

STA membership and quality standards

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1. Introduction

Confidence in using a STA member company

The Structural Timber Association (STA) represents the vast majority of the structural timber industry, with an extensive membership covering a range of businesses engaged in the delivery of structural timber buildings. This includes the materials supply chain, engineers, designers, manufacturers, erector/installers and associated firms providing support services, such as legal and insurance businesses.

The STA offers differing levels of membership, each requiring defined levels of quality in the way our members undertake their work. However, the extensive range of membership businesses means that the specific quality requirements differ for each type of member and customer activity.

Choosing to work with a STA member company gives you the confidence that no matter what service they are providing, they are meeting the STA's membership criteria.

They will also have the necessary accreditation to comply with the Construction Products Regulations (CPR) plus relevant and applicable construction product conformity compliance; noting that the UK Government might update requirements for products over the coming years.

There is always a commercial decision to adopt increasingly recognised accreditations and standards. The STA guides its members to achieve the highest levels of quality and performance across a range of industry standards; see additional information provided in this document.

STA membership levels

The STA has established three levels of membership; Gold, Silver and Bronze. The levels of membership are designed to recognise the differing levels of standards held by our members.

It is important to point out that depending on the nature of a company's business, a Bronze or Silver member maybe the most appropriate company for your project requirement.



CE/UKCA conformity marking

As a supplier to, or customer of the construction industry, an STA member has a legal requirement (Construction Products Regulation), to sell, where appropriate, CE/UKCA marked products¹. It is 'where appropriate', because not all products have harmonised standards (hEN) or a European technical process (European Assessment Document) to permit a CE/UKCA mark, but for structural timber building systems, most of the products used do. Products like fasteners, timber boards, timber, joists, CLT, Glulam and plated trussed rafters are all eligible for conformity marking.

Until 30 June 2025, products can continue to be supplied to the UK market without the need for reassessment or re-marking if EU requirements are met (including CE marking). To affix a CE mark, the third-party conformity assessment must continue to be carried out by an EU-recognised body. In addition, products that meet NI rules (including CE marking or UKNI marking) can be supplied to the UK market.

After the end of June 2025, the current proposal is that the UKCA mark will replace the CE mark (this is already available for some products), though retesting may or may not be required, subject to product verification.

STA members are therefore legally bound to provide conformity-marked building products and systems where appropriate - and naturally the STA has made CE/UKCA marking of the products (where applicable) a condition of membership.

STA members are regularly updated on the conformity marking of products and you can be assured they can access the latest information to enable you, as their customer, to comply with the CPR.

Structural timber frame assembly in the factory using mechanical fasteners does not currently have a harmonised standard (prEN 14732 - Timber structures - Prefabricated wall, floor and roof elements - Part 1: Product requirements). This is under review and may be ratified in coming years when mechanically jointed frames may require conformity marking.

The STA template for quality assessment of manufactured assemblies provides a check on the frame assembly but as an STA only process this is not a UKAS approved verification. Note that component parts in the timber frame assembly such as studs and racking boards may themselves require CE/UKCA marking.

Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) assembly as a product/factory element may fall under timber structures - Prefabricated wall, floor and roof elements - Part 2: Performance requirements and minimum production requirements prEN 14732-2. That addresses glue-bonded structural elements such as wood-based prefabricated elements (wall, floor and roof elements).

A third-party approval may seek similar requirements for product acceptance. Structural mass timber members will be covered by a relevant EN Standard and require CE/UKCA marking for the product, but currently, no formal CE/UKCA assembly certification is available. The STA Assure programme provides some support for this verification.

¹ *Where applicable to current UK Government rules*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/construction-products-regulation-in-great-britain#history>

2. Membership types and definitions

We split our membership types as follows (each with different quality standards) as listed below.

Key on terminology:

1. Element is the component part that makes up a product
2. Product is the building system or assembled part that will form the building system

Structural timber building system (STBS) members

A STBS member is a company that has been contracted to provide a building system to the customer. The customer may be the building end-user, a developer, a main contractor, a sub-contractor or a self-builder. The contract can be to either supply a kit of elements or to supply and construct the elements on the site.

The scope of elements includes any of the following: assembled walls, floors or roof panels. Loose materials, joists, rafters etc. may also be supplied through the structural timber building system member. See Appendix 1 for further details of works typically covered by our STBS members.

All STBS members will be subject to an annual assessment, with a minimum outcome of 'STA Assure Bronze' required.

Product supply chain members

This is a STA member providing materials and component parts to be used in the manufacture of structural timber building systems/elements for site assembly. Examples of this type of member is a supplier of joists, boards, fasteners, insulation, membranes etc.

Product supply chain membership also includes businesses that manufacture components like truss rafter roofs and open web joists, Glulam beams, I-joists and steel frames to be used by others. It also encompasses structural products such as SIPs and CLT panels that go on to be processed by others into wall, floor and roof elements.

Erector/installer members

Businesses that assemble elements and products on-site to form the building shell which are designed and supplied by others.

