Skanska was a principle industry stakeholder that contributed toward the establishment of the Eco-Reinforcement certification scheme in the UK. The scheme is used to assess and verify responsibly sourced reinforcing steel products, and has enabled Skanska to responsibly source steel reinforcement from 2010 onwards.

The Eco-Reinforcement standard

The Eco-Reinforcement standard in the UK provides robust sustainable sourcing criteria for reinforcing steel products throughout the supply chain – from raw material through to the construction site. Both the steel mill and the fabricator must be certified in order for Eco-Reinforcement to be specified and procured. Eco-Reinforcement has been developed as a sector-specific third-party standard, which complies with the requirements of Building Research Establishment’s (BRE) BES 6001 Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products.

Skanska UK was a principle industry stakeholder that developed Eco-Reinforcement as part of a consortium consisting of steel industry partners and BRE. Skanska’s desire to play a lead role in the development of the Eco-Reinforcement standard was driven by its aspiration to become the leading green project developer and contractor, and by Skanska UK’s forward-thinking Sustainable Procurement Policy.

“Use of Eco-Reinforcement/ BES 6001 certified reinforcing steel fulfils Crossrail’s commitment to promoting and enforcing ethical sourcing throughout its supply chain by active engagement with its Tier 1 contractors”

Rizwan Imtiazi, Procurement Operations, Crossrail
When developing the Eco-Reinforcement standard, the consortium identified priority areas and developed a system for consistent performance measurement and improvement. Skanska, participating steel mills, fabricators and external stakeholders now form the Scheme Council of Eco-Reinforcement Ltd, which was established to manage and develop the Eco-Reinforcement standard and certification scheme, and is a non-profit organization with costs covered by membership fees.

**Skanska’s Eco-Reinforcement supply chain**

Skanska’s key reinforcement supply chain consists of: Express Reinforcements, Romtech Limited, and BRC & Hy-Ten, who are fabricators, with steel producer Celsa Steel UK. All supply chain partners are certified according to the Eco-Reinforcement standard. Celsa Steel UK was the first steel manufacturer in the world to be certified according to a recognized responsible sourcing and sustainability standard (BES 6001 through the Eco-Reinforcement standard) and it supplies approximately 65 percent of the steel reinforcement market in the UK. Express Reinforcements is a leading fabricator of reinforcing products to the UK market.

All reinforcing steel is produced with an electric arc furnace and uses 98 percent recycled scrap metal. The resultant reinforcement steel emits approximately 390 kgCO₂/tonne, which is one of the lowest rates in Europe.
The Crossrail project – use of 100 percent Eco-Reinforcement steel

Crossrail is a US$ 24 billion railway project under construction in South East England that will run under central London to connect the city from east to west. The project aims to reduce journey times and ease congestion on the city’s transport infrastructure. With 188 km of double track and 50 km of new tunnels, Crossrail is one of the most ambitious and prestigious transport projects ever undertaken and is currently Europe’s largest construction project.

A Skanska UK joint venture secured multiple contracts on the Crossrail project for the clients Transport for London and Network Rail. Between September 2010 to February 2013, Skanska’s Eco-Reinforcement supply chain has delivered approximately 16,000 tonnes of responsibly sourced reinforcing steel on Crossrail projects. Skanska UK outperformed it’s declaration to responsibly source 80 percent of its steel reinforcement across all projects by achieving 100 percent responsibly sourced steel to the Crossrail project, which has been recognized by Crossrail as a unique achievement.

Skanska UK’s Sustainable Procurement Policy

Skanska UK’s sustainable procurement policy includes references to the UK Government Strategy for Sustainable Construction and the BES 6001 standard. Skanska led the way in offering its clients BES 6001 certified steel reinforcement, including large government projects that have BES 6001 as a standard requirement, such as the Crossrail project in London.