

# 1           **Structural Performance of Stainless Steel Reinforced Concrete**

## 2   **Members: A Review**

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### 8           **Abstract**

9           Degradation of reinforced concrete (RC) infrastructure because of corrosion of the steel reinforcement is a  
10           well-known and expensive global problem. The inspection, repair, maintenance and replacement costs are  
11           a huge drain on resources, while the consequent disruption damages productivity. Existing measures to  
12           improve the performance of failing RC structures are generally retrospective and do not aid the  
13           sustainability agenda, nor do they effectively reduce the maintenance requirements over the remaining  
14           design life of the structure. In light of this, the replacement of traditional, corrodible, carbon steel  
15           reinforcement with inherently corrosion-resistant stainless steel reinforcement in the design of concrete  
16           structures and infrastructure is a viable and attractive solution. There has been a rapid increase in interest  
17           in this topic in recent years from the engineering research community, mainly owing to the growing problem  
18           of aging and deteriorating infrastructure as well as the lack of available and appropriate performance data  
19           and design guidance for stainless steel reinforced concrete. This paper presents a state-of-the-art review of  
20           stainless steel reinforced concrete, both at a material and structural level and assembles and thoroughly  
21           reviews the known information as well as identifying the key gaps. The paper is aimed at both the research  
22           community, to drive future research agendas, as well as practicing engineers so they can employ sustainable  
23           and maintenance-free stainless steel reinforced concrete more readily and with confidence.

24           **Keywords:** State-of-the-art review, Stainless steel reinforcement; Reinforced concrete members;  
25           Durability; life cycle costs; Continuous strength method, International design standards.

### 26           **Highlights**

- 27           • The paper presents a thorough review of the existing knowledge on stainless steel reinforced  
28           concrete structural members.

- 29 • Stainless steel reinforcement is typically used for applications where its corrosion resistance and  
30 long life cycle is desirable. It is becoming more popular in place of carbon steel reinforcement as  
31 its low-maintenance and excellent performance is increasingly desirable in response to ever-rising  
32 sustainability targets.
- 33 • The paper presents a detailed discussion on the material properties, as well as a discussion on  
34 existing design methods and performance data.
- 35 • Further suggestions for future research are highlighted.

## 36 1. Introduction

37 This paper presents a thorough review of the existing information on the use of stainless steel reinforcement  
38 in concrete structures, for improved durability and structural performance. Reinforced concrete (RC)  
39 structures are widely used for a range of structural applications such as multi-storey buildings, tunnels and  
40 bridges owing to the efficient use and ready availability of the constituent materials. Traditionally, and most  
41 commonly, RC structures comprise carbon steel reinforcing bars or mesh surrounded by concrete. There  
42 have been a range of advancements in recent years in terms of these constituent materials, both for the  
43 reinforcement as well as the concrete. One such development has been the increased use of stainless steel  
44 (SS) reinforcement in place of carbon steel bars to improve the overall performance, especially in terms of  
45 durability and a maintenance-free service life, as well as in response to growing demands for structures to  
46 be built in a more sustainable manner. In addition, SS reinforcement has been utilized for rehabilitation and  
47 restoration purposes including historical buildings and repairing corroded RC elements (e.g. [1-3]). It has  
48 been recognised that the use of SS reinforcement is an efficient method for preventing corrosion in RC  
49 structures over a long life-cycle [4-6], which is an increasingly important attribute as there are large volumes  
50 of aging infrastructure around the world.

51 Corrosion of carbon steel (CS) reinforcement is the primary cause for deterioration in concrete structures.  
52 It results in cracking and spalling of the concrete cover as well as serious structural problems in harsh  
53 environments [7, 8]. Even in conditions which previously may have been considered “normal” or not  
54 particularly severe, corrosion of reinforcement is a huge issue with increased use of de-icing salts, greater  
55 levels of pollution and higher in-service loading than originally designed for. Thus, there are increasing  
56 demands to improve the durability and service life of RC structures mainly because of the significant costs  
57 associated with maintenance, inspections, repairs as well as the expenses associated with a structure being  
58 out of service [9, 10].

59 Incorporating SS reinforcement in structural concrete can reduce the life-cycle costs and offer a more  
60 durable long-lasting alternative to traditional carbon steel. There are other methods which are used by

61 engineers to improve the corrosion resistance of RC structures such as using sealants or membranes on the  
62 concrete surface, increasing the concrete cover, and using cement inhibitors or reinforcement coatings [11,  
63 12]. However, in extreme corrosive environments, these measures may not prevent the development of  
64 unacceptable levels of corrosion. Moreover, these are not particularly sustainable solutions and typically  
65 involve using more materials. In this context, stainless steel reinforcement provides an ideal and efficient  
66 solution to the deterioration and corrosion problems for exposed reinforced concrete structures [13, 14].

67 From a structural perspective, stainless steel reinforcement offers distinctive mechanical properties  
68 including excellent strength, ductility, stiffness, fatigue resistance and toughness and is fully recyclable at  
69 the end of its service life [15-17]. However, it is also more expensive than carbon steel in terms of the initial  
70 cost and this is one of the primary reasons that it is not specified more commonly in RC applications, and  
71 tends to be used mainly in harsh and aggressive environments. There is a preconception amongst engineers  
72 that stainless steel reinforcement is prohibitively expensive, although this does not account for the whole-  
73 life costs. For example, employing stainless steel in place of traditional carbon steel reinforcement extends  
74 the service life cycle of structures and may also significantly reduce the costs associated with expensive  
75 inspection, maintenance, monitoring and rehabilitation works [18-20].

76 The use of stainless steel for concrete reinforcement to improve the durability, life-span and resilience is  
77 not new [4, 5] although there is a notable lack of performance data available in the existing literature. The  
78 current design approaches do not include specific rules for stainless steel reinforced concrete, and generally  
79 suggest using the same criteria as for traditional carbon steel reinforced concrete [21]. The existing material  
80 models provided for the structural analysis of reinforced concrete members in current design standards,  
81 such as Eurocode 2 Part 1-1 [22], are not appropriate for stainless steel reinforced concrete and lead to  
82 inaccurate predictions of the section capacity [23, 24]. Given the high initial costs of stainless steel  
83 reinforcement, as well as the constant need to improve the sustainability of structures, it is essential that  
84 efficient and appropriate design guidance is made available for designers and the engineering community.

85 Accordingly, the motivation for this work is to present a comprehensive review of the existing available  
86 information on stainless steel reinforced concrete and to highlight the essential information required for  
87 better implementation of these materials in RC applications. In addition, the paper aims to investigate the  
88 key behavioural aspects and propose usable design guidance.

## 89 2. Stainless steel reinforcement

90 Stainless steel is a durable, sustainable and efficient construction material and can be used in a diverse range  
91 of applications. It has outstanding strength, toughness and ductility, as well as fatigue properties. There are  
92 various forms of stainless steel available in the market including plates, sheets, bar products and structural

93 sections. The most common form used in load-bearing structures is bare structural sections such I-beams  
94 and hollow sections. However, the use of stainless steel reinforcement is also increasing, owing to the  
95 attributes previously mentioned, which has led to a significant increase in research in recent years.

## 96 2.1. Use of stainless steel reinforcement in concrete structures

97 Currently, stainless steel reinforcement is mainly specified in place of carbon steel in applications where  
98 durability is a requirement. This is often in structures and infrastructure which are in harsh environments,  
99 such as marine or industrial settings. However, stainless steel has a range of other attractive physical and  
100 mechanical properties as previously outlined which enable structures to remain in good service life, with  
101 minimal inspection or maintenance requirements, for longer periods of time compared with traditional  
102 carbon steel. The Progresso Pier in Mexico represents one of the first significant structural applications of  
103 stainless steel reinforcement, as shown in Fig. 1(a) [25]. It was constructed in the early 1940's using grade  
104 1.4301 austenitic stainless steel and has been in continuous service for over 70 years without any major  
105 repair or maintenance activities. In the forefront of this image, the remains of a carbon steel reinforced  
106 concrete pier can also be viewed; this was built many years after the stainless steel reinforced concrete pier  
107 but has been completely destroyed owing to corrosion of the rebars. Another example which illustrates the  
108 efficiency of stainless steel reinforcement is the New Champlain Bridge in Canada which was built in 2016  
109 using grade 1.4362 (2304) duplex stainless steel, as shown in Fig. 1(b) [26]. This bridge was built as a  
110 replacement for the original structure which experienced severe deterioration and extreme corrosion due to  
111 the use of de-icing salts and an inadequate drainage system. Stainless steel reinforcement has also been  
112 used in the construction of Stonecutters Bridge in Hong Kong (Fig. 1(c)) [27] and Sheik Zayed Bridge in  
113 Abu Dhabi (Fig. 1(d)) [28] constructed in 2009 and 2010, respectively, using grade 1.4462 duplex stainless  
114 steel.

115 In addition to new construction, stainless steel reinforcement has also been used for renovation and  
116 restoration purposes. For example, austenitic grade 1.4301 stainless steel reinforcement was used to  
117 rehabilitate the pillars and stone arches of the Knucklas Rail Bridge in the UK [5]. In addition, Sydney  
118 Opera House in Australia and Guildhall Yard in London were rehabilitated using grades 1.4436 and 1.4301  
119 austenitic stainless steel, respectively [12, 29].



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

120 Fig. 1: Images of infrastructure built using stainless steel reinforcement including (a) The Progresso Pier in  
121 Mexico, (b) the New Champlain Bridge in Montreal, (c) the Sheik Zayed Bridge in Abu Dhabi, and (d)  
122 Stonecutters Bridge in Hong Kong.