All erector/installer members must ensure that at least two thirds (66%) of their workforce is certified as competent under the STA Installer Training Scheme (ITS).

Designers and engineers

Businesses that produce fabrication drawings and/or engineering calculations for the elements and building structural system, including energy performance, acoustic, fire, safety and acoustic services.




Designer - a term used to describe persons/company who provide assembly and fabrication details and drawings. This is not the Architect or Building designer.

Engineer - a term used to describe persons/company that provides specialist advice on the frame performance and specific aspects of the project design.

NOTE: *When the STBS member employs their own designers and or engineers, their training and qualifications are to be part of the STBS company membership quality processes.*

3. Quality levels for members

The table below outlines the quality and accreditation standards our members hold for Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of STA membership.

| |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|
| STRUCTURAL TIMBER BUILDING SYSTEMS | Site Safe Use STA competent erector/installer companies [†] Conformity compliance (for components) STA Assure third-party assessment*; 65% - 74% assessment score (* audit based on the STA template for quality assessment of manufactured assemblies v2.0 Sept 2016) | Site Safe Use STA competent erector/installer companies [†] Conformity compliance (for components) STA Assure third-party assessment*; 75% - 84% assessment score (* audit based on the STA template for quality assessment of manufactured assemblies v2.0 Sept 2016) | Site Safe Use STA competent erector/installer companies [†] Conformity compliance (for components) STA Assure third-party assessment*; 85% + assessment score (* audit based on the STA template for quality assessment of manufactured assemblies v2.0 Sept 2016) Utilise STA Gold/Silver Assure designers (or equivalent standard) ⁶ |
| PRODUCT SUPPLY CHAIN | In-house quality system STA workshops/technical support | In-house quality system STA workshops/technical support ISO 9001 ¹ Option to have additional third party product performance design checks and reports, but not UKAS approved outputs ² | In-house quality system STA workshops/technical support ISO 9001 ¹ + product performance certification /conformity compliance (where appropriate), BBA, BM Trada, Kiwa BDA or other UKAS third party certificate |

[†] STA erector/installer companies with +66% of workforce certified as competent under the STA Installer Training Scheme (ITS).

Notes relating to pages 6 & 7

- 1 Should be independently accredited
- 2 Third party companies such as consultants and university testing that is not UKAS accredited
- 3 CPCS National Plant Training certificate is required on commercial sites and is assumed to be part of the contractors and erectors selection process
- 4 Required where site managers and contract managers are involved in the company
- 5 Third party audit with scope of quality manual to include UK Contractors safety procedures and training requirements.
- 6 As detailed in STA Technical Guidance Note No 19: STA Assure, Engineering Design Compliance

Table cont.../



| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>ERECTOR/ INSTALLERS</p> | <p>66% of workforce certified as competent[†] and should hold an accredited NVQ/SVQ</p> <p>CSCS card holding site staff</p> <p>National Plant Training certification for key site staff members³</p> <p>In-house quality system</p> | <p>66% of workforce certified as competent[†] and should hold an accredited NVQ/SVQ</p> <p>CSCS card holding site staff</p> <p>National Plant Training certification for key site staff members³</p> <p>In-house quality system</p> <p>Site Supervisors' Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS)⁴</p> | <p>66% of workforce certified as competent[†] and should hold an accredited NVQ/SVQ</p> <p>CSCS card holding site staff</p> <p>National Plant Training certification for key site staff members³</p> <p>In-house quality system</p> <p>Site Supervisors' Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS)⁴</p> <p>ISO 9001^{1, 5}</p> <p>or</p> <p>SSIP (Safety Schemes In Procurement) accreditation</p> |
| <p>DESIGNERS AND ENGINEERS</p> | <p>In-house quality system</p> <p>25% of staff to have self-certified completion of the STA Timber Frame Design Competency scheme^{††}</p> | <p>In-house quality system</p> <p>50% of staff to have self-certified completion of the STA Timber Frame Design Competency scheme^{††}</p> <p>Experience relevant to scope of works and for one company member to have 3 years' experience (self-certified)</p> <p>Additional requirement (engineers only)</p> <p>At least one person in the company to be a member of an Engineering Institution or recognised qualification status from a European organisation</p> | <p>50% of staff to have self-certified completion of the STA Timber Frame Design Competency scheme^{††}</p> <p>Experience relevant to scope of works and for one company member to have 5 years' experience (self-certified)</p> <p>ISO 9001: 2015 (UKAS or similar third-party assured)</p> <p>Additional requirement (engineers only)</p> <p>At least one person in the company to be a Chartered member of an Engineering Institution or recognised equivalent qualification status from a European organisation</p> |

† STA erector/installer companies with +66% of workforce certified as competent under the STA Installer Training Scheme (ITS).




†† Individuals wishing to register for the scheme can do so by visiting the training section on the STA website

4. Accreditations and standards

Requirements for each membership type/level

STA members hold a range of quality and accreditation standards to meet the differing levels of our membership criteria. The table below show the requirements for each type of membership, reflecting the various accreditations and standards within that sector.

