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Assured Steel Certification

CARES SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTIONAL STEEL (SCS) SCHEME SUMMARY OF ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENTS & SUSTAINABILITY SCHEME AUDITS IN 2023

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/download-schedule/0002/Product>

UKAS surveillance assessments in 2023 resulted in a recommendation to maintain accreditation.

Summary of SCS Scheme Audits in 2023

CARES completed all SCS scheme audits in 2023 as scheduled. There were 40 companies holding 44 CARES SCS certificates (4 companies have 2 certificates each for different products) at the end of 2023. The type of audits conducted at these companies 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 2023

Type of Audit	Number of Audits
MS Manual Review	3
Stage 1	5
Stage 2	28
Surveillance	24
Re-certification	-
Follow-up	2
Total number of Audits	62

Table 2. Summary of the NCRs raised by CARES Auditors in 2023

Type and number of NCR		Note
Major	-	No major NCR raised
Minor	121	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 2024.

NCRs were mainly raised for area of improvements relating to the sustainability management to SCS Version 09 including assessment of supply chain, ethical supply chain practices, transparency and numerous NCRs were raised in relation to the social aspects.

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UK Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels, company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No. 1762448, registered office as above. The use of the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation mark indicates accreditation in respect of those activities covered by the accreditation certificate number 0002.





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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' (RSCS) within BREEAM UK New Construction, BREEAM International New Construction, BREEAM Infrastructure (formerly CEEQUAL) and all current BREEAM building and infrastructure schemes. The SCS scheme is recognised by other building and infrastructure schemes globally such as GREEN STAR (Certification Trademark registered by GBCA).

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.

The scheme Version 09 was launched, taking effect from Jan 2021 after an extensive consultation through 2019 and 2020 on the need to raise sustainability performance standards, in particular, driven by demand from the UK construction market. 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 Version 06.

SCS Version 09 transition of 35 companies have been completed, assessment of 5 remaining companies is in progress at the time of the issue of this report. In addition to ongoing audits, there are currently 7 new applications in progress.

CARES SCS Scheme Future Update Plans

CARES is committed to promote sustainable development aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It's Sustainability Strategy includes measures to reduce its own direct impacts as well as actions to support performance improvements through its certifications and approvals as well as its outreach and work with construction, steel industry and other stakeholders. Our biggest impact by far is through the implementation of our SCS scheme, especially with steel producers.

The race to decarbonise the steel industry, the rise in due diligence legislation, which requires better knowledge of and actions in regard to labour rights, human rights and environmental risks in the supply chain, as well as customer demand, are all driving increased expectations. Increased regionalisation, advances in standardisation, building rating systems and traceability, for example, are impacting on the construction industry and the steel industry response to these changing market needs.

The next review of SCS and updates Version 09 to Version 10 has been started.

The timetable of the proposed scheme development is summarised below:

- Q1 2024: Initial stakeholder consultation through an online survey
- Q2 2024: SCS scheme update proposals development process
- Q3 2024: Communications and second consultation on proposed changes
- Q3 2024: Agreement on changes and development activities to finalise a new Version 10
- Q4 2024: Communications relating to the changes and timelines for them to approved and prospective firms
- 2025: SCS Version 10 published with a timeline for transition defined

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- 2025-2030 periodic review to ensure scheme alignment to current science and performance expectations

CARES

19/01/2024



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