

New approvals for Andrews Fasteners

Michael Carey, managing director commented: “This is an important step in the one hundred year history of Andrews Fasteners.” He added: “CE Approval and Sector Scheme 3 accreditation will soon be a major requirement of buyers of structural fasteners. Without the extensive investment Andrews made in testing equipment – which is kept in-house – neither of these approvals would have been achieved”.

The use of CE approved fasteners is not yet a legal requirement in the UK although it is in most EU member states. However, it soon will be. In 2013 the Construction Product Directive is expected to become a regulation requiring the use of CE Approved products in the UK construction industry. Many fabrication companies in the UK are already specifying that their products are CE approved as they prepare for the changeover.

“Andrews has been buying CE Approved products since 2006,” says Carey. “However we have not been able to offer a full service to our customers due to the requirements of the Construction Product Directive. Now Andrews has the approval we will be able to change the plating finish of items and supply them as CE Approved. Using our extensive range of blanks Andrews can also now convert them into bolts and supply as CE Approved. This means that Andrews will be in a position to provide non standard items or items not commonly available in the market place CE approved.”

From September 2011 all fasteners used on UK Highways Agency projects must be supplied by a company accredited to the National Highways Sector Scheme 3. “The British Construction Steel Association (BCSA) has stated in the latest edition of its purchasing specification for fasteners, that fasteners should only be purchased from companies who are accredited to this scheme,” explains Michael Carey. “These approvals ensure Andrews Fasteners continues to be at the forefront of the industry in meeting the latest quality requirements in the supply of structural fasteners.”

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Andrews Fasteners, Leeds based supplier of M10 to M110 quality assured fasteners, was audited by Lloyds in November and accredited to BS EN ISO 9001:2008 (previously accredited by NQA), CE Approval to BS EN 14399 (preload) and BS EN 15048 (non preload) and National Highways Sector Scheme 3 for Stocking and Distribution Activities for Mechanical Fasteners.

