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**Assured Steel Certification**

## **CARES SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTIONAL STEEL (SCS) SCHEME SUMMARY OF ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENTS & SUSTAINABILITY SCHEME AUDITS IN 2022**

### Summary of Accreditation Assessments

CARES is accredited by The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for the BS 8902:2009 Responsible sourcing sector certification schemes for construction products - Specification. The details of the CARES accreditation status can be found on the following UKAS webpage [https://www.ukas.com/wp-content/uploads/schedule\\_uploads/00011/00295/0002Product-Certification.pdf](https://www.ukas.com/wp-content/uploads/schedule_uploads/00011/00295/0002Product-Certification.pdf)

Following successful accreditation assessments in 2021 there were no assessment activities conducted by UKAS in 2022 and CARES' grant of accreditation was successfully renewed for a further four years to 2026.

### Summary of SCS Scheme Audits in 2022

CARES completed all SCS scheme audits in 2021 as scheduled. There were 43 companies holding 47 CARES SCS certificates (4 companies, each holding two certificates for different products) at the end of 2021. The type of audits conducted at these companies in 2022 are provided in Table 1 and the type and number of non-conformities raised during these audits are provided in Table 2.

**Table 1.** Type and number of CARES SCS scheme certification audits in 2022

Type of Audit	Number of Audits
MS Manual Review	7
Stage 1	4
Stage 2	5
Surveillance	43
Re-certification	13
Follow-up	-
<b>Total number of Audits</b>	<b>72</b>

**Table 2.** Summary of the Non-Conformance Reports (NCRs) raised by CARES Auditors in 2022

Type and number of NCR	Note
Major	-
Minor	46

The root cause analysis and actions to the NCRs were reviewed by CARES and found satisfactory, effectiveness of corrective actions to be verified during following CARES audits in 2023.

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NCRs were mainly raised for area of improvements relating to the sustainability management including assessment of supply chain, ethical supply chain practices, transparency and numerous NCRs were raised in relation to the social aspects.

Certification of 16 applicants have been successfully completed since the first launching of SCS v9 scheme and transition of remaining 31 SCS v8 certifications to SCS v9 are planned to be completed until the end of 2023. In addition to ongoing audits and transition assessments, there are currently 8 new applicant's SCS certification audits planned.

### SCS Scheme Revision

The SCS scheme is the only responsible sourcing scheme that is independently accredited by UKAS to the rigorous requirements of BS 8902:2009 - Responsible sourcing sector certification schemes for construction products. It is highly valued by construction projects specifiers and clients. The scheme has been assessed by BREEAM and Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) against the requirements for responsible sourcing credits and has been recognised as a 'responsible sourcing certification scheme' within:

- BREEAM UK New Construction 2022 Version 6
- BREEAM International New Construction 2022 Version 6,
- BREEAM Infrastructure (formerly CEEQUAL) Projects: UK & Ireland 2022 Version 6
- BREEAM Infrastructure (formerly CEEQUAL) Projects: International 2022 Version 6
- GREEN STAR Communities
- GREEN STAR Buildings, Design and As Built
- GREEN STAR Interiors
- GREEN STAR Performance

The scheme has been also recognised by other green building and infrastructure assessment tools globally.

CARES has been monitoring various performance indicators since 2009 and has periodically amended the scheme requirements to keep up to date with changing stakeholder expectations and the changing operating environment.

An extensive consultation was conducted throughout 2019 and 2020 on the need to raise sustainability performance standards, in particular, driven by demand from the UK construction market. The idea of a UK focused and international scheme was considered but not adopted as many of the additional requirements suggested in the consultation have now been incorporated into the latest revision of the CARES Sustainable Constructional Steel (SCS) scheme – version 9. Additional engagement with other steel industry, standard setting organisations and other stakeholders has also informed the development of this latest SCS scheme revision. Development of the scheme has been aligned to the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 59:2019 ISO and IEC recommended practices for standardisation by national bodies and ISEAL code of conduct and code of good practice for social and environmental standard setting v6.

The new scheme **version 9**, taking effect from **1st Jan 2021** has the following key changes:

- SCS Scheme Manual referencing was updated to align with all other scheme documents and CARES Static QR Code was introduced in Authority's certification mark section.
- SCS Operational Assessment Schedule Appendices 1-6 were simplified and combined into a

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single Operational Assessment Schedule covering all product grades and standards. Referencing was updated to align with all other scheme documents. Document was renamed from Annex 1- Sustainable Constructional Steels Workbook to Annex 1- Self-Assessment and Audit Workbook.

- 3 new mandatory performance thresholds have been introduced for Greenhouse Gas maximum emissions, supplier assessments and the publication of Lost Time Injury rates. Transparency enhancements include mandatory requirements to publish key management and performance information.
- Guidance has been improved, some repetition removed, and new clauses introduced. The Rosette Rating System (RRS) was enhanced, including the addition of an aspirational 4<sup>th</sup> Rosette.
- A new Balanced Scorecard was introduced which will be published alongside the certificate so that a selection of material performance indicators is transparent and readily accessible for construction procurement use and for use in Approved Firms marketing to enhance the value of the scheme for them.
- Sector Targets (published in CARES Annual Sector Sustainability Report) have been revised to 2025 and longer-term targets to 2030 and 2050 introduced to align to the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement timescales.

CARES has been encouraging its current SCS certificated clients to transit to the new SCS v9 scheme before **31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**, when the current SCS scheme (v8) will be withdrawn. Together with these, new applicants are assessed according to the requirements of SCS v9.

At the end of 2022, total number of all SCS certificates has reached to 47, and of those, the number of SCS v9 certificates has reached to 16.

### CARES SCS Scheme Future Update Plans

- Q1/2 2023: Detailed stakeholder engagement plan created to include approved firms, clients and contractors for target areas including: GHG mandatory and credit thresholds, Human Rights due diligence/responsible sourcing/updates to the Rosette Rating System, updates to sector level GHG targets.
- Q3/4 2023: Stakeholder engagement at an SCS criteria level to develop and confirm clause changes and timeline for updates.
- Q1/2 2024: Continue and complete the development process and a communications plan to highlight how and when changes will be introduced.
- Q3/4 2024/2025: Publish **SCS v10** and timeline for the transition.
- 2025-2030 periodic review to align to current science and performance achieved by approved firms.

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**20/01/2023**

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