Structural timber building system (STBS) members

| ACCREDITATION/STANDARD |  STA ASSUREBRONZE |  STA ASSURESILVER |  STA ASSUREGOLD |
|--|---|--|--|
| Site Safe fire compliant | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Use STA competent erector/installer companies† | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Conformity compliance (for components) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| STA Assure third-party assessment*; 65% - 74% assessment score | ✓ | | |
| STA Assure third-party assessment*; 75% - 84% assessment score | | ✓ | |
| STA Assure third-party assessment*; 85% + assessment score | | | ✓ |
| Utilise STA Gold/Silver Assure designers (or equivalent standard) | | | ✓ |

† STA erector/installer companies with +66% of site workforce certified as competent under the STA Installer Training Scheme (ITS).

* audit based on the STA template for quality assessment of manufactured assemblies v2.0 Sept 2016

Product supply chain members

| ACCREDITATION/STANDARD | STAV ASSUREBRONZE | STAV ASSURESILVER | STAV ASSUREGOLD |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| In-house quality system | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| STA workshops/ technical support | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| ISO 9001 audited management system or equal as part of the system approval with Gold Standard | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Product performance testing (not UKAS approved) by university/consultant | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Conformity compliance or UKAS approved third party product performance certification: BBA, BM TRADA Q-Mark, Kiwa BDA or product via a successful European Technical Assessment (ETA) or European Assessment Document (EAD) | | | ✓ |

Erectors / installer members

| ACCREDITATION/STANDARD | STAV ASSUREBRONZE | STAV ASSURESILVER | STAV ASSUREGOLD |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 66% of site workforce certified as competent† and should hold an accredited NVQ/SVQ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| In-house quality system | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| CSCS card | | ✓ | ✓ |
| National Plant Training certification | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Site Supervisors' Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) and Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) where appropriate | | | ✓ |
| Safety Schemes In Procurement (SSIP) or ISO 9001 | | ✓ | ✓ |

† STA erector/installer companies with +66% of site workforce certified as competent under the STA Installer Training Scheme (ITS).

Designers and engineers

| ACCREDITATION/STANDARD | STAV ASSUREBRONZE | STAV ASSURESILVER | STAV ASSUREGOLD |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| In-house quality system | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Use of STA technical support | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 25% of relevant staff to have self-certified completion of the STA Timber Frame Design Competency scheme ^{††} | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 50% of relevant staff to have self-certified completion of the STA Timber Frame Design Competency scheme ^{††} | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Experience relevant to scope of works and for one company member to have 3 years' experience (self-certified) | | | ✓ |
| Additional requirement (engineers only) At least one person in the company to be a member of an Engineering Institution or recognised qualification status from a European organisation | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Experience relevant to scope of works and for one company member to have 5 years' experience (self-certified) | | ✓ | ✓ |
| ISO 9001: 2015 (UKAS or similar third-party assured) | | | ✓ |
| Additional requirement (engineers only) At least one person in the company to be a Chartered member of an Engineering Institution or recognised equivalent qualification status from a European organisation | | ✓ | ✓ |

^{††} Individuals wishing to register for the scheme can do so by visiting the training section on the STA website

5. Appendix

Works typically covered by our structural timber building system (STBS) members.

| STRUCTURAL TIMBER BUILDING SYSTEM SUPPLIER | WORKS COVERED |
|--|---|
| <p>Type 1 structural building system supplier</p> <p>Common terms for this supplier may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabricator • Timber frame manufacture • Timber frame sub-contractor | <p>Manufacture of the elements</p> <p>Additional services may include in-house or subcontract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of the frame • Delivery to site • Erect on site |
| <p>Type 2 structural building system contractors</p> <p>Common terms for this supplier may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processor • Delivery partner • Supply contractor • Frame sub-contractor | <p>A business that provides a direct contract with the building customer to deliver a building system that is part or fully manufactured by another business.</p> <p>The structural building system contractor may process a manufactured element and add value before delivery to the customer.</p> <p>Additional services may include in-house or subcontract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of the frame • Delivery to site • Erect on site |

Independent third-party assessment for STBS

Updates and changes to v2.0 - February 2019

The increased recognition of STA Assure levels for STBS members (i.e bronze, silver or gold level) by third-party organisations is the driving reason for the introduction of an independent third-party assessment to the certification process.

In order to achieve a robust, consistent and transparent declaration method for STA Assure, it has been necessary to replace the previous self-assessment method for STBS members. Under self-assessment, members were able to determine their STA Assure level against a listed criteria of certifications, STA Policies, and in-place in-house processes.

This form of self-assessment has now been fully removed for STBS members; and a year of independent assessment has now been completed. The originally listed criteria have now be removed from this document and the corresponding forms on the STA website.

The new third-party assessment requirements for STA Assure are built on the original requirements and the levels of attainment are similarly consistent.



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