## 123 2.2. Durability

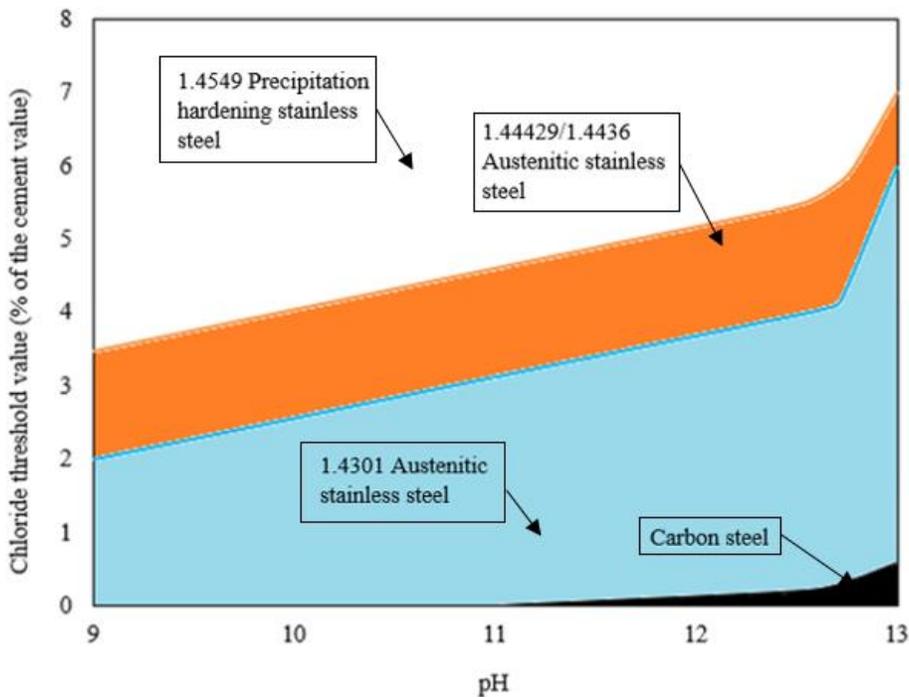
124 The demands from the engineering community and governmental organisations to improve the durability  
125 and resilience of reinforced concrete structures are constantly increasing, mainly owing to the concerns and  
126 costs associated with corrosion of the reinforcement and carbonation of the concrete. The inspection, repair,  
127 maintenance and replacement costs are a huge drain on Government resources, while the disruption  
128 damages the productivity and prosperity of local regions. The UK alone currently spends in excess of £1bn  
129 annually repairing damaged concrete due to corrosion, which represents more than 3% of the entire  
130 construction industry [30]. The annual estimation of the direct costs for repairing corroded RC infrastructure  
131 is over €5 billion for Western Europe [31], and \$8.3 billion for the United States [32, 33]. Moreover, 7.6%  
132 of all highway bridges in the United States were identified as being structurally deficient owing specifically  
133 to reinforcement corrosion [34].

134 The damage caused by reinforcement corrosion is not just limited to the economic costs. In addition, it can  
135 impair the safety and functionality of structures owing to the loss of bond between the concrete and  
136 reinforcement [35], cause a reduction in the steel area and strength, lead to corrosion-induced cracking of  
137 the concrete cover, and can result in a significant reduction in the ductility, load bearing capacity and  
138 structural stiffness of the affected members [9, 36]. In normal conditions, reinforced concrete structures are  
139 unlikely to experience significant corrosion owing to the protection provided by the concrete and its high  
140 alkalinity. However, this protection might be lost in harsh environments as a result of chloride penetration  
141 or carbonation of concrete [1], or when excessive cracking has occurred. This is typically true for structures  
142 reinforced with carbon steel and exposed to seawater or when de-icing salts are frequently required.

143 The typical approaches to improving the durability of reinforced concrete structures are to modify the  
144 concrete design by either adjusting the ingredients or increasing the cover distance, to use more durable  
145 reinforcement bars such as those made from fibre reinforced polymers (FRP) or stainless steel, to use  
146 sealants on the concrete surface and the surface of the rebars and/or to apply cathodic protection to the steel  
147 reinforcement. However, whilst these approaches can improve the corrosion resistance, they may not  
148 provide an inherently durable solution to the problem of chloride-induced corrosion and there is a risk that  
149 significant maintenance may be required within the design life of the structure. In this context, stainless  
150 steel reinforcement offers a durable and efficient alternative option over the conventional steel and reduces  
151 the risks of deterioration and corrosion problems [37]. In addition, the use of stainless steel reinforcement  
152 may increase the lifetime of RC structures to over 100 years [5, 31, 38-41].

153 The two main causes for corrosion of reinforcement in typical structures are (i) the local environment,  
154 particularly in a marine or industrial setting, and (ii) chloride penetration from using de-icing salts in frosty  
155 weather or from marine environments. The latter is often an issue for bridges in particular, and can occur  
156 in any setting, even those not necessarily characterised as harsh. At a certain level of chloride concentration,  
157 the passive protective layer on carbon steel is damaged and chloride-induced corrosion develops. Stainless  
158 steel exhibits extraordinary corrosion resistance compared with carbon steel, even in aggressive conditions,  
159 owing largely to its chromium content which contributes to the formation of a thin, self-regenerating  
160 chromium oxide film on the surface of the material in the presence of oxygen, resulting in a strong passive  
161 protective layer [42, 16]. The influence of chloride concentration and the pH value of the concrete on  
162 different grades of stainless steel and also carbon steel is shown in Fig. 2. The figure reflects the poor  
163 corrosion resistance of carbon steel when the pH of concrete is below 13, even at zero chloride  
164 concentration. On the other hand, stainless steel reinforcement has exceptional corrosion resistance even at  
165 very high chloride levels and low pH values.

166 It is clear from the data presented in Fig. 2 that the corrosion performance of stainless steel reinforcement  
167 is variable and dependent on many different factors including the temperature and chloride ion  
168 concentration [43-45]. The microstructure, type of alloy and chemical composition also have a significant  
169 influence on the corrosion behaviour [46-49]. For instance, duplex stainless steel rebars generally  
170 demonstrate similar or even better corrosion resistance compared to that of austenitic stainless steels [50,  
171 51]. Several researchers have recently studied the corrosion performance of different types of stainless steel  
172 reinforcement, including austenitic and duplex grades, and compared the behaviour with conventional steel  
173 [52-54]. It was concluded that the examined stainless steel grades (i.e. grades 1.4307, 1.4404, 1.4482,  
174 1.4362, 1.4482 and 1.4462) offer exceptional corrosion performance compared with conventional carbon  
175 steel reinforcement. The risk of reinforcement corrosion when stainless steel and carbon steel are used  
176 together has also been studied and it was shown that there is no increased risk of galvanic corrosion even  
177 when the two materials are in direct contact [1, 18, 55-57].



178  
179 Fig. 2: Corrosion behaviour of different stainless steel reinforcements compared with carbon steels  
180 (adapted from [58]).

### 181 2.3. Life cycle costs

182 Reinforced concrete is used widely in all over the world as a construction material because it is efficient,  
183 economic and versatile. However, as outlined before, in recent decades RC structures have increasingly  
184 experienced structural problems as they age due primarily to durability failure, especially those subjected

185 to aggressive environments. It is recognized that concrete structures reinforced with stainless steel have  
186 better durability performance and require less maintenance and rehabilitation works over their lifetime [59]  
187 compared with carbon steel reinforced concrete. Implementing stainless steel reinforcement in concrete  
188 structures could enable a design life which exceeds 100 years [5,31,38-41]. In highways and infrastructure,  
189 these characteristics are of great importance to avoid highway rerouting and road closures as well as the  
190 associated delays and carbon emissions. Furthermore, using stainless steel reinforcement could result in  
191 further savings owing to potential relaxation of some of the durability requirements (discussed later)  
192 including the minimum concrete cover, allowable crack widths and the need for reinforcement coating [5].

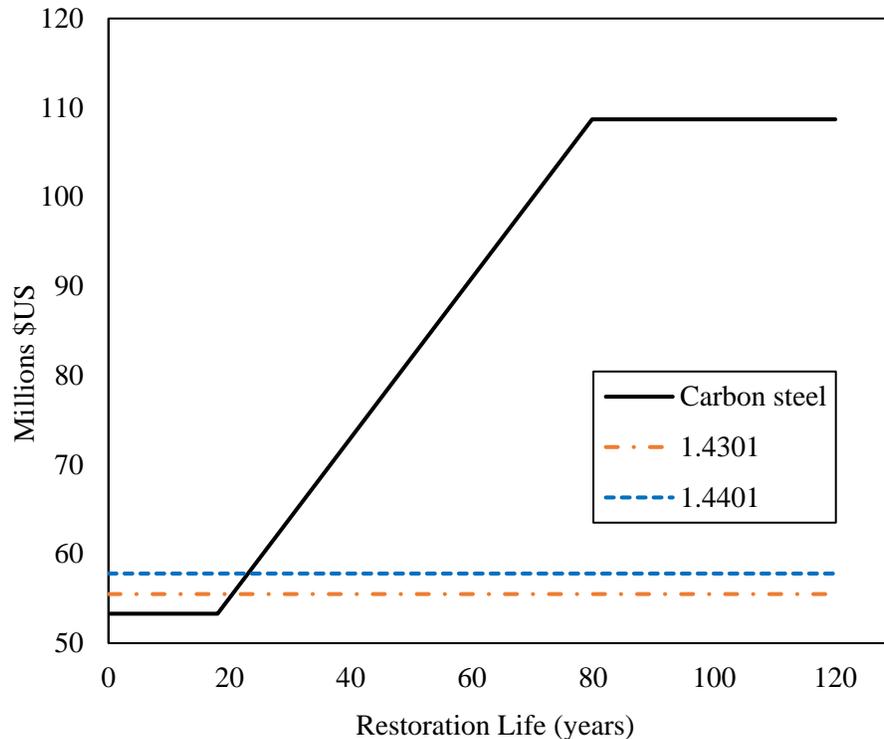
193 The use of stainless steel reinforcement in concrete structures is still very limited owing largely to the high  
194 initial cost which is typically between 3 and 8 times compared with that of conventional steel [4, 59, 60,  
195 61] as well as the lack of available and efficient design guidance. This limits the use of stainless steel  
196 reinforcement to applications that are more susceptible to chloride-ingress such as coastal buildings, tunnels  
197 and bridges. Nevertheless, the relatively higher initial cost of stainless steel is offset by the durability and  
198 positive economic impact in a life-cycle cost analysis (LCCA). Stainless steel reinforcement exhibits  
199 excellent long-term performance and has lower inspection and maintenance costs associated with durability  
200 problems over the life cycle compared with carbon steel reinforced concrete [7]. In addition, limiting the  
201 use of stainless steel reinforcement to the most corrosion-prone locations in a structural element results in  
202 further utilization of the material and reduces the relatively high initial cost. This selective use approach is  
203 adopted in Design Manual for roads and bridges by the Highway Agency [62].

204 In recent years, as the popularity and interest in more durable construction materials has grown, the research  
205 into the life cycle costs of stainless steel reinforced concrete elements compared with carbon steel members  
206 has also increased. For example, Fig. 3 presents a comparison of the LCCAs for the construction and  
207 operation of Oland Bridge in Sweden using stainless steel and carbon steel reinforcement, respectively [5].  
208 It is clearly observed that using stainless steel rebars results in a relatively high initial cost, as expected, but  
209 then requires no additional costs over the design live of 120 years and the life cycle costs remain constant.  
210 On the other hand, the overall costs for the carbon steel reinforced concrete solution significantly increase  
211 after around 18 years and reach very high values from approximately 25 years. Another case study on the  
212 Schaffhausen Bridge in Switzerland showed that using grade 1.4301 stainless steel reinforcement reduces  
213 the life cycle cost by 14% compared with that of carbon steel [5].

214 It has been shown that using stainless steel reinforcement can significantly increase the lifetime of structures  
215 and reduce the associated maintenance costs [8, 63, 64]. In fact, the use of stainless steel reinforcement in  
216 place of carbon steel rebars can reduce the overall maintenance costs during the service life by up to 50%,  
217 especially for bridges and marine structures [8]. This indicates that in spite of the higher initial cost of the

218 bare stainless steel reinforcement, the variation on the overall construction costs may be much less  
219 significant and the whole life cycle costs may be less than if carbon steel rebars were employed. Val and  
220 Stewart [59] conducted a LCCA for reinforced concrete structures in marine environments and concluded  
221 that stainless steel reinforcement is a cost-effective option when the overall construction costs do not  
222 increase by more than 14% when stainless steel rebar is used in place of carbon steel bars.

