimategroup.org/steelzero>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>29</sup>The Task Force for Climate Related Financial Disclosures (<https://www.fsb-tcfd.org/>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>30</sup>Crown Commercial Service and Cabinet Office ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/560246/Balanced\\_Scorecard\\_PPN\\_09\\_16.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/560246/Balanced_Scorecard_PPN_09_16.pdf)) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>31</sup>Building Research Establishment (<http://www.greenbooklive.com/filelibrary/ELS/BES-6002-Ethical-Labour-Sourcing-Standard.pdf>) accessed 16th July 2023
- <sup>32</sup>National Social Value Taskforce, 2017 ([www.socialvalueportal.com/national-toms/](http://www.socialvalueportal.com/national-toms/)) accessed 16th July 2023

Assured Steel Certification  
Independent | Impartial | Trusted

general@carescertification.com  
carescertification.com

