

DRAFT Steel Products (Construction Industry Compliance) Regulation in St. Kitts and Nevis
Enacted under the Authority of the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS)

1. Title

This regulation shall be cited as the *Steel Products (Construction Industry Compliance) Regulation, 2024*.

2. Authority

Promulgated under Section 5(1) of the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards Act (Cap. 20.08), empowering the SKNBS to enforce technical regulations for public safety and quality assurance.

3. Purpose

To ensure steel products used in the construction industry meet internationally recognized safety, quality, and performance benchmarks, while preserving the voluntary and copyright nature of referenced standards.

4. Scope

This regulation applies to:

1. **All steel products** intended for use in the **construction industry** within St. Kitts and Nevis, including but not limited to:
 - Structural steel sections (e.g., beams, columns).
 - Reinforcement bars (rebar) for concrete.
 - Steel pipes, tubing, and fasteners.
 - Cold-formed steel sections.
 - Prefabricated steel components.
2. **Entities involved** in the importation, manufacturing, supply, or installation of steel products, including:
 - Importers, manufacturers, and distributors.
 - Construction firms, contractors, and engineers.
3. **Exclusions:**
 - Steel products used for non-structural purposes (e.g. furniture).

- Steel products supporting $\leq 5\%$ of a structure's total load capacity, provided such products are accompanied by engineering certification verifying their non-critical role.
- Steel products imported for personal use (non-commercial quantities).

5. Definitions

- **“ASTM Standards”**: Technical specifications, test methods, classifications, and practices for steel products, developed through consensus by ASTM International. These standards establish requirements for material properties, design, manufacturing, testing, and performance, ensuring reliability and interoperability in construction applications.
- **“Bureau”**: The St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS).
- **“Construction Industry”**: All activities related to the design, erection, alteration, or repair of buildings, infrastructure, and other engineered structures.
- **“High-Risk Zone”**: Geographic areas within 500 meters of the coastline or industrial facilities, as designated by the SKNBS, where steel products are exposed to elevated corrosion risks.
- **“Mill Test Report (MTR)”**: A document provided by steel manufacturers certifying compliance with ASTM Standards, including chemical composition, mechanical properties, and batch identification.
- **“Steel”**: A ferrous alloy composed primarily of iron and carbon (typically 0.02% to 2.1% carbon by weight), with or without additional alloying elements, designed for structural, mechanical, or functional applications.
- **“Steel Products”**: Materials, components, or systems used in construction, as defined in Section 4(1).
- **Other terms** not listed above but fall within the scope of this regulation shall align with definitions in the referenced ASTM Standards.

6. Referenced Standards for Steel

All steel products used in construction within St. Kitts and Nevis **shall comply** with the following ASTM Standards, as incorporated by reference (see Section 8):

- **ASTM A36/A36M-19**: Standard Specification for Carbon Structural Steel.
- **ASTM A615/A615M-20**: Standard Specification for Deformed and Plain Carbon-Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement.
- **ASTM A500/A500M-23**: Standard Specification for Cold-Formed Welded and Seamless Carbon Steel Structural Tubing.

- **ASTM A53/A53M-22:** Standard Specification for Pipe, Steel, Black and Hot-Dipped, Zinc-Coated, Welded and Seamless.
- **ASTM A370-23:** Standard Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products.
- **ASTM A123/A123M-23:** Standard Specification for Zinc (Hot-Dip Galvanized) Coatings on Iron and Steel Products.
- **ASTM A955/A955M-24:** Standard Specification for Deformed and Plain Stainless-Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement.
- **ASTM E119-24:** Standard Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials.

7. Compliance and Enforcement

- **Certification:** Importers, manufacturers, and suppliers must provide third-party test reports or certificates of conformity to the Bureau.
- **Testing Requirements:** The SKNBS shall accredit local laboratories to perform ASTM A370 mechanical testing. For imported steel, third-party test reports from ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratories shall be accepted.
- **Documentation and Traceability:** Importers and manufacturers shall maintain Mill Test Reports (MTRs) with unique batch identifiers. All steel products entering St. Kitts and Nevis shall include QR codes linked to their MTRs for traceability.
- **Special Requirements for High-Risk Zones:**
 - Steel products used in High-Risk Zones (Section 5) shall comply with ASTM A123/A123M (galvanization) or ASTM A955/A955M (stainless steel).
 - Structural steel in buildings ≥3 stories shall comply with ASTM E119 fire-resistance standards. Intumescent coatings or equivalent protection shall be applied to steel components in hospitals, schools, and public assembly structures.
- **Inspections:**
 - The SKNBS **shall conduct** routine and unannounced inspections of steel products at ports of entry, manufacturing facilities, and construction sites.
 - The SKNBS **shall conduct** sample testing of steel products to verify compliance with ASTM Standards.
 - Supply chain audits **shall be conducted** by the Bureau to trace non-compliant products to their source.
- **Market Surveillance:** Non-compliant products shall be prohibited from sale, seized, recalled, disposed and/or destroyed at the expense of the non-compliant entity.

8. Incorporation by Reference

- The ASTM Standards listed in Section 6 are adopted **as they exist**, including all appendices, notes, and supplementary materials. Subsequent amendments or revisions by ASTM International after the adoption date do apply unless explicitly adopted by the SKNBS through a gazetted notice.
- The standards are not reproduced herein to respect ASTM International's copyright and voluntary status.

9. Voluntary Nature of Standards

- Compliance with the ASTM Standards referenced in Section 6 is **mandatory** for legal sale, import, or use of steel products in construction.
- The standards themselves remain voluntary technical documents owned by ASTM International; entities may report conformance to alternative standards but must demonstrate equivalence to the Bureau through comparative testing.

10. Penalties

Failure to comply may result in:

- Fines up to XCD 50,000 or 5% of annual turnover (whichever is higher) for repeat offenders.
- Revocation of import/manufacturing licenses.
- Mandatory recalls and public notices in national media for products with falsified certifications or critical safety failures (e.g., non-compliant rebar).

11. Transition Period

Businesses have 12 months from the effective date to comply. Existing stock may be exempt if accompanied by pre-regulation compliance evidence.

12. Public Availability of Standards

- ASTM Standards referenced are available for purchase at www.astm.org or SKNBS.
- A read-only copy is accessible for review at the SKNBS office.

13. Review and Amendments

The Bureau shall review this regulation every 3 years or as needed to align with technological advancements, revised ASTM Standards, or international best practices.

The Bureau shall also prioritise updates addressing climate resilience, fire safety, and digital traceability technologies during periodic reviews.

14. Effective Date

This regulation enters into force on **January 1, 2025**.

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