An MND Statutory Board
52 Jurong Gateway Road #11-01 Singapore 608550
Tel. 1800 3425 222
www.bca.gov.sg

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For enquiries, please contact:
Building Engineering Group (#10-01)
Tel: 1800 3425 222 (1800-DIAL-BCA)
or use our online feedback form at:
https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/

Dear Sir/Madam

ENHANCED FRAMEWORK FOR REUSED STEEL IN BC1: 2023 DESIGN GUIDE FOR THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURAL STEEL TO EUROCODE 3 (2ND ED)

Objective

This circular highlights the enhancements made in this BC1: 2023 (2nd ed) in relation to the framework for reused steel for sheet piles, steel strutting system for ERSS[1] and the inclusion of temporary traffic decking under this framework.

Background

2. To promote sustainability in the construction industry and encourage the reuse of steel materials in temporary supporting structures, BCA introduced the reused steel framework into BC1 in 2012. The framework provides guidance on reused steel and addresses three key aspects: material traceability, material reusability and the quality system. Under the quality system, a third-party audited quality assurance regime by a SAC[2]-accredited inspection body is required for reused steel.

3. While the framework has been in place for over a decade, instances of poor-quality reused steel being used on site have been observed, along with a lack of awareness of the requirements of the reused steel framework. To address these concerns, BCA has enhanced the reused steel framework prescribed in Section 6 of BC1: 2023 (2nd ed).

4. In tandem with this enhancement to BC1, the SAC document Technical Note: SS 01 which gives the requirements for the accreditation of inspection bodies in structural steelwork has been revised to support this enhancement to the reused steel framework.

[1] Earth Retaining or Stabilising Structures
[2] Singapore Accreditation Council

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Summary of Changes to BC1: 2023 (2nd ed) and SAC Technical Note: SS 01 (30 Jan 2026)

5. The following changes have been made to BC1 –

Section	Brief description of changes
6	Added temporary traffic decking into the reused steel framework.
6.1.2	Provided clarity that non-destructive testing is to be carried out by accredited laboratories.
6.4	New section added on partial factors to be used for ultimate limit state design.

6. The following changes have been made to Technical Note SS 01 –

Section	Brief description of changes
Table 3	Table updated for enhancement and clarity.
5.3.2 to 5.3.5	New section added to align with requirements in BC1.

Implementation of the BC1: 2023 (2nd ed) and Technical Note: SS 01 (30 Jan 2026)

7. The BC1: 2023 (2nd ed) and SAC Technical Note: SS 01 (30 Jan 2026) will be implemented with effect from 1 September 2026 and will apply to projects where structural plans are first submitted on or after this date. Notwithstanding this, industry practitioners may adopt these updated documents immediately if they wish to do so. For projects with structural plans submitted before 1 September 2026, the previous version of the framework will continue to apply unless practitioners choose to adopt this enhanced reused steel framework.

8. The revised documents are available for download from the SAC and BCA websites at the following links:

a) BC1: 2023 (2nd ed) – https://go.gov.sg/bc1-2023
b) SAC Technical Note: SS 01 (30 Jan 2026) – https://www.sac-accreditation.gov.sg/resources/sac-documents/inspection-body-accreditation/

Key Requirements to Note

9. There are several key requirements that the industry should note in relation to the application of reused steel for temporary supporting structures. These are described in the following paragraphs.

a) Material Traceability

To maintain material traceability, each steel element must carry a unique identification number that can be traced back to its Factory Product Control (FPC) certificate and Manufacturer Test Certificate (MTC). Suppliers and fabricators of reused steel are required to establish quality assurance systems that provide suitable marking solutions to ensure material traceability.

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b) Material Reusability

When steel elements are returned from site, they must undergo a series of quality tests as prescribed in Section 6.2 of BC1 to determine their reusability. Steel elements that fail these tests require reconditioning to an acceptable condition before they can be reused.

c) Quality System

A robust quality system is required for suppliers and fabricators of reused steel to maintain material traceability and material reusability standards. This quality system must be audited by a SAC-accredited inspection body, which will issue a certificate of assessment when the requirements are met. The certificate of assessment serves as proof of the supplier's or fabricator's compliance. Annex A of this circular provides steps to locate the listing of accredited inspection bodies on the SAC website.

For Clarification

10. We would appreciate it if you could bring the content of this circular to the attention of your members. Should you require clarification on this matter, you may call our hotline at 1800 342 5222 or use our Online Feedback Form at: https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/.

Yours faithfully

ER. LUNG HIAN HAO
DIRECTOR
BUILDING ENGINEERING GROUP
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY
for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL

Building and Construction Authority

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Annex A – Steps to Locate Listing of Accredited Inspection Bodies on SAC Website

SAC-accredited inspection bodies for reused steel inspection can be found on the SAC website at: https://sacinet2.enterprisesg.gov.sg/sacsearch/search

Note: The SAC website link may change. Please refer to the latest SAC website if this link is no longer accessible.