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Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute Recommends Return to Inch-Pound Markings

(Schaumburg, IL – November 14, 2011) At their recent meeting on November 9, the [Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute \(CRSI\)](#) Board of Directors urged all CRSI producer members to revert to an [inch-pound bar marking](#) system for all sizes and grades of deformed reinforcing steel products. CRSI members produce more than 90% of domestic reinforcing steel.

The intention of this resolution is for all new rollings of reinforcing steel products to be marked with inch-pound bar markings no later than January 1st, 2014. 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 to meet the resolution.

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.

The intention of this resolution is to reduce confusion and the chance of errors or delays from the construction supply chain. 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.

This change is the result of several actions. The Federal Highway Administration no longer mandates metrification of federally funded road and bridge construction projects and all state Departments of

Transportation no longer require materials to be specified and sourced in metric sizes/quantities. Additionally, a large majority of the non-governmental construction community never adopted metric measurements in their plans and specifications. 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.

“It made logical sense for the industry to begin the process to move away from soft metric markings,” said Robert Risser, CRSI President. “None of our private or government customers are using metric plans or specifications any longer. The phase-in period will allow industry members to make the change over at minimal additional expense. CRSI is now in the process of making the appropriate changes to our manuals and literature.”

About Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute

Founded in 1924, the [Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute \(CRSI\)](#) is a trade association that stands as the authoritative resource for information related to steel reinforced concrete construction. Serving the needs of architects, engineers and construction professionals, CRSI offers many technical publications, design aids, software programs, educational seminars, promotional activities, membership functions and design award programs. CRSI members are manufacturers, fabricators and placers of steel reinforcing bar and related products, and professionals who are involved in the research, design and construction of reinforced concrete. Serving the construction market in the United States, Canada and Mexico, CRSI is headquartered in Schaumburg, Ill. with regional offices located across the United States.

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