223 For bridge decks in particular, stainless steel RC was shown to provide a lower overall life cycle cost (LCC)  
224 compared with carbon steel RC [65]. Another study compared the cost efficiency of bridge decks using  
225 different types of reinforcement including conventional steel and stainless steel reinforcement [66] and it  
226 was shown that using stainless steel rebars results in 52% lower overall costs compared with using carbon  
227 steel reinforcement. Mistry et al. [67] reported that the LCC for the stainless steel reinforced concrete  
228 Progresso Pier in Mexico as previously discussed was 30% lower than for the adjacent carbon steel  
229 reinforced concrete pier. Sajedi and Huang [68] conducted a LCC analysis on different materials that are  
230 typically used in the design and repair of reinforced concrete structures including conventional carbon steel,  
231 epoxy coated and stainless steel reinforcement as well as high performance concrete with either silica fume,  
232 slag or fly ash. It was shown that using stainless steel reinforcement in reinforced concrete can reduce the  
233 LCC by 32% and 19% compared with that of carbon steel and epoxy coated reinforcement, respectively.  
234 Recently, Hasan et al. [64] performed a LCCA to determine the most advantageous geographical locations  
235 relative to the coast for using stainless steel reinforcement in concrete bridges. The study showed that even  
236 for short inspection periods (i.e. 15 years), stainless steel reinforced concrete bridges exhibited lower life  
237 cycle costs compared with carbon steel reinforced concrete structures, for distances up to 2.5 km from the  
238 coastline.



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Fig. 3: Analysis of the life-cycle cost for Oland Bridge in Sweden (adapted from [5]).

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#### 2.4. Stainless steel reinforcement material properties

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Stainless steel is generally categorised into 5 different families including the austenitic, duplex, ferritic, martensitic and precipitation hardening grades. Reinforcement bars are generally available in the austenitic and duplex grades only, and the most commonly available include austenitic grades 1.4301, 1.4307 and 1.4311 and duplex grades 1.4362, 1.4462 and 1.4162 [69]. Grade 1.4301 is the most commonly available stainless steel used in structural applications, and is defined by its key constituent elements of 18% chromium and 8% nickel. It is typically used in a wide variety of applications that require good corrosion resistance and excellent strength, formability and weldability. Grade 1.4307 is an alternative to grade 1.4301 which has a lower carbon content, thus improving the weldability and also the resistance to intergranular corrosion. Grade 1.4311 austenitic stainless steel is also a low-carbon material but with improved low-temperature toughness and also excellent tensile strength owing to its higher nickel and nitrogen content.

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Grade 1.4362 duplex stainless steel provides superior corrosion resistance compared with the austenitic grades especially against localized corrosion and stress corrosion cracking due to the relatively high nickel content [70]. Grade 1.4462 offers similar corrosion resistance to that of grade 1.4362 but with superior mechanical strength. More recently, grade 1.4162 was developed as a new type of duplex stainless steel

257 reinforcement which comprises a lower nickel content and therefore more competitive price [71] whilst still  
 258 retaining excellent corrosion resistance and around twice the characteristic strength of austenitic stainless  
 259 steels.

260 There are a number of stainless steel reinforcement standards available, including BS 6744 [72] and ASTM  
 261 A955 [73]. These include specifications on the geometries and tolerances, production methods, chemical  
 262 composition and the mechanical and physical properties, as well as guidance on durability. BS 6744 also  
 263 makes frequent reference to the European material standard for stainless steel EN 10088-1 [74] which lists  
 264 the chemical composition of stainless steels in accordance with their main properties including corrosion  
 265 resisting steels, heat resisting steels and creep resisting steels. Clearly, given the wide range of stainless  
 266 steel that are available on the market, it is important to understand the different properties, and how this  
 267 affects the structural and durability performance, during material specification. Therefore, the following  
 268 sub-sections present the key properties of stainless steel rebars which are important for engineers.

#### 269 2.4.1 Chemical composition

270 Stainless steels are defined as a group of metals containing a minimum chromium content of 10.5% and a  
 271 maximum carbon content of 1.2% [74]. The mechanical properties and corrosion performance for each  
 272 grade largely depend on the constituent elements of the stainless steel alloy. For instance, chromium (Cr)  
 273 improves the corrosion resistance of stainless steel through the development of a passive protective layer  
 274 on the surface in the presence of oxygen [42]. In addition, molybdenum (Mo) improves the corrosion  
 275 resistance against chloride-induced pitting corrosion while nickel (Ni) improves the ductility and the  
 276 formability of the material and nitrogen (N) significantly enhances the mechanical properties of the stainless  
 277 steel material including strength and ductility [31, 75]. There are a number of other alloying elements that  
 278 typically exist in stainless steels such as phosphorus (P), copper (Cu), carbon (C), manganese (Mn), silicon  
 279 (Si), and sulphur (S). A list for the chemical composition of the most common stainless steel reinforcement  
 280 grades is provided in Table 2, in accordance with the guidance given in BS 6744 [72].

281 Table 2: Chemical composition of some common grades of stainless steel reinforcement in accordance  
 282 with BS 6744 [72].

Stainless steel grade	Chemical composition (%) – Maximum recommended % values for each element									
	C	Si	Mn	S	Cr	Ni	Mo	Cu	P	N
1.4311	0.03	1.0	2.0	0.030	17.5-19.5	8.5-11.5	-	-	0.045	0.12-0.22
1.4436	0.05	1.0	2.0	0.030	16.5-18.5	10.5-13.0	2.5-3.0	-	0.045	≤ 0.11
1.4162	0.04	1.0	4.0-6.0	0.015	21.0-22.0	1.35-1.70	0.10-0.80	0.10-0.80	0.040	0.20-0.25

1.4362	0.03	1.0	2.0	0.015	22.0– 24.5	3.5– 5.5	0.10– 0.60	0.10– 0.60	0.035	0.05– 0.20
1.4462	0.03	1.0	2.0	0.015	21.0– 23.0	4.5– 6.5	2.5– 3.5	-	0.035	0.10– 0.22
1.4404	0.03	1.0	2.0	0.030	16.5– 18.5	10.0– 13.0	2.0– 2.5	-	0.045	≤0.11

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#### 284 2.4.2 Physical properties

285 The physical properties of the various grades of stainless steel are presented in BS 6744 [72] which refers  
 286 to the relevant European standard for stainless steel [74] and these are presented in Table 3 together with  
 287 those of carbon steel [76] for comparison. The most important physical properties for stainless steel  
 288 reinforced concrete applications are density, coefficient of thermal expansion, thermal conductivity and  
 289 magnetic permeability. The density of stainless steel reinforcement is very similar to that of carbon steel,  
 290 as shown in Table 3. The majority of stainless steels including the duplex and ferritic grades are magnetic.  
 291 On the other hand, austenitic alloys are generally considered to be non-magnetic although the chemical  
 292 composition and manufacturing process may influence the magnetizability. For instance, the cold rolled  
 293 production process might slightly increase the magnetic permeability of some austenitic stainless steel  
 294 grades [31].

295 Austenitic and duplex stainless steels exhibit greater coefficients of thermal expansion compared with  
 296 conventional carbon steel. This variation in the thermal expansion is not negligible and might be a concern  
 297 for concrete structures owing to the potential for cracking in the concrete [38]. However, it was shown that  
 298 the levels of tensile stresses which develop in stainless steel reinforced concrete elements due to thermal  
 299 expansion are not expected to cause concrete cracking [77]. It is also noteworthy that the thermal expansion  
 300 coefficient of concrete itself may vary by +/- 20% depending on the ingredients used in the mix design.

301 Table 3: Physical properties of stainless steel [74].

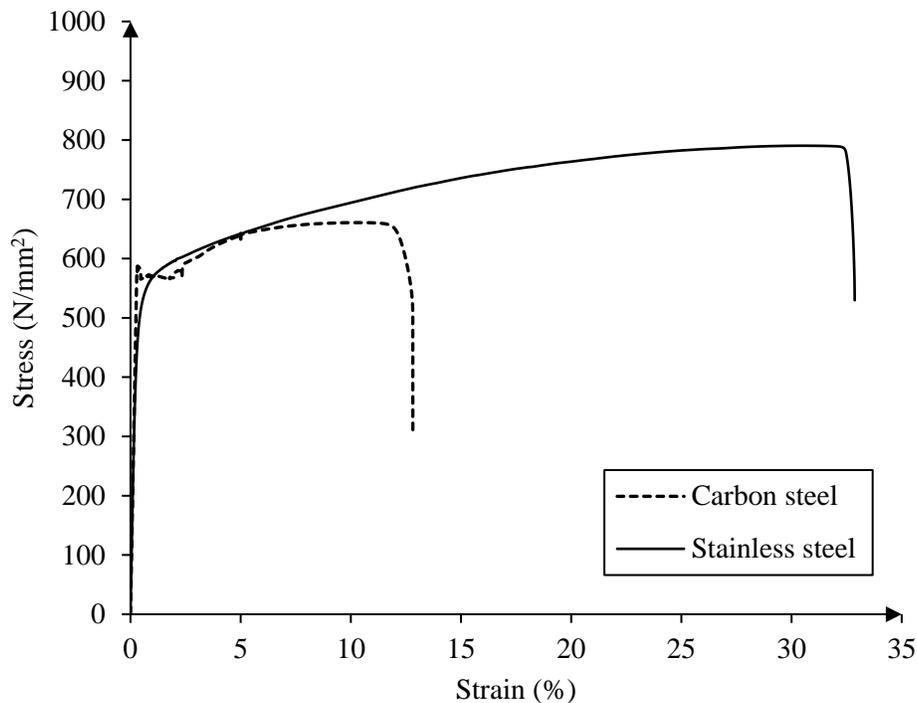
Reinforcement type	Grade	Density kg/m <sup>3</sup>	Mean coefficient of thermal expansion between 20 °C and 100 °C: (10 <sup>6</sup> /°C)	Thermal Conductivity at 20 °C (W/m K)	Modulus of elasticity (kN/mm <sup>2</sup> )	Magnetizable
Carbon steel	-	8000	12	51	200	Yes
Austenitic	1.4310	7900	16	15	200	No
Austenitic	1.4301	7900	16	15	200	No
Austenitic	1.4436	8000	16	15	200	No
Duplex	1.4462	7800	13	15	200	Yes
Duplex	1.4362	7800	13	15	200	Yes

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### 303 2.4.3 Mechanical properties

304 As previously stated, stainless steel reinforcement offers excellent mechanical properties including high  
305 strength and stiffness as well as exceptional ductility, toughness and fatigue properties. Nevertheless, these  
306 properties vary depending on the grade and the method of production. Austenitic and duplex stainless steels  
307 are the most common grades used as a reinforcement in concrete structures owing to the outstanding  
308 corrosion resistance, excellent structural behaviour, and ready availability [78, 79]. These grades generally  
309 provide greater strength, strain hardening and ductility compared with carbon steel reinforcement.  
310 Moreover, they offer a distinctly different constitutive response to carbon steel also. Fig. 4 shows that  
311 stainless steel exhibits a continuous nonlinear stress-strain response without a clear yield point and has  
312 significant levels of strain hardening and high ductility. The 0.2% proof stress ( $\sigma_{0.2}$ ) is typically used to  
313 define the yield point. On the other hand, carbon steel shows an elastic-plastic, or elastic-linear hardening  
314 response, characterized by a well-defined yield point and moderate degree of strain hardening.

