

Guidance on Selecting an Appropriate RQSC Category for Footbridges

BCSA

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1. Introduction

Highways England includes in its Specification for Highway Works^[1] a requirement that only firms listed on the Register of Qualified Steelwork Contractors for Bridgeworks (RQSC) for the type and value of work to be undertaken will be employed for the fabrication and erection of bridgeworks. RQSC has 10 sub-categories reflecting the diverse nature of steel bridge construction, two of which are specific to footbridges:

- FB – Footbridges
- CF – Complex footbridges

This guidance document is intended to assist clients in selecting the appropriate sub-category for their particular project, and thus aid the selection of appropriate steelwork contractors for their tender list.

2. FB - Footbridges

The FB sub-category is for steelwork contractors who undertake the fabrication and the responsibility for any design and erection of typical footbridges that are a common sight on the highway and railway network. Such structures include standard design 'up and over' footbridges as supplied to Network Rail, and footbridges of simple geometry using common forms of construction such as Warren trusses, Vierendeel trusses and rolled beams. Examples of footbridges that are appropriate to the FB sub-category are given below:



Typical 'up and over' half-through plate girder



Alternative 'up and over' half-through plate girder



Through Warren truss



Typical composite beam footbridge



Typical half-through Warren truss



Typical half-through Vierendeel truss

3. CF – Complex footbridges

The CF sub-category is for steelwork contractors who undertake the fabrication and the responsibility for any design and erection of 'one-off' footbridges that are often landmark structures. Such footbridges are likely to have bespoke designs, complicated geometry, challenging construction / installation constraints and long spans. Fabrication would probably require the construction of project-specific jigs and trial erection in the factory. Examples of footbridges that are appropriate to the CF sub-category are given below:



Cable-stayed



Offset arch



Curved and bifurcating



Twin arch



Curved asymmetric box-girder



Enclosure and central cable-supports

4. References

1. Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works (MCHW). Volume 1: Specification for Highway Works. Series 1800 Structural Steelwork. August 2014, TSO