



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS STEEL REINFORCING MATERIALS STANDARD

1. Is FS AS/NZS 4671 –Steel Reinforcing Material is a compulsory or voluntary Standard?

The Standard is a compulsory Standard, which means since the date of commencement of the standard, all importers, manufacturers and retailers need to comply with the Standard.

3. What is this standard about?

The Standard sets out specifications for Steel reinforcing materials (bars, coils and welded mesh). Requirements for chemical, mechanical and physical properties for three different strength grades and the three different ductility classes are also covered. The specifications will ensure that all steel reinforcement material meet the minimum standards, which in turn secures the buildings against natural disasters.

5. Why do we need this Standard?

Steel reinforcing materials are key building materials that are used in the foundations of the building structures. This Standards will reduce substandard steel reinforcing materials such as steel bars, mesh entering into the Fijian market that are not suitable for seismic zones in Fiji. This will also reduce the risk of devastating building failure during natural disasters.

7. Who should follow this Standard?

A person, company or supplier who is importing, manufacturing or supplying steel reinforcing materials in Fiji.

9. What grades of steel bars and welded mesh are allowed in Fiji?

For Fiji, G300E and G500E for steel bars and G500E for mesh are allowed.

11. How long will it take DNTMS to process import licence?

It will take 5 working days to process the import licence.

13. Where can I get import licence application form and requirements?

The import licence forms and requirements are available on the MCTTT's website www.mcttt.gov.fj

15. What is accredited laboratory?

Accredited laboratory means an independent laboratory which is approved by a third-party attestation confirming that the laboratory is competent to carry out conformity assessment. The lab must be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.

17. What will happen if importer does not comply with the Standard?

If non-compliant products are imported, the Regulator will issue the directive to the importer to re-export the product to the last port from which the product was shipped. Non-complaint materials will not be permitted to enter pass the border. If, importer fails to re-export within the 3 months, the Regulator will re-export or dispose the product safe manner.

19. Where consumers can lodge a complaint about non-compliance steel reinforcing materials?

All complaints related to quality of the steel reinforcing materials should be lodged with the Regulator or email at info@mcttt.gov.fj

2. What do you mean by FS AS/NZS 4671?

This means that Fiji has adopted Australian and New Zealand Standard, as a Fijian Standard, however, it is modified according to the needs of Fiji.

4. What is steel reinforcing materials?

Steel reinforcement materials are deformed bar or plain bar or deformed coil or plain coil or machine welded mesh or continuously threaded bar or steel bar. Due to steels durability, flexibility, strength and excellent compatibility with concrete, not to mention its tensile properties it is, therefore, the foremost and ideal material used in reinforcement.

6. Where can I purchase this Standard?

To purchase this Standard, you can click to link below.

https://www.techstreet.com/sa/standards/as-nzs-4671-2001?product_id=2067790

8. Who is the regulator of this Standard?

The regulator of this Standard is Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport through the Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards (DNTMS).

10. What should importer do before importing reinforcing steel materials?

Importer must provide independent accredited lab report to the regulator 5 days prior to loading the reinforcing steel materials in the country where the material is sourced from. Once, the regulator has notified the importer that their product is complying with the standard, then they shall arrange for shipment of the product and apply for import licence.

12. What will be import licence fees?

There is no import licence fees.

14. What is the requirement for local manufacturers?

All manufacturers must provide quarterly reports to Regulator to indicate the reinforcement steel is meeting the minimum standards. The quarterly report must contain:

- Independent accredited lab report or certificate of compliance from accredited certification body.
- Amount manufactured in a quarter.

16. Where can I get a list of accredited laboratories? We you limit your accredited laboratories to only these 5 countries?

Australia - National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)- <https://bit.ly/37FYtz5>
China - China National Accreditation Service (CNAS) -<https://bit.ly/3byAoF5>
New Zealand - International Accreditation New Zealand - <https://bit.ly/3bsCdnO>
Singapore - Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) - <https://bit.ly/3dEkpYM>
Malaysia - Standards Malaysia - <https://bit.ly/2P4EJZi>

18. What will happen to manufacturer who does not comply with the Standard?

Penalties will be issued to importers, manufacturers and suppliers who breach the Standard. First offence a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and 2nd offence - fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3years or both.

20. When does this Standards come into effect?

1 January 2021 however, grace period of 6months is given to local manufacturers and importers to clear out old stocks or different grades that were sold in the Fijian market.