315 Table 4 presents the mechanical properties of some of the most common grades of stainless steel  
316 reinforcement, including the 0.2% proof strength  $\sigma_{0.2}$ , ultimate strength  $\sigma_u$ , Young's modulus E, and  
317 ultimate strain  $\epsilon_u$ . A study into the mechanical and structural behaviour of stainless steel reinforcement  
318 showed that the ductility of austenitic and duplex stainless steel is approximately three times greater than  
319 that of carbon steel rebar [16]. The distinctive ductility property of stainless steel is of particular interest for  
320 extreme loading scenarios, such as seismic applications, as it enables structures to last longer, survive  
321 greater levels of damage and deformation and also re-distribute loads and stresses through the structure [80-  
322 83].



323

324 Fig. 4: Typical stress-strain curves for carbon steel and stainless steel grade 1.4301, with diameter of  
 325 10 mm (adapted from [21]).

326 With reference to the Young's modulus, BS 6744 [72] suggests using a value between 190-200 kN/mm<sup>2</sup>  
 327 for different grades of stainless steel based on guidance given in EN 10088-1 [74]; for carbon steel,  
 328 Eurocode 2 assumes that Young's modulus is equal to 200 kN/mm<sup>2</sup> [22]. However, several recent studies  
 329 have shown that a lower Young's modulus value for stainless steel reinforcement may be more appropriate  
 330 in design [16, 79, 84]. This is mainly because of the nonlinearity nature of constitutive behaviour of stainless  
 331 steel reinforcement and is an area that requires more research, including reliability analysis, in the future.

332 Table 4: Mechanical properties of stainless steel and carbon steel reinforcement.

Product form	Grade	Bar diameter (mm)	$\sigma_{0.2}$ (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	$\sigma_u$ (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	E (kN/mm <sup>2</sup> )	$\epsilon_u$ (%)
Tested by Gardner et al. [85]	1.4307	12	562	796	210.2	39.9
	1.4307	16	537	751	211.1	42.4
	1.4311	12	480	764	202.6	48.3

	1.4162	12	682	874	199.1	32.4
	1.4162	16	646	844	195.2	32.9
	1.4311	16	528	717	199.9	47.9
	1.4362	16	608	834	171.4	35.1
Tested by Rabi et al. [21]	1.4301	10	515	790	200.9	32.4
	1.4301 “grip-rib”	12	715	868	184.0	21.1
	Carbon steel	10	589	661	201.4	12.49
	Carbon steel	12	554	635	211.8	9.21
Tested by Rabi et al. [84]	1.4301	8	720	888	156.0	44.6
	1.4301	10	668	799	148.6	38.3
	1.4301	12	670	795	186.8	26.7
	1.4436	8	614	823	178.5	36.5
	1.4436	10	661	793	179.3	25.6
	1.4436	12	645	803	198.6	25.3
	Carbon steel	10	525	627	196	20.1
Tested by Li et al. [86]	1.4462	6.5	595	800	141.0	32.5
	1.4462	12	660	830	141.0	37.8
	1.4462	16	640	795	151.0	33.9
	Carbon steel	12	380	530	230.0	31.0
Tested by Li et al. [79]	1.4362	12	637	872	156	33.0
	1.4362	16	532	768	156	36.4
	1.4362	25	543	761	202.0	31.1
	1.4362	28	514	743	138.0	39.5

	1.4362	32	527	748	139.0	36.9
	Carbon steel	16	477	654	202.0	26.8

333

334 For design, it is important to obtain a reliable and usable material model, which is capable of capturing the  
335 key material properties and reflecting the true material behaviour. As stated before, the stress-strain  
336 response for carbon steel is distinctly different to that of stainless steel, and can be readily simulated using  
337 a straight-forward bilinear response, which is not appropriate for stainless steel. The constitutive stress-  
338 strain behaviour of stainless steel is typically represented using the modified Ramberg-Osgood material  
339 model, which provides a continuous and nonlinear function. The original version of this model was first  
340 proposed in 1943 [87] and reflects the elastic stage of the response and later modifications were developed  
341 to capture the inelastic stage [88, 89]. The modified Ramberg-Osgood material model is widely used for  
342 capturing the response of stainless steel in design and simulation and it is determined using Eqs. 1 and 2,  
343 respectively:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E} + 0.002 \left( \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{0.2}} \right)^n \quad \text{for } \sigma \leq \sigma_{0.2} \quad (1)$$

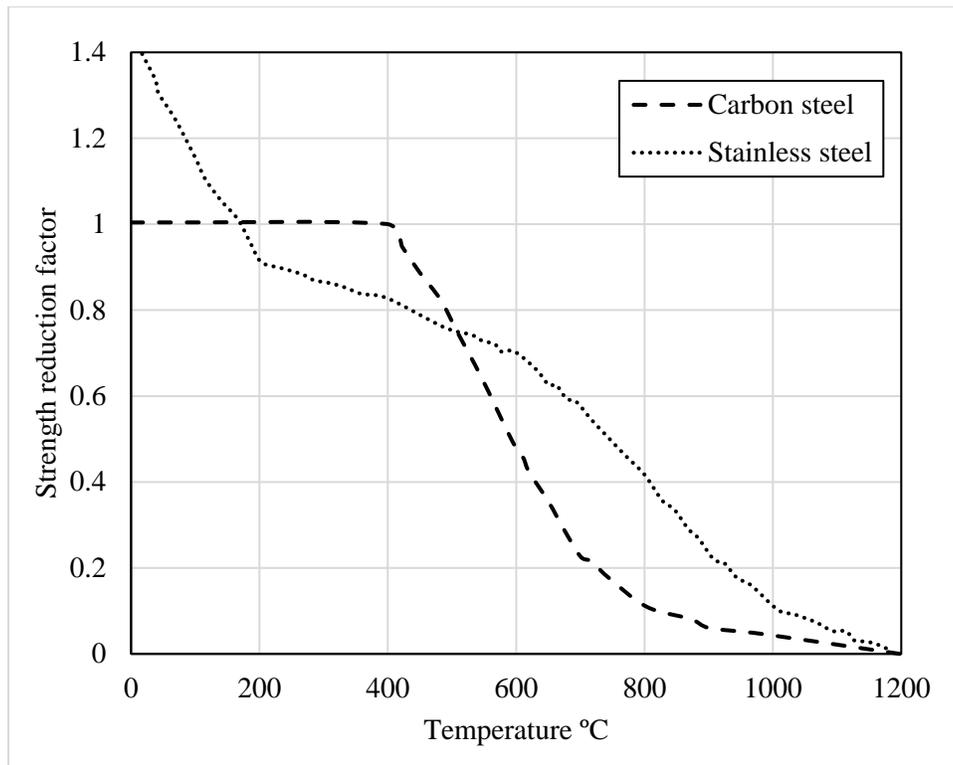
$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{0.2} + \frac{\sigma - \sigma_{0.2}}{E_2} + \left( \varepsilon_u - \varepsilon_{0.2} - \frac{\sigma_u - \sigma_{0.2}}{E_2} \right) \left( \frac{\sigma - \sigma_{0.2}}{\sigma_u - \sigma_{0.2}} \right)^m \quad \text{for } \sigma_{0.2} < \sigma \leq \sigma_u \quad (2)$$

344 In these expressions,  $\varepsilon$  and  $\sigma$  are the engineering strain and stress, respectively,  $E_2$  is the tangent modulus  
345 at the 0.2% proof stress point,  $\sigma_u$  and  $\varepsilon_u$  are the ultimate stress and corresponding strain, respectively,  $\varepsilon_{0.2}$  is  
346 the strain corresponding to  $\sigma_{0.2}$  and  $n$  and  $m$  are model constants related to the strain hardening behaviour.  
347 The parameters required for applying these equations should be determined from tensile testing. Eurocode  
348 3 Part 1-4 [90] for structural stainless steel includes guidance on appropriate values for these parameters  
349 but these may not be applicable for stainless steel reinforcement.

## 350 2.5. Properties of stainless steel reinforcement at elevated temperature

351 The capability of a material to retain stiffness and strength when exposed to elevated temperature is one of  
352 the most important characteristics for achieving fire-resistant structures. Stainless steel has very good  
353 strength and stiffness retention at elevated temperature owing to its distinctive constituent elements [91].  
354 The behaviour of structural stainless steel in fire has been extensively studied in the literature (e.g. [92-95])  
355 but there is much more limited data available on the behaviour of bare stainless steel reinforcement at  
356 elevated temperature (e.g. [85]). Moreover, there is a notable lack of any information on the behaviour of  
357 stainless steel reinforced concrete elements under fire conditions. The retention factors for the yield stress  
358 (or 0.2% proof stress) and Young's modulus for both carbon steel [96] and grade 1.4301 stainless steel [97,

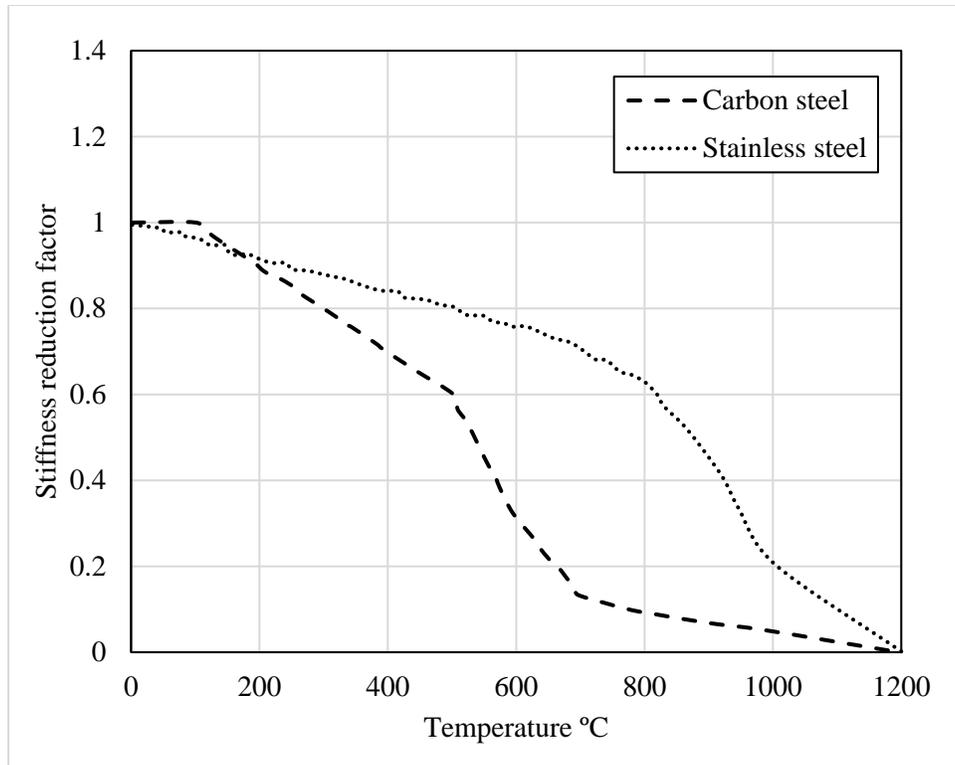
359 90] are shown in the Fig. 5(a) and 5(b), respectively. In terms of strength, although stainless steel initially  
360 loses more strength than carbon steel, this reverses from around 400 °C and then stainless steel out-performs  
361 carbon steel quite significantly. The data for stiffness presented in Fig. 5(b) is starker, as stainless steel  
362 retains a much more significant proportion of its ambient temperature value with increasing levels of  
363 temperature exposure. These distinctive properties of stainless steel are very beneficial in the event of fire.



