

# GOOD PRACTICE STEELWORK PROCUREMENT

## Recommended contract wording



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE

### Context

This document has been prepared to assist procurers of structural steelwork to protect against non-compliant processes and non-conforming product.

ASI has prepared a suite of supporting material, including:

- ◆ AS/NZS 5131 'Structural steelwork – Fabrication and erection'
- ◆ 'National Structural Steelwork Specification' (NSSS) and 'Standard Drawing Notes': download free in Word or PDF at [steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/national-structural-steelwork-specification/](http://steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/national-structural-steelwork-specification/)
- ◆ National Structural Steelwork Compliance Scheme (NSSCS): see [steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/asi-in-compliance/](http://steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/asi-in-compliance/)
- ◆ Fabricator certification to one of the 'Construction Categories' CC1 to CC4 in AS/NZS 5131. Fabricator certification is undertaken by the separate company Steelwork Compliance Australia (SCA): see [www.scacompliance.com.au/](http://www.scacompliance.com.au/)

The Australian Standard AS/NZS 5131 should be called up in project specifications and contract documentation for all projects involving structural steelwork in Australia.

ASI has created the NSSCS to address the need for a robust, cost-effective and responsive third-party solution for ascertaining compliance of structural steelwork. For projects where risk of failure of the structural steel component must be avoided, the ASI recommends **those stakeholders responsible for procurement of structural steelwork MUST specify third-party certified fabricated steelwork to the NSSCS to satisfy duty of care.** A fundamental component of the NSSCS is the use of fabricators who have been certified to one of the Construction Categories defined in AS/NZS 5131.

### Recommended contract wording

*"All fabricated structural steelwork specified for this project must comply with Australian Standard AS/NZS 5131 Structural Steelwork - Fabrication and Erection. The project documentation must also nominate the appropriate Construction Category(s) in accordance with AS/NZS 5131.*

*All structural steelwork must be fabricated by fabricators certified under the ASI National Structural Steelwork Compliance Scheme (NSSCS) (see [www.scacompliance.com.au](http://www.scacompliance.com.au)) operated by Steelwork Compliance Australia (SCA) for the Construction Category(s) defined in the project specification.*

*All tenderers (fabricators) must have documented current evidence of having fulfilled 'Stage 1' of the SCA certification process, including a gap analysis of the necessary actions to meet the required Construction Category. The successful fabricator(s) must submit documentary evidence of current full certification to the relevant Construction Category before work commences on the project. The certification must be maintained for the duration of the project."*

Further background and basis for the recommended contract wording is provided on the following page.

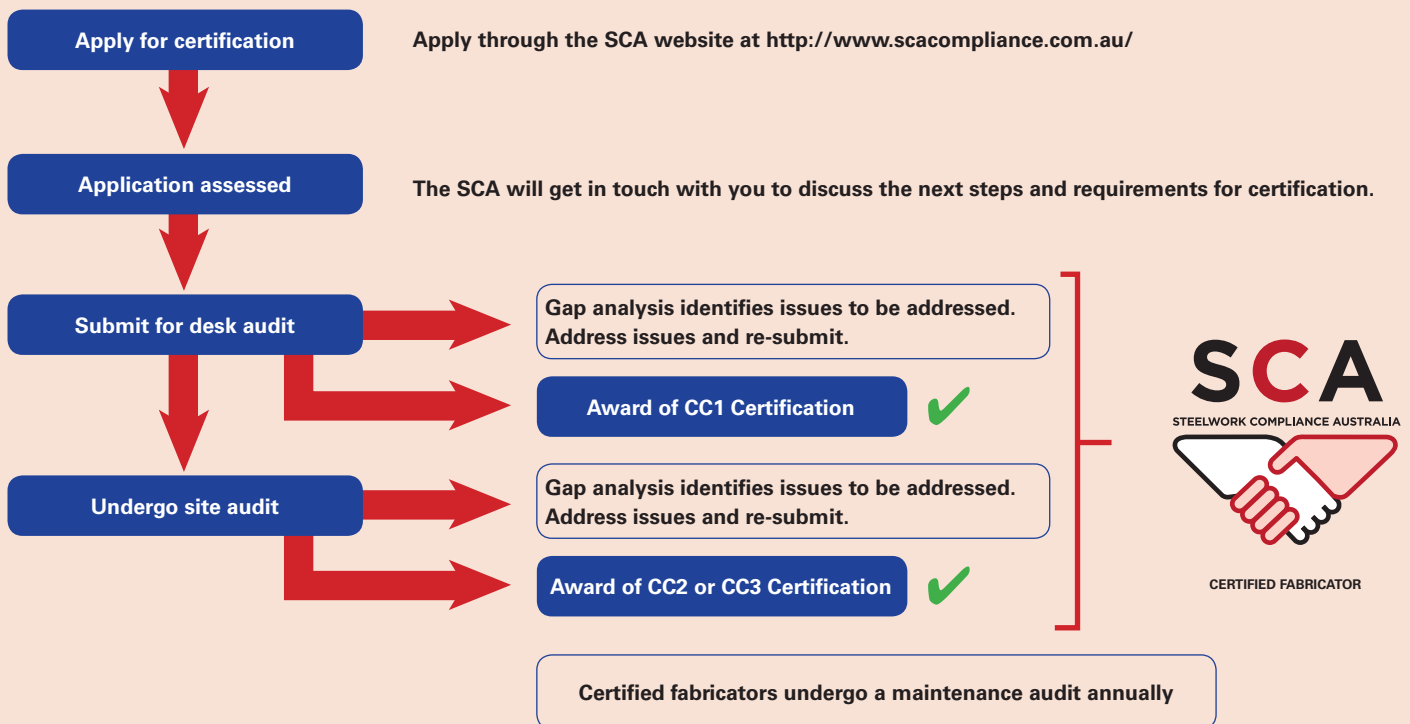
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# Responsible project procurement

In practice, the engineer specifies the Construction Category or Categories for the steelwork structure on the engineering drawings or in the project specification. The stakeholder responsible for procuring or building the structure will then ensure that fabricators certified to the appropriate Construction Category are used on the project.

A significant and growing number of fabricators have been certified by SCA under the NSSCS. Fabricator certification status can be freely checked at [www.scacompliance.com.au/certified-companies/](http://www.scacompliance.com.au/certified-companies/)

The process for certification of fabricators is staged, as indicated below, providing ample flexibility for incorporating certification of fabricators into the project schedule.



The recommended contract wording recognises that there will be a period of time after the recent introduction of AS/NZS 5131 where the range of fabricators certified under the NSSCS is less than some stakeholders may ideally require. The recommended contract wording provides flexibility to meet project schedule and requirements, allowing project procurers wanting preferred fabricators or a larger pool of fabricators to support competitive tenders for a project.

Stage 1 of the certification process is a desktop audit only and should be straightforward and quick for quality fabricators to action. Typically, Stage 1 should be complete within two weeks of the fabricator registering a commitment to proceed. Importantly, Stage 1 provides the information necessary for SCA to undertake a gap analysis against requirements for CC2 or CC3 certification, which will help inform tender assessment.

**Go to [steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance](http://steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance) to get the full compliance story and download our free tools!**

You may also like to review the information leaflets:

- ◆ 'Good practice steelwork procurement' from [steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/nsscs-for-clients-and-government/](http://steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/nsscs-for-clients-and-government/)
- ◆ 'Good practice steelwork procurement. Guidance for building surveyors' from [www.steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/nsscs-for-building-certifiers](http://www.steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/nsscs-for-building-certifiers)