

STA membership and quality standards

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1. Introduction

Confidence in using an 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 an 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 Assure standards

All STA Assure standards include a set of mandatory requirements designed to uphold consistency, safety, and quality within the structural timber sector. These standards ensure that every aspect of design, manufacture, and installation adheres to best practices and proven performance measures. Compliance with these mandatory requirements is essential to maintain the integrity, reliability, and reputation of the industry. The key elements that must be incorporated are:

Fire proven elements

Ensuring all systems and components meet rigorous fire safety performance standards.

Site Safe

Promoting safety, accountability, and proper risk management across all site activities.

16 Steps

Implementing the STA's structured quality assurance process that governs key stages of timber frame construction.

Installer Training Scheme (ITS)

Mandatory for installers to guarantee knowledge, understanding, and consistent workmanship on site.

Designer Training Scheme (DTS)

Mandatory for designers to ensure all designs meet structural, safety, and regulatory requirements from concept to completion.

Full details of how members can comply with the requirements can be found on the STA website library in **STA Assure v3 compliance policy January 2025**, and within the training hub also on the STA website.

Meeting these mandatory criteria is vital to guarantee consistent quality, enhance performance, and maintain trust across the entire structural timber sector.

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 may be 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 under the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) to sell, where appropriate, CE/UKCA-marked products¹. The phrase “where appropriate” is used because not all products have harmonised standards (hEN) or a European technical assessment process (European Assessment Document) that permits CE/UKCA marking. However, for structural timber building systems, most products used do. Products such as fasteners, timber boards, structural timber, joists, CLT, glulam and plated trussed rafters are all eligible for conformity marking.

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

There is not currently a harmonised standards for structural timber frame assembly in a factory using mechanical fasteners. There is a draft standard (prEN 14732 - Timber structures – Prefabricated wall, floor and roof elements, Part 1: Product requirements) in development which may be ratified in the future, at which point mechanically jointed frames will require conformity marking.

The STA template for quality assessment of manufactured assemblies provides a check on frame assembly. However, this is an STA-only process. Note that component parts within the timber frame assembly, such as studs and racking boards, may require CE/UKCA marking.

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

STA's updated membership classifications

As the structural timber sector continues to grow and diversify, we've updated our membership classifications to better reflect the range of businesses that make up our industry.

This new structure came into effect from 1 January 2026. It allows us to support members more effectively, ensures fairer representation, and gives clients and partners a clearer understanding of the services STA members provide.

We've introduced broader categories that align with how businesses actually operate today, covering areas such as manufacturing, installation, design, supply chain, consultancy, and more.

Below, you'll see a breakdown showing how the previous classifications map to the new ones.

NEW CLASSIFICATION	BEFORE	GROUPS	DEFINITION
Manufacturer	STBSS	Timber frame SIPs Mass timber	Structural timber system supplier that includes timber frame, SIPs and mass timber manufacturers
Integrator	NEW	Timber frame SIPs Mass timber	A business that carries out the design, sources the timber frame from an external supplier and erects it
Product supply chain	BSS	Product suppliers to the industry	Including those that supply panels and frames to other STA members
Specialist timber design and engineers	BSS	Service providers	Full practice SME two-tiers (up to 2 employees and up to 4 employees)
Installers	BSS	Installer erector (full)	Membership based on T/O with full details published
		Installer erector (part)	ITS trained only with names hidden
Associates (FOC)	Associate	Local Authority University/colleges Central government dept's Housing associations Trade associations	Relevant departments Including students DEFRA, MLUHC, BSR, DESNEZ Including RSLs and buying groups Reciprocal arrangements
Stakeholders	Associate	Consultants Housebuilders/developers Warranty providers Legal Training providers	Architects, general structural engineers, specialist fire consultants, project managers, quantity surveyors Those not self-supplying Brokers, underwriters and insurers Law firms supplying services to the structural timber industry Training enterprises

STBSS=Structural timber building system support BSS=Building system support

We split our membership types as follows (each with different quality standards) as listed below. The descriptions listed below are new for 2026.



MANUFACTURERS

Manufacturer

Structural timber system supplier that Includes timber frame, SIPs and mass timber manufacturers.

Fee based on annual turnover.

Previously known as STBSS member.



INTEGRATOR

Integrator

A business that carries out the design, sources the timber frame from an external supplier, and then erects it.

Fee based on annual turnover related to timber.

New membership category for 2026.



SUPPLY CHAIN

Product supply chain

A business that supply components to structural timber construction and manufacturing projects.

Fee based on annual turnover.

Previously known as BSS member.



DESIGN & ENGINEER

Specialist timber design and engineers

A business providing professional design, structural engineering, and technical solutions for timber construction, including bespoke timber structures, engineered components, and construction support services.

Fee based on number of employees.

Previously known as BSS member.



INSTALLERS

Installer

Companies providing professional timber erection, installation, and construction services.

Fee is based on annual turnover related to timber or we can offer a fixed fee restricted part membership.

Previously known as BSS member.



ASSOCIATE

Associate (FOC)

FOC associate membership is available to local authorities, housing associations, government bodies, universities, colleges, and students.

Free of charge.



STAKEHOLDER

Stakeholders

Includes consultants, developers, insurers, warranty providers, legal and training services, organisations that engage with timber systems projects without directly supplying, manufacturing, or installing the timber components.

Fee based on number of employees.

Previously known as Associate member.