364

365

(a)



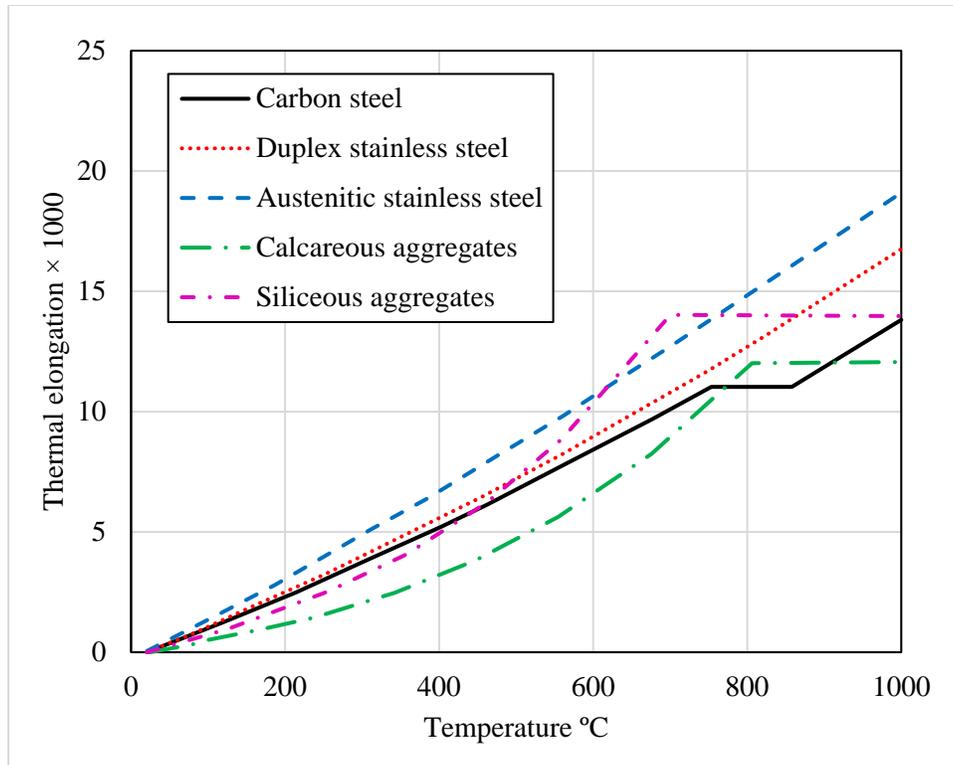
(b)

366

367

368 Fig. 5: Comparison of stainless steel and carbon steel (a) strength retention factor (b) stiffness retention  
 369 factor (adapted from [97]).

370 As discussed previously, stainless steel has a higher coefficient of linear thermal expansion (between 14-  
 371  $17 \times 10^{-6} / ^\circ\text{C}$ ) compared with carbon steel ( $12 \times 10^{-6} / ^\circ\text{C}$ ), which is an important consideration for how it  
 372 bonds to the surrounding concrete during elevated temperature scenarios. Fig. 6 illustrates the variation in  
 373 thermal elongation with increasing temperature for stainless steel, carbon steel and also a variety of  
 374 aggregates [97]. The variation between the two metallic materials becomes greater with increasing  
 375 temperature. In addition, it is evident that stainless steel does not have a phase-change plateau like occurs  
 376 for carbon steel reinforcement at a temperature of around  $723^\circ\text{C}$ . The figure also illustrates that there is a  
 377 disparity in the thermal elongation between the concrete aggregates and stainless steel. This may not be  
 378 desirable for reinforced concrete members during a fire, as the composite action between the two constituent  
 379 materials may be lost, resulting in a loss of bond, greater cracking and greater levels of concrete spalling.



380

381 Fig. 6: Thermal expansion behaviour of austenitic and duplex stainless steels, carbon steel and aggregates  
 382 (adapted from [97]).

### 383 3 Design of stainless steel RC structures

384 Despite the many attributes of stainless steel as a reinforcement material for concrete structures, it remains  
 385 a relatively novel and under-used material for this application. As stated before, this is largely because of  
 386 the common misconception about the high initial cost but is also owing to a lack of appropriate and specific  
 387 design guidance. Therefore, this section highlights current design guidance as adopted in international  
 388 standards for stainless steel reinforced concrete and discusses the recent developments in design methods.

#### 389 3.1 Grade selection

390 The advantageous characteristics of stainless steel reinforcement are dependent on the constituent elements  
 391 of the alloy as well as the production route, finish and product form. Therefore, it is crucial to carefully  
 392 select the adequate stainless steel grade for the appropriate application. However, the availability of a wide  
 393 range of stainless steel reinforcement grades may be confusing for designers and engineers who are not  
 394 familiar with the subtleties of stainless steel classifications and compositions. The majority of the current  
 395 international design standards do not include specific design guidance for the selection of the most suitable  
 396 stainless steel reinforcement grades. The corrosion and material selection guidance given in the Annex A

397 of Eurocode 3 Part 1-4 [90] for structural stainless steel should not be applied for stainless steel  
 398 reinforcement because the passive protection cover provided by the concrete is not considered.

399 Both BS 6744 [72] and the American material code ASTM A955/A955M [73] adopt the strength classes  
 400 and bar profiles for carbon steel reinforcement as given in EN 10080 [76] and ASTM A615/A615M [98],  
 401 respectively. The stainless steel material designations in BS 6744 and ASTM A955/A955M are in  
 402 accordance with those in EN 10088-1 [74] and ASTM A276 [99], respectively. Although these standards  
 403 include material specifications and requirements, there is limited guidance on grade selection. The available  
 404 advice on stainless steel reinforcement grade selection, which includes the version of BS 6744 [100]  
 405 published in 2001 (it was removed in the 2016 updated version), BA 84/02 [62] and Markeset et al. [31], is  
 406 generally governed by the service and exposure conditions of the application. The actual chloride  
 407 concentration exposure levels that the alloy needs to resist are not considered. Table 5 presents the guidance  
 408 notes given in BS 6744 [100] for selecting the appropriate grade of stainless steel reinforcement based on  
 409 the exposure condition. This table is applicable for new construction as well as rehabilitation and restoration  
 410 applications. The Design Manual for Road and Bridges [62] also has an advice note on grade selection for  
 411 highways and infrastructure, as shown in Table 6. In addition, Markeset et al. [31] suggested a classification  
 412 of stainless steel reinforcement grades based on the PREN (Pitting Resistance Equivalent Number) value,  
 413 which is a measure of corrosion resistance, as presented in Table 7. It is also noteworthy that the  
 414 reinforcement grades covered in these guidelines reflect the material that were available on the market at  
 415 the time of publication, and do not incorporate newer grades (especially new duplex grades) which were  
 416 introduced in more recent years.

417 Table 5: Guidance on the use of stainless steel reinforcement for different service conditions in the 2001  
 418 edition of BS 6944 [100].

Reinforcement grades	Service condition			
	For structures or components with either a long design life, or which are inaccessible for future maintenance	For structures or components exposed to chloride contamination with no relaxation in durability design (e.g. concrete cover, quality or water proofing treatment requirements)	Reinforcement bridging joints, or penetrating the concrete surface and also subject to chloride contamination (e.g. dowel bars or holding down bolts)	Structures subject to chloride contamination where reductions in normal durability requirements are proposed (e.g. reduced cover, concrete quality or omission of water

				proofing treatment)
1.4301	1	1	5	3
1.4436	2	2	1	1
1.4429	2	2	1	1
1.4462	2	2	1	1
1.4529	4	4	4	4
1.4501	4	4	4	4
<p>Key</p> <p>1 – Appropriate choice for corrosion resistance and cost.</p> <p>2 – Over-specification of corrosion resistance for the application.</p> <p>3 – May be suitable in some instances: specialist advice should be obtained.</p> <p>4 – Grades suitable for specialist applications which should only be specified after consultation with corrosion specialists.</p> <p>5 – Unsuitable for the application.</p>				

419

420 Table 6: Selection of stainless steel grades as given in BA 84/02 [62].

Exposure Condition	Stainless steel grade
Stainless steel reinforcement embedded in concrete with normal exposure to chlorides in soffits, edge beams, diaphragm walls, joints and substructures.	1.4301
As above but where additional relaxation of design for durability is required for specific reasons on a given structure or component i.e. where waterproofing integrity cannot be guaranteed over the whole life of the structure.	1.4436
Direct exposure to chlorides and chloride bearing waters for example dowel bars, holding down bolts and other components protruding from the concrete.	1.4429 1.4436
Specific structural requirements for the use of higher strength reinforcement and suitable for all exposure conditions.	1.4462 1.4429

421

422 Table 7: Classification of stainless steel reinforcement according to their corrosion resistance as proposed  
 423 by Marqueset et al. [31].

