



Quality Alert

Alarm raised over fake rebar safety certificates

Fraudulent documents claiming safety-critical reinforcing steel has been independently tested and approved are being found in routine checks, according to the reinforcing steel certification body CARES.

The trade body is now urging users to check documentation carefully and has newly introduced QR code labels which cannot be tampered with.

Inspectors from the rebar certification body CARES have found an unscrupulous trader that had deliberately tampered with a genuine certificate in an attempt to mislead project managers that the material they were trading had passed CARES' stringent certification tests.

The latest fake document was spotted during a routine inspection of product paperwork from rebar originating in Asia, and they follow similar fakes found in the supply chain in the UK.

The global pandemic has accelerated the inspection authority's adoption of digital assurance tools to tackle fake certificates.

All CARES' documents of approval now contain a static QR code that allows users and buyers to scan and verify the authenticity, validity and integrity of each certificate, and whether it contains all relevant data, by checking into an online database.

CARES' chief executive Lee Brankley warned that false data circulating in the supply chain threatened to undermine further confidence in the industry just as the Building Safety Bill brings in tougher checks following the Grenfell tragedy. He said that if the certificate was not showing a QR code then there were real grounds for concern, and urged users to contact CARES if there were any doubts.

Source information from Construction Enquirer: <https://www.constructionenquirer.com/2021/07/07/alarm-raised-over-fake-rebarsafety-certificates/>

Please can all projects review any rebar certificates received and amend

This advice should be used, where the above is applicable, and the information discussed with your team highlighting the following points:

- Please can all projects review any rebar certificates received and amend any ITP's that include the use of rebar to ensure that a check of the certificates is included
- Further information is available on the CARES website: https://www.ukcares.com/downloads/general/CARES_Logo_Guidelines_November_2020_v4.pdf

CARES certification logo and mark

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How to promote your CARES certification



CARES (UK Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels) is an independent, not-for-profit certification body. It operates for the benefit of the construction industry offering certification schemes for companies that produce materials, components or offer services, primarily to the reinforced concrete industry.

Our brand is our primary contact with many people. It helps them recognise who we are and what we do.

Independent, impartial and trusted
ukcares.com



Everyone has the right to be

100% Safe