3. Requirements for 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.

ACCREDITATION/STANDARD	MUST HAVE FOR		
	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Site Safe fire compliant	x	x	x
Use of STA Installer Training Scheme (ITS) certified and competent erector/installer companies	x	x	x
Conformity compliance with requirements of audit process	x	x	x
STA Assure third-party assessment with 65% - 74% assessment score			x
STA Assure third-party assessment with 75% - 84% assessment score		x	
STA Assure third-party assessment with 85% + assessment score	x		
Utilise STA Gold/Silver Assure designers (or equivalent standard) as detailed in STA Technical Guidance Note 19: STA Assure, Engineering Design Compliance	x		
Mandatory proven fire resistance of elements	x	x	x
Third-party structural component supplier audit (INTEGRATOR ONLY)	x	x	x

Product supply chain members

ACCREDITATION/STANDARD	MUST HAVE FOR		
	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
In-house quality system	x	x	x
STA workshops/ technical support	x	x	x
ISO 9001 audited management system or equal as part of the system approval with Gold Standard	x	x	
Product performance testing (not UKAS approved) by third-party companies such as consultants and university testing		x	
Conformity compliance or UKAS approved third party product performance certification: BBA, Kiwa BDA or product via a successful European Technical Assessment (ETA) or European Assessment Document (EAD)	x		

Self-declaration audit process

New for 2026 is the audit process for self-declaration against STA requirements. This will provide an opportunity for members in design/engineers and installer categories to self-declare against a revised list of requirements they will need to meet to qualify for an STA Assure category; Gold, Silver or Bronze. This is not a mandatory requirement, but in self-declaring members will help the industry's recognition of knowledge and competency standards.

Those requirements are listed below.

Specialist timber design and engineer members

MINIMUM CONTENTS	EVIDENCE	MUST HAVE FOR		
		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Training records	Records and training plans for all key personnel involved in project delivery Matrix (or similar) listing key personnel and job title Key qualification certifications for principal/lead designers Continuous Professional Development policy (expectation that this exists, with evidence to support it is in practice too)	x	x	x
STA designer training scheme	A minimum of 25% of all engineers within the practice must have completed and be certified on this programme	x	x	x
Project management /control process	Written procedure or flow diagram (or similar)	x	x	x
Design review process	Written procedure or flow diagram (or similar log)	x	x	x
Project audit plan procedure	Written procedure or flow diagram (or similar schedule/log)	x	x	
Customer complaints policy	Written procedure or flow diagram (or similar log)	x	x	
Cyber security	Statement about what is in place to ensure safeguards for cyber security	x		
Qualifications	Engineers only. At least one person within the practice must be a member of an engineering institution or hold a recognised qualification from a specialist institution	x		
Quality management	STA accept ISO 9001	x		
Health & Safety policy	Controlled document available for inspection	x	x	x
Risk management process	Controlled document available for inspection	x	x	

Installer members

		MUST HAVE FOR		
		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
MINIMUM CONTENTS	EVIDENCE			
Training records	Record of qualifications and training plans for all key personnel involved in erection Key certification on file (evidence matrix or similar), listing key personnel and job title, and any expiry dates on qualifications Including ITS (STA), CSCS, SSSTS (or similar). Must be uploaded onto the STA evidence portal	x	x	x
Compliance	66% of all installers used on site by the member must be certificated in the Installer Training Programme (ITP)	x	x	x
Quality management process on site	Written procedure or flow diagram (or similar) describing how operatives are supervised and work/quality is checked	x	x	
Customer complaints policy	Written procedure or flow diagram (or similar log)	x	x	
Quality management system	STA accept ISO 9001	x		
Quality management system	STA accept SSIP	x	x	
Other qualifications	50% of installers working on site must have completed a site carpentry apprenticeship and/or have completed NVQ/SVQ level 2	x	x	
Health & Safety policy	Controlled document available for inspection that shows the requirements of CDM	x	x	
Risk management process	Controlled document available for inspection	x	x	

The audit process will be undertaken online, where the member uploads the necessary evidence into a portal that only the member and the auditor can access. Evidence will be inspected and a certificate of STA Assure category will be issued. Only then can the member use the STA Assure logos.

To undertake this process, an application must be made to by email to office@structuraltimber.co.uk requesting links to the Jotform portal. Once the evidence has been uploaded, the member can then request their audit. There is a charge of **£175.00** for this process.

4. Appendix

Works typically covered by STA structural timber system manufacturing members.

STRUCTURAL TIMBER SYSTEM MANUFACTURER	WORKS COVERED
<p>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>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

Important excerpt from STA Assure Terms and Conditions

We strive very hard to ensure that audits are done in a well-planned manner and our Auditors maximise their time by planning visits geographically. It is therefore important to ensure that your annual audit date is agreed in advance of a time that is mutually acceptable and that date is set firm.

To accommodate changes in appointments, the STA have introduced a sliding scale of costs. Please note the more notice of required changes given, the lesser the financial impact, therefore any changes made more than 11 working days will not incur a cancellation charge. Details of these can be found in the **STA Assure v3 compliance policy January 2025**.

Where a member that is found to be unable to maintain the previous level of STA Assure, a maximum period of three months from the date of audit to correct the non-compliance by providing corrective evidence to the auditors still remains, but and maybe subject to a charge depending on the extent of the non-compliance.

STA take very seriously the mandatory compliance to the adherence to Site Safe and the use of STA member installers companies. Non-compliance in these areas can be rectified within 6 weeks by providing suitable evidence of correction. The final STA Assure award will be conditional to meeting the compliance of these mandatory issues. Failure to meet this deadline will result in the STA Assure award being removed and costs will be incurred in its re-instatement as per STA Assure Terms and Conditions.

Full document available [HERE](#)



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