



CARES SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTIONAL STEEL (SCS) SCHEME

SUMMARY OF ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENTS & SCHEME AUDITS IN 2020

28 January 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 assessment was conducted by UKAS assessor on 9 May 2018 (Head office 4-yearly re-assessment). There were no mandatory findings or recommendations raised at the end of the assessment. No UKAS witness assessments for the SCS Scheme were conducted in 2019 or 2020. CARES' accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 including SCS Scheme is dated 21 December 2020 (see the link above).

Summary of SCS Scheme Audits in 2020

CARES completed all scheduled SCS scheme audits in 2020. There were 41 companies holding 46 CARES SCS certificates (5 companies hold two certificates for different products) at the end of 2020. The type of audits conducted at these companies in 2020 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 2020

Type of Audit	Number of Audits
MS Manual Review	4
Stage 1	4
Stage 2	2
Surveillance	21
Re-certification	26
Follow-up	-
Total number of Audits	57

Table 2. Summary of the NCRs raised by CARES Auditors in 2020

Type and number of NCR		Note
Major	-	No major NCRs raised in 2020
Minor	34	The root cause analysis and actions to the NCRs were reviewed by CARES and found satisfactory, but to be verified during following CARES audits in 2021.



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

Most of the NCRs were raised for improvements relating to the performance of sustainability management systems of certified companies. Further NCRs were raised during the certification assessments of new companies certified in 2020.

Certification of 2 applicants have been successfully completed in 2020. In 2021, there are currently planned 4 certification audits of new applicant companies and 12 SCS re-certification audits planned for certified companies.

Having OH&S management system certification is one of the prerequisites for the SCS certification. CARES has closely followed the developments of the first international OH&S management system standard ISO 45001, which was issued on 12 March 2018 and has taken actions to start the accreditation process before the issue date. As a result of this effort, CARES became one of the first Certification Bodies in the country to successfully achieve accreditation for certification to the new ISO 45001:2018 management system on 29 June 2018.

According to IAF MD 21:2018 (International Accreditation Forum Mandatory Document) requirements, OHSAS 18001 will be withdrawn on publication of ISO 45001 and organizations currently certified to OHSAS 18001 will have a three-year period to migrate to ISO 45001. Nevertheless, the migration period has been extended by IAF by 6 months to 30th September 2021 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. CARES has issued a transition plan on its website for guidance to all its certified companies and to applicants for new certification.

There were total of 38 companies certified for OH&S management systems by the end of 2020, of these, 29 companies have already been certified to ISO 45001. ISO 45001 certification of the remaining 9 companies is planned to be completed before 30 September 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.

The number of companies reporting their sustainability performance internally and to the public increased in 2020 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 15 companies achieved 1 CARES Rosette (please visit CARES Sustainability Report 2020 Page 4 on CARES website for SCS Scheme certified suppliers <https://www.ukcares.com/downloads/general/CARES%20Sustainability%20Report%202020.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 BRE Global against the requirements for responsible sourcing credits and has been recognised as a 'responsible sourcing certification scheme' within



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BREEAM New Construction 2018 (UK), BREEAM International New Construction 2016 and CEEQUAL v6. and is 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 in order 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 and 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.
- Referencing in the Annex 1- Self-Assessment and Audit Workbook has been updated to align with all other scheme documents. Some of the guidance has been improved, with some clauses and 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
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