Corrosion resistance class	Steel Type	Stainless steel grade	PREN
Class 0	Carbon steel	-	-
Class 1	Austenitic stainless steel (without Mo)	1.4301	19
		1.4541	17
Class 2	Austenitic stainless steel (with Mo)	1.4401	25
		1.4429	26
		1.4436	26
		1.4571	25
Class 3	Duplex	1.4462	36

424

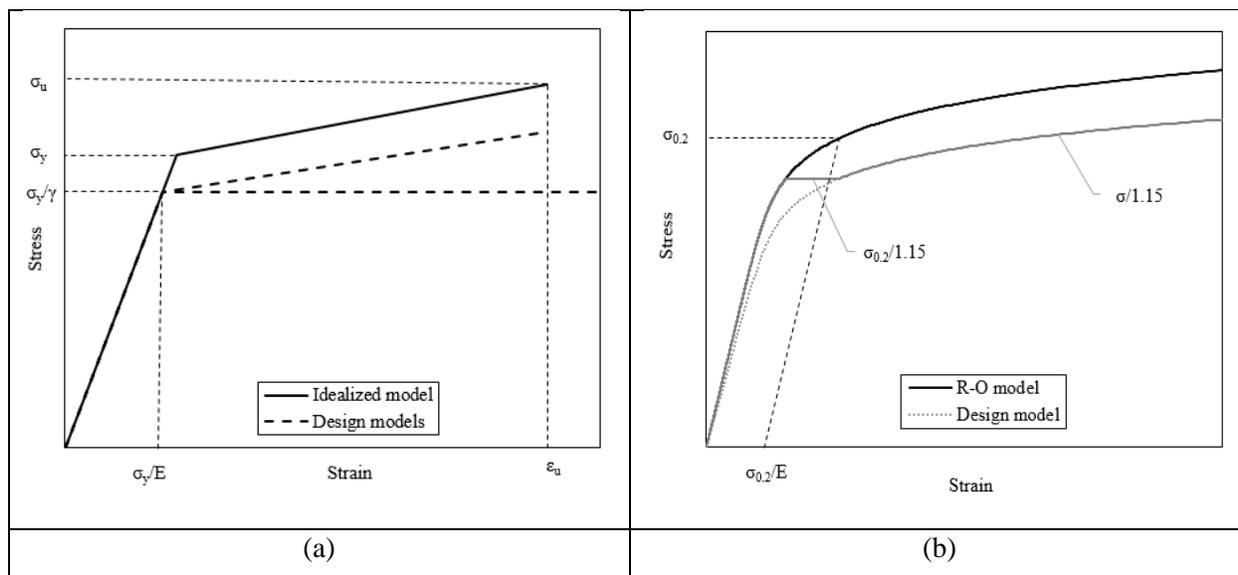
425 Clearly, as recognised in the design standards, different grades of stainless steel reinforcement offer various  
 426 levels of corrosion resistance. Therefore, it is rational to consider that the durability requirements (e.g. the  
 427 allowable design crack widths, the required concrete cover, use of reinforcement coatings or cement  
 428 inhibitors during construction, etc.) for a given design may also be dependent on the grade of stainless steel  
 429 reinforcement that is employed. Adopting a holistic view of the materials employed together with the  
 430 required durability can lead to significant cost and material savings. Recommendations for relaxing the  
 431 durability requirements have been considered by the UK Highway Agency in the Design Manual for Roads  
 432 and Bridges [62]. These include allowing an increase to the allowable crack width to 0.3 mm and also a  
 433 reduction of the required concrete cover to 30 mm, regardless the quality of concrete or the exposure  
 434 condition. However, this does not take into account the grade employed, and it is not clear what the basis  
 435 for these figures is. In addition, for highly aggressive environments, it was recommended that the minimum  
 436 concrete cover of 40 mm should be maintained [7].

### 437 3.2 Structural design codes

438 The majority of global design standards including Eurocode 2 Part 1-1 [22] do not include explicit design  
 439 rules for stainless steel reinforced concrete members. Currently, reinforced concrete design standards

440 generally apply the design rules developed for carbon steel reinforced concrete to the design of stainless  
 441 steel reinforced concrete members. This includes using an elastic-plastic stress-strain idealisation for carbon  
 442 steel to represent the stainless steel material, as shown in Fig. 7(a), although this is clearly inappropriate  
 443 given the different responses of carbon and stainless steel (see Fig. 4). BS 6744 [72] advises that  
 444 incorporating the idealised constitutive relationship given in Eurocode 2 Part 1-1 [22] might not be  
 445 appropriate for stainless steel RC design applications since the material behaviour is fundamentally  
 446 different. In addition, the Technical Research Centre of Finland [101] found that designing stainless steel  
 447 reinforced concrete members using the current design rules in Eurocode 2 can lead to either overly  
 448 conservative or unsafe results, depending on the conditions.

449 Instead of the idealized bilinear material model given in Eurocode 2 Part 1-1 and presented in Fig. 7(a), BS  
 450 6744 includes a material model based on the original Ramberg-Osgood (R-O) expression previously  
 451 described and given in Eq. 1. This is shown in Fig. 7(b) where the design model incorporates a partial safety  
 452 factor. However, it has been shown that using the original R-O model to simulate the behaviour of stainless  
 453 steel reinforcement, rather than the modified version (as given in Eq. 2, combined with Eq. 1), is not suitable  
 454 as the strain hardening behaviour in the post-yield range (i.e. above the 0.2% proof stress) is overestimated  
 455 [15, 23]. Moreover, neither BS 6744 nor Eurocode 2 give specific guidance on how this material model can  
 456 be implemented in the design stainless steel reinforced concrete members. Given the high initial cost of  
 457 stainless steel reinforcement, it is essential that more accurate design methods become available for  
 458 designers and engineers, depicting the actual material response in a reliable and accurate manner.



459 Fig. 7: Idealized design curve given in (a) Eurocode 2 Part 1-1 [22] and the British Standard [72].

### 460 3.4 The continuous strength method

461 The limitations outlined before in standardised design methods for structures made using stainless steel are  
 462 not unique to reinforced concrete members. Previously, similar issues were identified for bare stainless steel  
 463 structural elements and this led directly to the development of alternative design methods such as the  
 464 continuous strength method (CSM). The CSM is a deformation-based design approach which exploits the  
 465 distinctive strain hardening of stainless steel and provides more accurate load bearing capacity predictions.  
 466 It is originally developed for stainless steel structural members with non-slender cross-sections [102] and  
 467 then extended many times to account for different types of structural member including stainless steel-  
 468 concrete composite beams [103]. More recently, it was further developed to include the design of stainless  
 469 steel reinforced concrete beams [23, 24]; an overview of this approach is presented hereafter.

470 The new deformation-based design approach incorporates the real constitutive relationship of stainless steel  
 471 reinforcement. Two different versions of the method were developed including a full analytical model  
 472 accounting for the full stress-strain response of stainless steel and a simplified analytical model which  
 473 considers a bilinear elastic-linear strain hardening material model; both are presented in Fig. 8. The full  
 474 design method requires that the stress is identified as a function of the strain, and the inverse relationship  
 475 proposed by Abdella [104] is adopted for this purpose, as given in Eqs. 3 and 4:

$$\sigma_1(\varepsilon) = \sigma_{0.2} \frac{r \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_{0.2}}\right)}{1+(r-1)\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_{0.2}}\right)^p} \quad \text{for } \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_{0.2} \quad (3)$$

476

$$\sigma_2(\varepsilon) = \sigma_{0.2} \left[ 1 + \frac{r_2 \left[ \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_{0.2}} - 1 \right]}{1+(r^*-1) \left( \frac{\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_{0.2}} - 1}{\frac{\varepsilon_u}{\varepsilon_{0.2}} - 1} \right)^{p^*}} \right] \quad \text{for } \varepsilon > \varepsilon_{0.2} \quad (4)$$

477 where the material parameters are determined as:

$$\varepsilon_{0.2} = \frac{\sigma_{0.2}}{E} + 0.002 \quad r = \frac{E \varepsilon_{0.2}}{\sigma_{0.2}}$$

$$E_2 = \frac{E}{1 + 0.002 n/e} \quad p = r \frac{1 - r_2}{r - 1}$$

$$e = \frac{\sigma_{0.2}}{E}$$

$$m = 1 + 3.5 \frac{\sigma_{0.2}}{\sigma_u}$$

$$\sigma_u = \sigma_{0.2} \frac{1 - 0.0375(n - 5)}{0.2 + 185e}$$

$$E_u = \frac{E_2}{1 + (r^* - 1)m}$$

$$r_2 = \frac{E_2 \varepsilon_{0.2}}{\sigma_{0.2}}$$

$$r_u = \frac{E_u(\varepsilon_u - \varepsilon_{0.2})}{\sigma_u - \sigma_{0.2}}$$

$$\varepsilon_u = \min \left( 1 - \frac{\sigma_{0.2}}{\sigma_u}, A \right)$$

$$p^* = r^* \frac{1 - r_u}{r^* - 1}$$

$$r^* = \frac{E_2(\varepsilon_u - \varepsilon_{0.2})}{\sigma_u - \sigma_{0.2}}$$

$$n = \frac{\ln(20)}{\ln(\sigma_{0.2}/\sigma_{0.01})}$$

478 In these expressions,  $E_u$  is the slope of the stress-strain curve at  $\varepsilon_u$  and  $A$  is the stainless steel elongation.

479 For the simplified design approach, a bi-linear material model is employed to avoid the complexity of the

480 nonlinear equations, as presented in Eqs. 5 and 6:

$$\sigma = E\varepsilon \quad \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_y \quad (5)$$

$$\sigma = \sigma_{0.2} + E_{sh}(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_y) \quad \varepsilon > \varepsilon_y \quad (6)$$

481 This approach defines the yield strain ( $\varepsilon_y$ ) as the ratio between the 0.2% proof stress ( $\sigma_{0.2}$ ) and the elastic

482 modulus  $E$ . The slope of the strain hardening line  $E_{sh}$  is obtained using Eq. 7 as follows:

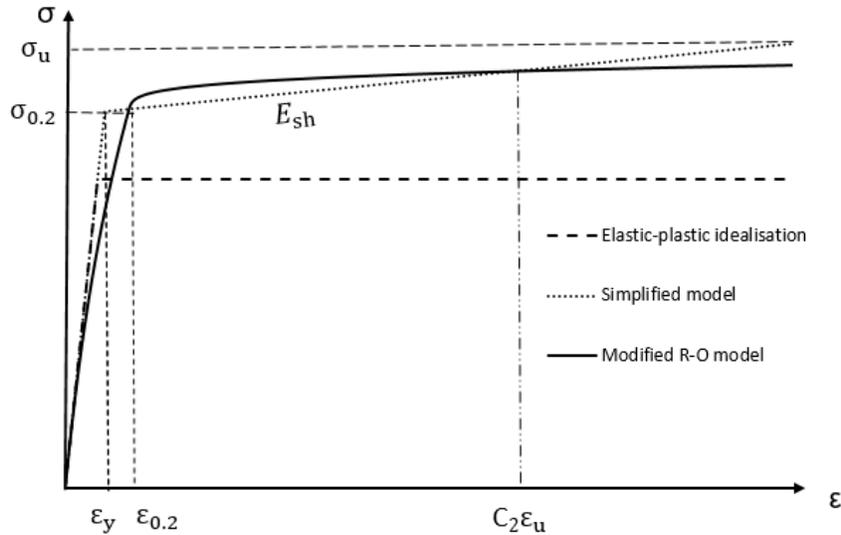
$$E_{sh} = \frac{\sigma_u - \sigma_{0.2}}{C_2 \varepsilon_u - \varepsilon_y} \quad (7)$$

483 Following an extensive parametric study [24], it was shown that the constant  $C_2$  should be dependent on

484 the grade of stainless steel under consideration. Values of  $C_2$  equal to 0.25 were recommended for beams

485 with austenitic stainless steel grades 1.4311 and 1.4307, whereas a value of 0.3 is more suitable for beams

486 with lean duplex stainless steel grade 1.4162.



