



Independent Third Party  
**A**ustralasian Standards  
**C**ertification & Verification of  
**R**einforcing, Prestressing &  
**S**tructural Steels  
Compliance

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

Some specifiers and users 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), there is now a credible alternative.

ACRS certificates give a continuing level of assurance of compliance to AS/NZS 4671 for steel manufacture and processing over and above that provided by a Steel Mill certificate, which is a snapshot of quality only at a given point of time.

ACRS Reinforcing Steel Certificates of compliance cover the following Australian and New Zealand Standards:

- 1.** Hot-rolled steel rebar manufacture to AS/NZS 4671
- 2.** Hot-rolled steel rebar-in-coil manufacture to AS/NZS 4671
- 3.** Cold-drawn reinforcing steel wire manufacture to AS/NZS 4671
- 4.** Reinforcing steel mesh (fabric) manufacture to AS/NZS 4671
- 5.** Steel reinforcement processing to AS/NZS 4671
- 6.** Prestressing/post tensioning steel materials manufacture (PC bar, wire & strand) to AS/ NZS 4672

# 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**

ACRS is 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 more than 30 companies in 13 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 Australian Standards.

### **The ACRS certification process**

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

ACRS certificates are only valid for twelve months to ensure consistent compliance.

## **Why ACRS certificates are a credible alternative to mill or test certificates for rebar**

Because of the rigorous three-monthly analysis on product data supplied to ACRS assessed Standards from certified locations, ACRS certificates can 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 rigorous 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 on a regular basis provides the highest level of confidence available in the conformity of materials supplied to Australian Standards.

## **ADVANTAGES OF ACRS CERTIFICATES**

- 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 on an annual basis and with 3 monthly checks on production data.
- 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 every compliance detail behind it for both manufacturing and 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 operation of the Authority and its provision of certification services provides a high standard of governance that is reviewed regularly.

ACRS member companies comprise a balance of representative organisations of the three major stakeholder groups:

- Specifiers and designers
- Customers and users
- Manufacturers and suppliers

The following member organisations support and endorse the ACRS Scheme:

- Australasian Wire Industry Association (AWIA)
- Australian Constructors Association (ACA)
- Australian Institute of Building (AIB)
- Australian Institute of Building Surveyors (AIBS)
- Australian Steel Institute (ASI)
- Austroads (including NZTA)
- Building Officials Institute of New Zealand (BOINZ)
- Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia (BOSMA)
- Concrete Institute of Australia (CIA)
- Consult Australia (formerly, ACEA)
- Engineers, Australia
- Heavy Engineering Research Association of NZ (HERA)
- Housing Industry Association (HIA)
- Master Builders Association (MBA)
- National Precast Concrete Association Australia (NPCAA)
- Post Tensioning Institute of Australia (PTIA)
- Steel Reinforcement Institute of Australia (SRIA)
- The University of Melbourne
- Welding Technology Institute of Australia

## 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.

## THE ACRS CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

- The ACRS system is based on a Type 5 system in accordance with ISO 17065 Conformity assessment requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services.
- In addition to the minimum requirements of this Standard, ACRS also undertakes quarterly long term quality certification
- ACRS assessors select samples at the mill to be tested at an independent laboratory for comparison with production test results to independently verify the validity of test certificates.
- ACRS assessors are technically competent in the area that they work.
- Assessment is undertaken at the point of manufacture to provide a cost effective system.
- ACRS has been certified by JAS-ANZ to comply with ISO 17065
- The ACRS system should not be confused with lesser systems based on type testing, ISO 9001 or ISO 17021.

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