

10 January 2011

Understanding your ACRS certificate

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

Upon satisfactory assessment by ACRS of a supplier, an ACRS Certificate of Approval is issued covering the Approved Materials (that is, those materials sold as conforming 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 to verify that they are receiving what they have ordered.

It is important to note that ACRS does not issue general certificates of approval for all possible products that might be delivered by the supplier and therefore the scope of each ACRS certificate is very clearly defined and limited.

It is a condition of ACRS certification that all Assessable Materials supplied by the supplier are declared to ACRS and noted on the supplier's certificate as Approved Materials. That is, all products that are eligible for certification and all supplier locations at which these products are manufactured or processed or supplied from must be assessed, verified and certified by ACRS.

ACRS certificates are web-based and any printed copies are "uncontrolled". That is, customers should check the validity of any ACRS certificate presented to them by visiting the ACRS website at www.steelcertification.com.

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 &/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.

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How many different types of ACRS certificate are there?

ACRS may issue a supplier one or more of ten different types of certificate:

Mill manufacturers:

- Type 1. Bar and coil manufacture to AS/NZS 4671;
- Type 2. Prestressing materials manufacture (PC bar and/or PC wire & strand) to AS/NZS 4672;
- Type 3. Cold-formed structural steel hollow section manufacture to AS/NZS 1163;
- Type 4. Hot rolled plate, floor plate and slab manufacture to AS/NZS 3678;
- Type 5. Hot rolled bar and section manufacture to AS/NZS 3679.1;
- Type 6. Structural I-Section manufacture to AS/NZS 3679.2;
- Type 7. Non-producer (i.e. a mill that is currently not producing materials to Australian Standards, but intends to resume at a future date),

Processors:

- Type 8. Wire manufacture to AS/NZS 4671;
- Type 9. Mesh manufacture to AS/NZS 4671;
- Type 10. Steel reinforcement processing to AS/NZS 4671, AS3600 and AS2870.

In addition, certificate types 1 to 9 will also have an accompanying product declaration form, detailing all the products covered by the supplier's certification.

What do I need to check?

When verifying products are ACRS approved, it is important to ensure the supplier's current certificate is of the relevant type (1 to 10, above) and that the product types, sizes and processes of your intended supply are included on certificate types 1 to 9.

The bottom-line?

1. *Your supplier must have a valid ACRS certificate;*
2. *You must check the certificate on the ACRS website, not accept printed copies;*
3. *If you get a product that is not listed on the supplier's certificate, &/or that of their upstream supplier (see fig 1), that product is not ACRS certified!*

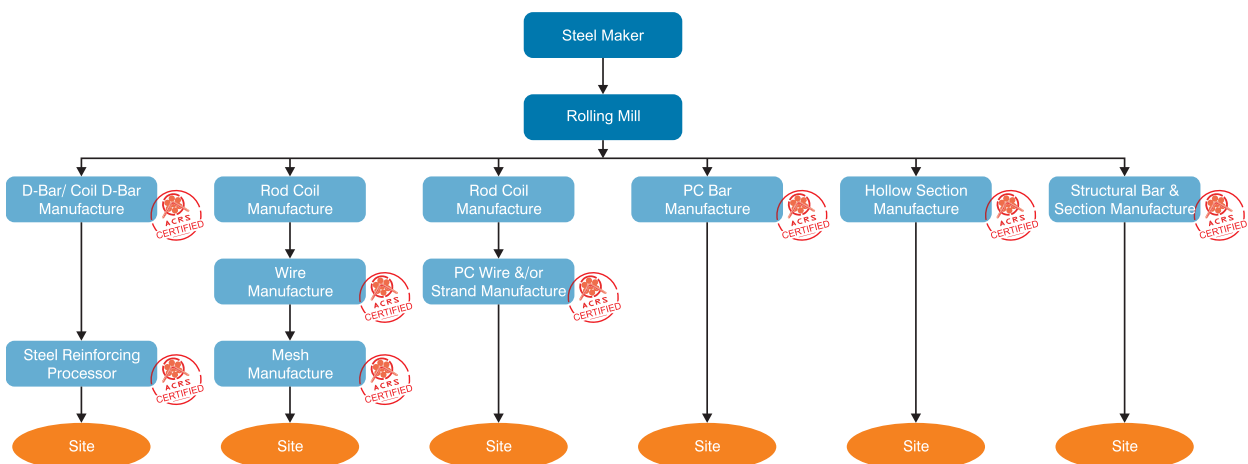


fig 1: Flow-chart showing supply chain of Approved Materials manufacture & processing and which ACRS certificates should be checked to ensure your steel construction materials supply is ACRS certified.

Would you like further information?

For any further information or advice on the ACRS Scheme, please contact:

ACRS

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For and on behalf of the ACRS board of directors,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Sanders', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Philip Sanders
Executive Director