487

488 Fig. 8: The modified Ramberg-Osgood material model and the simplified version for stainless steel.

489 In this method, the plastic bending moment capacity of stainless steel reinforced concrete beams is  
 490 calculated by applying the equations of equilibrium to the cross-sectional internal forces, which are  
 491 determined based on the stainless steel material model together with the strain distribution in the section.  
 492 This deformation-based design approach was thoroughly examined and validated over an extensive range  
 493 of numerical and experimental data and was shown to be an effective design method that harnesses the  
 494 advantageous strain hardening and ductility of stainless steel reinforcement. Moreover, it provides a more  
 495 accurate, reliable and appropriate predictions of the capacity of a stainless steel reinforced concrete beam  
 496 compared with current codified procedures.

### 497 3.5 Serviceability considerations

498 Deflections are a very important consideration in the design of reinforced concrete beams, and regularly  
 499 govern the overall behaviour. An accurate depiction of the nonlinearity of the material response, and in  
 500 particular the Young's modulus  $E$ , are vital in order to determine the deflections. BS 6744 [72] for stainless  
 501 steel reinforcement refers to Eurocode 2 Part 1-1 [22] for the Young's modulus, and recommends that using  
 502 the carbon steel  $E$  value (200 GPa) might not be appropriate for stainless steel owing to the nonlinear stress-  
 503 strain curve. BS 6744 also refers to a clause in Eurocode 3 Part 1-4 [90] for structural stainless steel which  
 504 requires that deflection calculations are based on an effective section with a reduced Young's modulus.  
 505 However, incorporating this approach for stainless steel reinforcement without a proper validation may  
 506 provide inaccurate deflection predictions causing serviceability related problems owing to the composite  
 507 action between concrete and reinforcement. This issue has recently been investigated by Rabi et al. [24]  
 508 through the development of an iterative analytical procedure for the determination of deflections at the mid-

509 span of stainless steel reinforced concrete beams. This work investigated using the secant modulus and the  
 510 tangent modulus of the reinforcement in the deflection calculations at the service load. The secant modulus  
 511 of elasticity ( $E_{sec}$ ) for stainless steel is obtained from the modified Ramberg-Osgood material model  
 512 presented earlier in Eqs. 1 and 2 according to:

$$E_{sec} = \frac{E}{1 + 0.002 \frac{E}{\sigma} \left( \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{0.2}} \right)^n} \quad \text{for } \sigma \leq \sigma_{0.2} \quad (8)$$

$$E_{sec} = \frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon_{0.2} + \frac{\sigma - \sigma_{0.2}}{E_2} + \left( \varepsilon_u - \varepsilon_{0.2} - \frac{\sigma_u - \sigma_{0.2}}{E_2} \right) \left( \frac{\sigma - \sigma_{0.2}}{\sigma_u - \sigma_{0.2}} \right)^m} \quad \text{for } \sigma_{0.2} < \sigma \leq \sigma_u \quad (9)$$

513 The tangent modulus of elasticity ( $E_{tan}$ ) is the derivative of the secant modulus and is determined as follows:

$$E_{tan} = \frac{\sigma_{0.2} E}{\sigma_{0.2} + 0.002 n E \left( \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{0.2}} \right)^{n-1}} \quad \text{for } \sigma < \sigma_{0.2} \quad (10)$$

$$E_{tan} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{E_2} + \left( \varepsilon_u - \varepsilon_{0.2} - \frac{\sigma_u - \sigma_{0.2}}{E_2} \right) \left( \frac{m}{(\sigma_u - \sigma_{0.2})^m} \right) (\sigma - \sigma_{0.2})^{m-1}} \quad \text{for } \sigma_{0.2} < \sigma \leq \sigma_u \quad (11)$$

514 In order to obtain the secant modulus and the tangent modulus of the reinforcement at service load, the  
 515 stress in the reinforcement must first be determined. An elastic analysis of the section is conducted to obtain  
 516 the depth of the neutral axis ( $y$ ) and the stress in the reinforcement, according to the stress and strain  
 517 distributions in the section. Since the secant and tangent moduli are functions of the stress in the  
 518 reinforcement, an iterative technique is required to obtain the solution. Further details of this approach are  
 519 available elsewhere [24].

520 Based on the findings elsewhere [24], it was shown that employing the secant modulus rather than the  
 521 elastic modulus in the deflection calculations results in a relatively minor improvement in the deflection  
 522 predictions. On the other hand, adopting the tangent modulus in the deflection calculations provides  
 523 significantly less accurate deflection predictions compared with the elastic or secant modulus. Further  
 524 investigations [84] revealed similar conclusions when the secant modulus is employed at a service load  
 525 corresponding to 30% of the ultimate bending moment ( $0.3M_u$ ). However, when a service load  
 526 corresponding to 67% of the ultimate bending moment ( $0.67M_u$ ) is considered, using the secant modulus  
 527 results in more accurate deflection predictions for stainless steel reinforced concrete beams. Therefore, it is  
 528 recommended that the secant modulus of stainless steel is employed in deflection calculations at load levels  
 529 corresponding to  $0.3M_u$  and  $0.67M_u$ . For further simplifications to aid practicing engineers, based on the  
 530 data set examined [84], a more simplified approach may be used by applying a partial modulus reduction

531 factor of 1.0 and 0.83 to the elastic modulus in the deflection calculations at a load level corresponding to  
532  $0.3M_u$  and  $0.67M_u$ .

## 533 4 Recent research

534 In spite of the increasing usage of stainless steel reinforcement in recent years, there is still a fundamental  
535 lack of sufficient guidance and knowledge on the structural behaviour of stainless steel reinforced concrete  
536 (RC) members. This is being somewhat overcome by more research becoming available, particularly in  
537 terms of experimental, numerical and analytical investigations. This section reviews some of this work, and  
538 also provides information on how the findings need to be built upon in the future.

### 539 4.1 Structural behaviour of stainless steel reinforced concrete beams

540 One of the first sets of experiments on stainless steel (SS) reinforced concrete structural elements was  
541 conducted by Geromel and Mazzarella [105]. This test programme included ten conventional and high  
542 performance reinforced concrete beams with grade AISI 316L SS reinforcement. The main objective was  
543 to explore the agreement between the experimental bending moment capacity and ductility results and the  
544 corresponding theoretical values obtained on the basis of the constitutive material model available in  
545 Eurocode 2 [22] for carbon steel (CS) reinforcement. It was found that the experimental moment resistance  
546 values were 40% higher than the design values and the section ductility's were slightly lower than those  
547 calculated theoretically.

548 Elsewhere, Medina et al. [16] conducted experiments on two simply supported SS RC beams and two  
549 carbon steel RC beams. The SS reinforcement was grade 1.4362 duplex stainless steel. Similar to the study  
550 by Geromel and Mazzarella [105], it was shown that the SS RC beams which failed in flexure achieved  
551 greater load capacities, but slightly lower ductility's, compared with identical beams with CS rebars. On  
552 the other hand, when shear was the governing failure mode, the behaviour was very similar between the SS  
553 and CS RC beams. This is largely attributed to the relatively small cross-section of the examined specimens  
554 (which were 100 mm  $\times$  150 mm) resulting in compression failure occurring before the full strain hardening  
555 potential of the stainless steel reinforcement was exploited. Nevertheless, the ductility of the stainless steel  
556 RC cross-sections was much greater than those for the corresponding carbon steel RC beams. This is  
557 important in many applications where the development plastic hinges and a higher rotational capacity  
558 enables stresses to be redistributed through the structure during extreme events, such as an earthquake or  
559 fire. Medina et al. [16] also investigated the mechanical performance of hot-rolled and cold-rolled grade  
560 1.4301 austenitic and grades 1.4482 and 1.4362 duplex stainless steel rebars, and compared their behaviour  
561 to that of grade B500D carbon steel reinforcement. It was shown that the elastic moduli of the stainless  
562 steel rebars was around 15% lower than that of the CS rebars. Furthermore, and as expected, the

563 manufacturing process of the rebars had a significant effect on the strength and ductility. The cold-rolled  
564 rebars exhibited higher yield and ultimate strength compared with hot-rolled reinforcing bars, but this was  
565 accompanied by lower ultimate strains and a lower hardening ratio.

566 More recently, Li et al. [86] tested six simply supported RC beams to investigate the effect of the  
567 longitudinal and shear reinforcement ratios, and the type of reinforcement (CS and SS) on the flexural and  
568 shear behaviour. It was observed that the strain distribution through the depth of the beams was  
569 approximately linear in the concrete sections, verifying the validity of the common assumption that sections  
570 remain plane after deformation. Furthermore, the flexural capacity and shear capacity of SS RC beams were  
571 found to be between 32-40% greater than for the corresponding ordinary CS RC beams. Similar to the  
572 earlier findings by Medina et al. [16], when shear failure governed failure of SS RC beams, it was a brittle  
573 failure mode whilst the members that failed in flexure exhibited excellent ductility. Again, this is because  
574 the strain hardening and ductility characteristics of the SS rebars was not mobilised before shear failure  
575 occurred. It was concluded in this work that the conventional CS material constitutive model available in  
576 Eurocode 2 Part 1-1 [22] generally leads to conservative capacity predictions for SS RC members, for the  
577 range of parameters examined. This agrees with findings elsewhere [23] where the novel and innovative  
578 design method for SS RC beams described previously was developed and validated.

579 More recently, Rabi et al. [84] conducted an intensive experimental programme on six stainless steel RC  
580 beams and one carbon steel RC beam, for comparison. These tests were designed to investigate the effect  
581 of SS reinforcement ratios and stainless steel grade (1.4301 or 1.4436) on the flexural performance  
582 including load capacity, stiffness, cracking behaviour, as well as the deflection levels at the service load. It  
583 was shown that for beams with identical geometries, boundary conditions and reinforcement ratio, the  
584 flexural capacity of those with stainless steel rebars was consistently greater than for those with carbon steel  
585 reinforcement. Moreover, all of the SS RC beams exhibited enhanced ductility and greater deflection  
586 capacity before failure occurred. It was concluded that current available design guidance, which generally  
587 adopt an elastic-plastic material model for the reinforcing steel, underestimate the moment capacity of SS  
588 RC beams while the design method proposed by Rabi et al. [23] provided better and more accurate  
589 predictions.

