



**CARES SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTIONAL STEEL (SCS) SCHEME
SUMMARY OF ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENTS & SCHEME AUDITS IN 2021**

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%20Certification.pdf

The last SCS Scheme accreditation assessments were conducted by UKAS assessors on 28th April 2021 (Head Office Surveillance-3 - Remote) and 7th May 2021 (Witnessed Assessment-2 – Desktop review). There were no mandatory findings or recommendations raised at the end of these assessments. CARES' accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 including the SCS Scheme is dated 9th November 2021 (see the link above).

Summary of SCS Scheme Audits in 2020

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 2021 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 2021

Type of Audit	Number of Audits
MS Manual Review	1
Stage 1	2
Stage 2	12
Surveillance	32
Re-certification	13
Follow-up	-
Total number of Audits	60

Table 2. Summary of the NCRs raised by CARES Auditors in 2021

Type and number of NCR	Note	
Major	-	No major NCRs raised in 2021
Minor	20	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 2022.

NCRs were mainly raised for required improvements relating to the performance of sustainability management systems, performance reporting.



UK Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels

Pembroke House, 21 Pembroke Road
Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1XR
Tel: 00 44 1732 450000
Fax: 00 44 1732 455917
Email : general@ukcares.com
Website: www.ukcares.com

Certification of 4 applicants have been successfully completed in 2021. In 2022, there are currently planned 2 SCS certification audits of new applicant companies in addition to the regular audits to be conducted at 43 SCS certified companies covering 4 re-certification audits and 39 surveillance audits.

Having OH&S management system certification is one of the prerequisites for the SCS certification, CARES has carefully managed the introduction of ISO 45001 the first international OH&S management system standard since its first issue in 2018.

According to IAF MD 21:2018 (International Accreditation Forum Mandatory Document) requirements, OHSAS 18001:2007 OH&S management system standard was withdrawn on publication of ISO 45001:2018 the first international OH&S standard, and organizations holding OHSAS 18001:2007 certificates had three years to migrate to the ISO 45001:2018 OH&S management system. The deadline was later extended by 6-months due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and ended on 30th September 2021.

CARES has issued a migration plan to ensure its completion before the deadline, which has been communicated this with certified companies through its website, workshops and stakeholder days and with other means, and migration of all OHSAS 18001 certified companies have been successfully completed before the deadline. Total number of ISO 45001 certificates has reached 39 at the end of 2021.

Rosette Ratings

The CARES SCS Scheme incorporates the Rosette Rating System (RRS) which enables applicant companies to demonstrate additional levels of performance across the full range of sustainability aspects and to better differentiate themselves from their competitors by demonstrating higher levels of performance. Beyond fulfilling mandatory requirements in all sections - Sustainability Management, Environment, Economic and Social; voluntary performance exceeding thresholds specified for each section are awarded credit scores which contribute to the award of 1 to 3 CARES Rosettes, based on the overall credit score obtained in the old version of SCS scheme.

The number of companies reporting their sustainability performance internally and to the public increased in 2021 as compared to previous period. Performance reporting also covered more sustainability aspects as compared to previous periods. The efforts to improve stakeholder engagement processes helped to demonstrate enhanced social performance of the organisations, as well as an increased transparency. As a result, 2 companies achieved 2 CARES Rosettes and 21 companies achieved 1 CARES Rosette (including 7 SCS v9 certified) (please visit CARES Sustainability Report 2021 pages 9-10 on CARES website for SCS Scheme certified suppliers

<https://www.ukcares.com/downloads/general/CARES%20Sustainability%20Report%202021.pdf>).

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. It has also been assessed by BREEAM against the requirements for responsible sourcing credits and has been recognised as a 'responsible sourcing certification scheme' within BREEAM New Construction 2018 (UK), BREEAM International New Construction 2016 and CEEQUAL v6. and is recognised by other green building and infrastructure assessment tools



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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 standardization 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 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 4th 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 **31st 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 2021, total number of all SCS certificates has reached to 47, and of those, the number of SCS v9 certificates has reached to 10.

CARES
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