



"Resolution of the CRSI Material Properties and Bar Producers Committee on the issue of reverting to Inch-Pound markings on Steel Reinforcing Bars"

WHEREAS, As a direct result of a Presidential Executive Order dated July 25, 1991, the Federal Highway Administration enacted a policy mandate for metrification, administered through the state Departments of Transportation. In response, the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute encouraged its members to adopt a system of soft metric markings on reinforcing bars, for both size and grade; and

WHEREAS, Since the late 1990's essentially all domestically produced reinforcing bars have been marked with soft metric labeling for size and grade; and

WHEREAS, As a result of this transition to soft metric bar markings, no intentional changes have been made to the physical properties of the reinforcing steel bars; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Highway Administration no longer mandates metrification of federally funded road and bridge construction projects. In a Memorandum dated 28 November 2008 from Jeffrey F. Paniati, FHWA Executive Director (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/contracts/1108metr.cfm>), it states:

“Given that all our partners have abandoned metric measures, we have concluded that continued mandatory use of metric measurements in FHWA's daily business activities is impractical. Accordingly, I am rescinding the prior guidance, dated June 1, 2001, on this issue. The use of metric measurements is no longer mandatory in our daily business activities. Each office may use its own judgment on the value of metric measurements or dual units based on the audience for each document. For offices that wish to use dual units, we encourage a reversal of past practice by presenting them in the format of inch-pound value followed by metric value in parenthesis.”

and

WHEREAS, As a result of the change in metrification mandate at the federal level, all state Departments of Transportation have now abandoned plans to adopt the metric measurement system; and

WHEREAS, As such, state Departments of Transportation no longer require materials to be specified and sourced in metric sizes/quantities; and



WHEREAS, The U.S. General Services Administration has indicated that “switching the labeling to the actual bars sizes in inch-pounds would not be an issue for GSA”; and

WHEREAS, The American Concrete Institute (ACI), through their Technical Activities Committee (TAC), has strongly encouraged CRSI members to mark reinforcing bars with traditional inch-pound size designations. ACI is the standards body within the United States responsible for developing the concrete building code. The concrete building code and other ACI documents reference the inch-pound size as the primary designation; and

WHEREAS, The large majority of the non-governmental construction community never adopted metric measurements in their plans and specifications; and

WHEREAS, The continued use of soft metric markings on reinforcing bars has been reported to generate confusion on job sites as plans/specifications, prepared in the inch-pound standard, and bars marked in soft metric, require an additional level of understanding and “interpretation” so as to ascertain the correct utilization, placement and inspection of reinforcing bars; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be no logical reason to retain the soft metric bar marking system;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, That the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, Material Properties and Bar Producers Committee:

1. Urges the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute Board of Directors, through the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute Engineering Practice Committee, to encourage CRSI producer members to revert to an inch-pound bar marking system for all sizes and grades of deformed reinforcing steel products.
2. The intention of this resolution is for all new rollings of reinforcing steel products, no later than January 1st, 2014 to be marked with inch-pound bar markings. Providing a 25-month phase in period should permit producer members sufficient time to re-tool finish roll inventory to the inch-pound marking system as rolls need to be replaced, significantly reducing or eliminating the need to unnecessarily cut new rolls with the sole intention of meeting the intent of this resolution.
3. As the ASTM specifications for reinforcing steel products permit reinforcing bars to be marked in either soft metric, or inch-pound markings, existing inventory of soft metric bars can continue to be sold alongside inch-pound marked bars during and after the January 1st, 2014, phase-in target.
4. The intention of this resolution is to reduce confusion and the chance of errors/delays from the construction supply chain. Thus, all CRSI members are strongly encouraged to revert to the inch-pound marking system for steel reinforcing bars as soon as practical to minimize any additional confusion to the supply chain of steel reinforcing bars.