## 590 4.2 Behaviour of stainless steel RC Columns

591 There has been very little experimental or numerical analysis into the behaviour of RC columns with  
592 stainless steel reinforcement, with only two sources available in the literature. Khalifa [106] conducted an  
593 experimental, numerical and analytical investigations into the behaviour of SS RC columns subjected to  
594 eccentric compressive loading. It was observed that as the reinforcement ratio increased, the flexural

595 stiffness and the load capacity of the columns also increased but their ductility decreased. This study  
596 proposed a method to determine an equivalent stress to represent the yield strength (or the 0.2% proof  
597 strength) for duplex and austenitic SS rebars which is then employed to calculate the flexural capacity.  
598 Building on this work, Li et al. [107] examined the behaviour of eight SS RC columns and one CS RC  
599 column, for comparison, under different loading eccentricities and reinforcement ratios. It was shown that  
600 the location of the load application, relative to the centroid of the section, had a strong influence on the  
601 structural behaviour of SS RC columns in terms of the distribution and propagation of cracks, the ultimate  
602 load capacity and also the level of ductility which can develop due to combined effects of compressive axial  
603 loading as well as the bending stresses induced through the eccentric loading. It was shown that the failure  
604 modes for SS RC columns subjected to eccentric loading were similar to those reinforced with CS bars. A  
605 theoretical model was proposed to predict the compressive load-bending moment interaction curve for SS  
606 RC columns based on the numerical and experimental data.

### 607 4.3 Cyclic behaviour of stainless steel RC members

608 Stainless steel is a very ductile material, as stated before, and thus provides an excellent option for cyclic  
609 loading applications where its ability to survive even after large levels of deformation can be exploited.  
610 These applications include both low cycle fatigue scenarios, such as earthquakes, as well as high-cycle  
611 fatigue scenarios. Nevertheless, as stainless steel is still a relatively novel structural material especially in  
612 RC members, there has been limited research into the behaviour under cyclic loading, and the research that  
613 does exist has been quite recent. For example, Zhang et al. [108] tested five RC slabs which were reinforced  
614 with either grade 1.4362 duplex SS or carbon steel rebars, and subjected to cyclic fatigue loading. It was  
615 shown that the SS reinforced concrete slabs had significantly better fatigue performance compared with  
616 carbon steel reinforced concrete slabs, including lower deflections, steel strains and crack widths as well as  
617 longer fatigue life. It was also shown that the fatigue performance of SS RC slabs can be further improved  
618 by increasing the reinforcement ratio, although an optimal value for the reinforcement ratio was not  
619 presented.

620 Melo et al. [109] investigated the response of RC columns reinforced with either carbon steel rebars or  
621 grade 1.4462 duplex stainless steel and subjected to combined axial compressive load as well as cyclic  
622 lateral loading conditions, thus simulating an earthquake. It was shown that the seismic behavior of both  
623 the CS and SS columns were similar to each other until the maximum capacity was reached. Beyond this,  
624 the CS RC column exhibited more softening compared to the SS RC column. Furthermore, the SS RC  
625 column dissipated about 56% more energy before the ultimate point was reached compared with the CS  
626 RC column because it was able to reach greater ultimate drifts without failure. It was observed that the  
627 longitudinal rebars buckled during the cyclic loading test. Therefore a series of material tests were

628 conducted on grade 1.4301 austenitic and grade 1.4362 duplex stainless steel rebars under cyclic loading  
629 [110]. Based on the results, a new compressive stress-strain model that considered the effect of inelastic  
630 buckling was proposed. Zhang et al. [83] investigated the seismic behaviour of stainless steel reinforced  
631 concrete columns and found that the SS RC columns exhibited good ductility. An increase in the shear  
632 reinforcement ratio enhanced the seismic performance, although limiting values for this effect were not  
633 provided, while an increase in the applied axial compressive load reduced the ultimate strength capacity  
634 and deflection.

635 Most recently, Xu et al. [80] investigated the seismic performance of RC beam-column edge joints with  
636 austenitic stainless steel reinforcement. The SS RC edge frame joints exhibited greater load bearing capacity  
637 and cracking loads compared with identical joints made using carbon steel rebars as well as improved  
638 ductility, deflection capacity and levels of energy dissipation. The overall behaviour patterns in terms of  
639 shear and bending failure were very similar for the members reinforced with either SS or CS rebars.

#### 640 4.4 Bond behaviour of SS embedded in concrete

641 The bond strength that develops between the reinforcing bars and the surrounding concrete is an important  
642 phenomenon for the structural performance of RC members. Good bond strength is important for  
643 controlling cracking, and maintaining the composite behaviour of the two constituent materials. On the  
644 other hand, it also plays a role in the overall ductility of the section, especially during extreme loading  
645 events such as a fire or earthquake, when high levels of bond can lead to stress concentrations in the  
646 reinforcement. In this context, having an accurate measure of the level of bond that develops is very  
647 important, as is ensuring that suitable bond models are available in design. Even for carbon steel RC, there  
648 are different approaches to dealing with bond in various codes, and there is very little specific information  
649 in the codes for SS RC.

650 In recent years, Rabi et al. [21] conducted an extensive experimental programme to investigate the bond  
651 behaviour for different arrangements of SS rebar embedded in concrete. The test programme studied the  
652 bond-slip relationship for both austenitic SS and CS rebars embedded in different types of concrete using  
653 pull-out testing. It was shown that SS rebars developed approximately 28% lower bond strength compared  
654 with CS rebars on average, as well as lower residual bond values and a steeper softening branch of the bond  
655 stress-slip curve. Nevertheless, the design standards such as Eurocode 2 Part 1-1 [22] and Model Code 2010  
656 [111] were shown to provide very conservative predictions for the bond strength, anchorage and lap lengths  
657 compared to those calculated based on the experimental results. Therefore, it was concluded that although  
658 current design rules which were developed for CS RC can be safely applied for SS RC members, there is  
659 significant scope for improvement of the design rules by developing specific procedures for SS RC.

660 Accordingly, a new bond stress-slip model for splitting and pull-out failure was developed, based on a  
661 similar format to the existing Model Code 2010 method [111], for both CS and SS rebars embedded in  
662 concrete. The bond-slip response proposed by Model Code 2010 for splitting failure underestimated the  
663 experimental response while the new bond-slip curves for stainless and carbon steels were more in line with  
664 the experimental results. Implementing the proposed curves improves the average ultimate bond strength  
665 design values for stainless and carbon steel rebars by 22% and 38%, respectively. Additionally, the Model  
666 Code 2010 bond model for pull-out failure resulted in lower ultimate bond strength, a softer response in the  
667 ascending and descending branches and higher residual bond strength, compared to the experimental  
668 results. The new proposed model identified more accurate parameters in the bond-slip model that provide  
669 excellent agreements with experimental response especially in the post-peak range.

670 More recently, Li et al. [79] tested grade 1.4362 duplex SS embedded in concrete with different cover  
671 distances and concrete strengths. Similar to Rabi et al. [21], the observed failure modes were either pull-  
672 out or splitting failure. The type of failure depended on the diameter of the reinforcement, the level of  
673 concrete cover provided as well as the tensile strength of the concrete. It was concluded that if the ratio of  
674 the concrete cover to the bar diameter was less than 4.5, combined with a relatively low concrete tensile  
675 strength, failure was by concrete splitting; otherwise, failure occurred by pull-out of the rebar and there was  
676 generally a greater bond strength developed.

677 Aldaca et al. [112] also conducted a series of pullout tests on SS and CS bars encased in concrete, although  
678 in this case, the specimens were submerged in sea water. The samples were left in seawater with 3.5%  
679 content chloride and exposed to simulated tidal marine environments. The results of the bond tests showed  
680 that the maximum bond strength for the stainless steel reinforcement was significantly greater than that of  
681 the carbon steel rebars following exposure to the harsh marine environment. Further experimental and  
682 analytical studies were conducted by Pauletta et al. [113] to investigate the bond behaviour of both  
683 austenitic and duplex stainless steel RC with different concrete cover thicknesses and strength values, and  
684 rebars diameters. Three different types of failure were observed including concrete tensile failure, pull-out  
685 failure, and splitting failure. The specimens with concrete tensile failure had low bond strength and slip  
686 while those which failed by pull-out achieved higher bond and slip values, as well as more ductile  
687 behaviour. It was concluded in this work that for the range of bars and parameters examined, the bond  
688 behaviour of SS and CS rebars are quite similar to each other, in contrast to the findings of others. This may  
689 be owing to the surface characteristics of the SS rebars.

690 Finally, Freitas et al. [114] investigated the bond characteristics of SS rebars embedded in low binder  
691 concrete (LBC), to achieve more sustainable construction. In this case, the compactness of the concrete  
692 mixture was the main parameter controlling the bond development. It was observed that the specimens with

693 SS rebars embedded in the LBC exhibited greater bond strength in comparison to those with traditional  
694 concrete. It was concluded that LBC with reduced cement content of up to one quarter of the minimum  
695 recommended in EN 206-1 [115] can be used safely with SS reinforcing bars.

## 696 5 Conclusions and recommendations for future research

697 This paper presents a thorough review of the existing knowledge on stainless steel reinforced concrete, as  
698 a realistic and attractive structural solution. The material properties, as well as existing design methods and  
699 obtained performance data were presented, discussed and reviewed. From these discussions, it is clear that  
700 the engineering research community have acknowledged and embraced the great advantages that stainless  
701 steel reinforced concrete can offer the construction sector compared with traditional materials, especially  
702 when a long maintenance-free life cycle is required. Corrosion of steel reinforcement leads directly to many  
703 structural problems including a reduction in the load-bearing capacity of RC members, deterioration of the  
704 bond behaviour between rebar and concrete, and spalling of concrete cover. In addition, there are many  
705 secondary problems and challenges, such as the inspection and maintenance regime required for  
706 deteriorating structures, requirements to close key infrastructure, and the costs associated with  
707 rehabilitation. In this context, stainless steel reinforcement provides an alternative to traditional carbon steel  
708 reinforcement owing to its outstanding material and structural behaviour. However, it comes at a high initial  
709 cost compared with carbon steel, and also there is a lack of efficient design guidance, as well as long-term  
710 cost data.

711 The key areas that still require significant research focus include, but are not limited to, the following topics:  
712 (i) fatigue behaviour of SS RC, which is very important for bridge applications, (ii) fire behaviour, which  
713 is relevant for building and bridge structures, as well as tunnel linings, (iii) creep behaviour, to understand  
714 the long term performance, (iv) the use of SS in pre-cast and pre-stressed concrete, as there is no information  
715 on this in the public domain, (v) the structural behaviour of whole systems of SS RC, including members  
716 and connections under combined loading scenarios, and (vi) structural analysis, including the distribution  
717 and redistribution of moments and rotations in indeterminate structures. One other key area which is in  
718 need of urgent attention is the whole-life costs, including environments costs, of using SS RC in  
719 construction. It is intuitive that using maintenance-free, corrosion-resistant materials in place of less high-  
720 performing materials provides greater long-term benefits, but these benefits need to be quantified and better  
721 understood, as well as compared with other novel materials such as FRP reinforcement, shape-memory  
722 alloys, etc.

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