



# WHY **ACRS** REBAR CERTIFICATES REPLACE STEEL MILL CERTIFICATES

Some specifiers ask for certificates for reinforcing bar from their REO supplier and request details of heat or batch identification and traceability. With the advent of third party certification provided by the Australian Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels (ACRS), this is no longer necessary. ACRS certificate gives a level of quality assurance for compliance to AS/NZS 4671 for steel manufacture and processing over and above that provided by a Steel Mill certificate.

## What are the benefits of ACRS Certificates for REBAR?

## WHAT IS ACRS?

The Australian Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels Ltd, "ACRS" was formed in May 2001 to provide independent, third-party certification of steel construction materials manufactured to Australian Standards.

### The ACRS Scheme is based upon well-established and widely accepted overseas practice

It has been designed to be compliant with International Standard ISO/IEC Guide 65 – General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems.

ACRS offers certification to Australian Standards to any manufacturer or supplier without regard for commercial affiliation or geographic location. Currently, ACRS certifies over 30 companies in 11 different countries to AS/NZS 4671 Steel Reinforcement Materials.

ACRS proven systems of corporate governance, stemming from its constitution and scheme regulations, have given it a solid reputation in industry, both in Australia and overseas, as an ethically-based, expert, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the provision of fair, yet rigorous and credible assessment of suppliers' claims of compliance to Standards.

### The ACRS certification process

ACRS expert assessors visit and assess every certified firm supplying materials to Australian Standards at least once each year and every three months collect and analyse test data for all products manufactured during that period at that location.



## Why ACRS certificates replace the need for mill or test certificates for rebar

Because of the rigorous three-monthly checks on all products supplied to ACRS assessed Standards from certified locations, ACRS certificates remove the need for provision of manufacturers' mill certificates or product test certificates to customers, and the need for those customers to then check each certificate and confirm that supplied materials do in fact meet the required Standard or Standards.

Specifiers and customers can be confident that independent, third-party certification meets their requirements for checking materials. The model of independent, third-party conformity assessment is a recognised mechanism in Australian Standards, for instance AS/NZS4671 Appendix A – "Means for demonstrating compliance with this Standard"

Having an independent, expert body review the necessary test data provides the highest level of confidence available in the conformity of materials supplied to Australian Standards.



## Advantages of ACRS certificates over Mill test certificates for rebar

1. Easier – just one or two certificates to check instead of multiple test certificates, each time of supply;
2. Quicker – compliance checks have already been done. ACRS checks all production to the assessed Standards from that certified location;
3. Safer – the checks have been done by a recognised, competent body.
4. The reinforcement supplier as well as the Mill from which the rebar is sourced are both certified by ACRS.

So unless you understand the data on the test certificate and the compliance detail behind it for both rebar manufacturing and rebar processing, how do you know the material passes all requirements?

## ACRS governance and member companies

ACRS takes its certification responsibility seriously. It is governed by an independent Board of Directors selected to provide an appropriate balance of industry experience, academic rigour and management & fiscal control.

The Board provides a high standard of governance that is reviewed regularly with a view to continued service enhancement.

It is comprised of a balance of representative organisations of the three major stakeholder groups:

- Specifier and designer
- Customer and user
- Manufacturer and supplier

The operation of the Authority and its provision of certification services are currently governed by the following member organisations:

- The University of Melbourne
- Austroads
- Engineers Australia
- Consult Australia (formerly the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia)
- The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
- The Concrete Institute of Australia
- The National Precast Concrete Association of Australia
- The Australian Constructors Association
- The Master Builders Association
- The Housing Industry Association
- The Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
- The Post-Tensioning Institute of Australia
- The Steel Reinforcement Institute of Australia
- The Australasian Wire Industry Association

## Who can hold an ACRS Certificate and for what products or processes?

Upon satisfactory assessment of a supplier by ACRS, an ACRS Certificate of Approval is issued covering the Approved Materials (that is, those materials sold as complying with Australian Standards) manufactured by, or processed by the supplier.

The scope of the certificate described in the Certificate of Approval is highly significant and important for customers and users. Therefore the scope of each ACRS certificate is very clearly defined and limited.

It is a condition of ACRS certification that all Approved Materials supplied by the supplier are declared to ACRS and noted on the supplier's certificate.

All products that are eligible for certification and all supplier locations at which these products are manufactured or processed or supplied from must be certified.

## What is shown on an ACRS Certificate?

Each ACRS Certificate of Approval states:

- a) The name of the supplier to which the certificate applies, with its company logo;
- b) The supplier facility to which the successful assessment applies;
- c) The products and/or services covered by the Approval, including applicable Australian Standards and/or ACRS assessment schedule;
- d) The dates of validity of the certificate;
- e) The date of first certification of the supplier location.

## What do you need to check?

When verifying that a product is ACRS approved, it is important to ensure that the product type, process and size are included on the certificate and that the certificate is of the relevant type. Your supplier must have a valid ACRS certificate, and if you receive a product that is not listed on the supplier's certificate, and/or that of their upstream supplier, that product is not ACRS certified!

## For further details please contact:

### Philip Sanders

Executive Director

The Australian Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels Ltd

ABN: 40 096 692 545

Ph: +61 2 9965 7216

Fax: +61 2 9965 7219

PO Box 1369 Crows Nest NSW 1585 Australia

[www.acrs.net.au](http://www.acrs.net.au)

