



UNDERSTANDING BS EN 1090 AND UKCA MARKING:

A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR CLIENTS

UK CA

JAS WELDING SERVICES LTD



UNDERSTANDING BS EN 1090 AND UKCA MARKING: A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR CLIENTS

At JAS Welding Services Ltd, we're a family-run business specialising in certified structural steel fabrication, installation, metal repairs, gates, railings, and on-site welding across, Norfolk, Suffolk, London, and beyond.

We hold the BS EN 1090 EXC2 certification with UKCA marking, which means our work meets top UK standards for quality and safety. But what do these terms actually mean? If you're a builder, homeowner, or business owner, navigating regulations can feel overwhelming.

This guide breaks it down in plain English, explaining why these certifications matter and how our in-house Responsible Welding Coordinator (RWC) keeps everything compliant. Think of it as your cheat sheet to feeling confident about your next project.

WHAT IS BS EN 1090?

BS EN 1090 is a UK-adopted European standard that sets the rules for how steel and aluminium structures are fabricated (made) and assembled.

It's like a blueprint for ensuring that things like steel beams, gates, or railings are strong, safe, and built to last. Without it, structural metalwork could fail under stress, leading to safety risks or costly fixes. The standard is split into three main parts:

- BS EN 1090-1: This covers how to assess and prove that your products meet the rules, including getting the right markings (more on UKCA below).
- daysteel.co.uk
- BS EN 1090-2: Focuses on the technical side for steel structures, like welding techniques, material quality, and inspections.
- twi-global.com
- BS EN 1090-3: Similar to part 2, but for aluminium. It also uses "Execution Classes" (EXC1 to EXC4) to rate the complexity and risk of a project.

EXC1 is for simple stuff like farm buildings, while EXC4 is for high-risk structures like major bridges. At JAS, we're certified to EXC2, which covers most everyday structural work—like the beams in your extension or custom gates—ensuring they're tough enough for real-world use. In short, BS EN 1090 guarantees traceability (you can track every step of production), quality control, and performance, minimising risks like structural failure.

WHAT IS UKCA MARKING?

UKCA stands for "UK Conformity Assessed." It's the UK's version of the old CE marking, introduced after Brexit for products sold in Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales).

If a product like structural steel falls under a UK standard (like BS EN 1090), it must have UKCA marking to show it complies with safety and performance rules. Why the switch? CE marking was for the EU market, but now the UK has its own system to ensure products are safe and reliable here.

For structural steel, UKCA means the fabricator (like us) has been audited by an approved body, and our processes—from cutting and welding to final checks—meet strict criteria.

Note: CE marking is still accepted in GB until 30 June 2025, but after that, UKCA is mandatory for new products.

In Northern Ireland, it's a bit different—they stick with CE (or UKNI in some cases)—but for most UK clients, UKCA is key.

WHY ARE THESE CERTIFICATIONS ESSENTIAL FOR BUILDING REGULATIONS?

Building regs in the UK (like the Construction Products Regulation, or CPR) aren't just red tape—they're there to protect people and property.

Here's why BS EN 1090 and UKCA matter:

Safety First:

They ensure structures can handle loads, weather, and wear without collapsing or failing. Imagine a railing that rusts too quickly or a beam that buckles—regs prevent that.

Legal Requirement: Since July 2014, any structural steel or aluminium sold in the UK must comply with BS EN 1090 and carry UKCA marking if applicable.

Non-compliance?

It's a criminal offence, and it could void insurance or lead to project delays.

Quality and Reliability: Clients get peace of mind knowing products are tested for things like mechanical strength, stability, and durability.

This reduces long-term costs—no surprise repairs!

Market Access: Without these, you can't legally use the products in UK construction. For builders or developers, it means smoother approvals from local authorities.

In essence, these regs make sure every project is built on solid (literally) foundations, protecting everyone from homeowners to workers.



HOW OUR IN-HOUSE RESPONSIBLE WELDING COORDINATOR (RWC) ENSURES COMPLIANCE

06

Welding is the "glue" that holds steel structures together, so it needs expert oversight. That's where our in-house RWC comes in—a qualified specialist who supervises all welding to meet BS EN 1090 standards.

Required for EXC2 projects like ours, the RWC isn't just a title; it's a role that guarantees quality at every step. Here's how our RWC keeps things compliant:

- **Oversees the Whole Process:** From reviewing project specs and materials to coordinating sub-contractors, the RWC ensures everything aligns with regs.
- **Qualifies Welders and Procedures:** They check that our welders are certified (via tests) and that welding methods (like MIG or TIG) are proven safe and effective through documented procedures.
- **Inspections and Testing:** Regular checks for defects, plus non-destructive testing (like X-rays for hidden flaws), to catch issues early.
- **Documentation and Traceability:** Everything is recorded—from preheat temps to final visuals—so we can prove compliance if audited.

Having an in-house RWC means faster decisions, consistent quality, and no outsourcing delays. At JAS, this role is filled by experienced pros with the technical knowledge (like IIW qualifications) to handle it all.

It directly contributes to our UKCA marking, giving you structures that are safe, strong, and fully compliant.

WWW.JASWELDINGSERVICES.CO.UK

BS EN 1090 and UKCA marking might sound technical, but they're all about delivering reliable, regulation-proof work you can trust. At JAS Welding Services Ltd, these aren't boxes we tick—they're how we build lasting relationships with clients like you.

WRAPPING IT UP: WHY CHOOSE JAS FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT?

Ready to discuss your project? Download this guide as a PDF from our website, or contact us for a free quote.

Follow us on X
@JAS_Welding

for more tips, or give us a call—we're here to demystify the details and get your job done right.

info@jasweldingservices.co.uk

07824656634

Unit 7, Fitzmaurice Court, Rackheath, NR13 6PY