

# AD 497: NHSS 20 - SHW Series 1800 Certification Requirements

BCSA has been made aware of a number of steelwork contractors, who intend working on schemes where the National Highways Specification Series 1800 for structural steelwork applies, who are confused over the certifications that are relevant to Series 1800 requirements. The National Highways Specification Series 1800 is available at [www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/mchw/vol1/pdfs/series\\_1800.pdf](http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/mchw/vol1/pdfs/series_1800.pdf).

In particular there is some misunderstanding over the certification requirements relating to the Register of Qualified Steelwork Contractors (RQSC) bridgeworks register and National Highways Sector Scheme 20 (NHSS 20). Some contractors believe that RQSC bridgeworks register certification (Series 1800, Cl 1800.4, 1) and NHSS 20 certification (Series 1800, Cl 1800.5.1, 1) are equivalent, and that only one is required to meet

Series 1800 requirements.

**This is not correct as the two relate to demonstrating different attributes of a contractor. Both certifications are necessary should a contractor choose to use these as a means of demonstrating compliance with the relevant Series 1800 requirements.**

RQSC bridgeworks register certification demonstrates a contractor's general technical capability and competence to undertake the specific works required for a contract.

NHSS 20 certification demonstrates that a contractor operates an independently certified quality management system complying with BS EN ISO 9001 that is relevant to the execution of structural steelwork.

There are other certification requirements that are described in Series 1800 that a contractor

should have in place and are described in the schedule below.

The schedule is primarily intended as a reference for contractors and for those supervising contracts, to help understand the various certifications that are required by Series 1800. The schedule will also help:

- auditors understand the Series 1800 certification related requirements when auditing contractors for NHSS 20, and
- in answering any queries relating to these requirements that may be raised with the auditors by contractors.

Contact: **Pete Walker**  
Email: [pete.walker@steelconstruction.org](mailto:pete.walker@steelconstruction.org)

Certification Requirement	Source of Certification Requirement	Reason for Certification Requirement	Evidence Required to Demonstrate Compliance with the Certification Requirement	Notes
Registration to the Register of Qualified Steelwork Contractors (RQSC) Scheme for Bridgeworks or equivalent.	Series 1800 Clause 1800.4, 1	To demonstrate a constructor's general technical capability and competence for the type and value of work to be undertaken, to satisfy a general assumption in BS EN 1990:2002+A1:2005.	Registration to the RQSC Scheme for Bridgeworks, or equivalent registration or equivalent evidence of technical capability and competence.	Details of the RQSC Scheme and the RQSC Scheme bridgeworks register can be found at: <a href="http://www.steelconstruction.org/member-directories/">www.steelconstruction.org/member-directories/</a>
Registration to National Highway Sector Scheme 20 (NHSS 20) or equivalent independently certified quality management system complying with ISO 9001	Series 1800 Clause 1800.5.1, 1	To demonstrate that a constructor has an independently certified <a href="#">quality management system</a> complying with BS EN ISO 9001, to satisfy a requirement relating to quality management measures in BS EN 1990:2002+A1:2005.	Certificate of registration to NHSS 20 issued by a Certification Body registered for NHSS 20 and company listing for NHSS 20 on the UKAS CertCheck website, or evidence of independently certified quality management system equivalent to NHSS 20.	The UKAS CertCheck web site can be found at: <a href="http://www.certcheck.ukas.com">www.certcheck.ukas.com</a>
Certified Welding Quality Management System.	NHSS 20 Clause 8.5.1 (iii); Series 1800 Clause 1807.1	To demonstrate that a constructor is undertaking <a href="#">welding</a> in accordance with the relevant part of BS EN ISO 3834, as required by BS EN 1090-2, Clause 7.1.	Valid BS EN ISO 3834 certificate issued by a Certification Body registered for BS EN ISO 3834.	BS EN ISO 3834-3:2005 certification required for Execution Class 2. BS EN ISO 3834-2:2005 certification required for Execution Classes 3 and 4.
Certificate of Competence in <a href="#">Pre-loaded Bolting</a> (required where pre-loaded bolting is not excluded as an activity in the constructor's NHSS 20 registration).	NHSS 20 Appendix C	To demonstrate that a constructor has a Level 3 Bolting Co-ordinator in place <b>and</b> has a bolting quality management system in place which includes training for bolting inspectors and bolting practitioners.	Level 3 Bolting Co-ordinator Certificate of Technical Knowledge, <b>and</b> a company Certificate of Competence in Pre-loaded Bolting.	Details of the BCSA training and certification for bolting competency can be found at: <a href="http://www.steelconstruction.org/resources">www.steelconstruction.org/resources</a>

**Acronyms:**

- BCSA:** British Constructional Steelwork Association
- MCHW:** Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works
- NHSS 20:** National Highway Sector Scheme 20 - The Execution of Steelwork in Transportation Infrastructure Assets
- RQSC:** Register of Qualified Steelwork Contractors

**Notes:**

1. MCHW Series 1800 and NHSS 20 Appendix C have requirements for the qualification of personnel employed by a constructor undertaking specific execution activities.
2. For constructors who undertake the [corrosion protection](#) of steelwork, MCHW Series 1900 (Protection of steelwork against corrosion) requires that they are registered to National Highway Sector Scheme 19A - Corrosion protection of ferrous materials by industrial coatings.