

**Third International Workshop on FRP Bars for Concrete Structures**  
**(IW-FRPCS3)**

**Workshop Theme: “Advances in concrete reinforcement”**

**Date: August 3-4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



**DAY 2 Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Session 4: Advancing FRP Rebar Manufacturing & Product Development to meet Market Needs (8:15-9:45am EDT)**

*(What is new, better, and scalable?)*

RoundTable discussion with audience participation, preceded with 3-minute introduction by panelists.

**Moderator:** John Busel (ACMA)

Panelists (5 mins)

- Higher Performing Bent Bars: [Borna Hajimiragha](#) (B&B)
- Why should we consider epoxy: [Bhavesh Muni](#) (Olin)
- How can thermoplastics help: [Paolo Casadei](#) (SIREG)
- What other fibers to consider: [Mike Levine](#) (MAFIC) **No slides**
- Why not filament winding for closed stirrups: [Don Smith](#) (RAW) **No slides**
- Ensuring QC and Scalability: [Bernard Drouin](#) (Pultrall)

# THIRD INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FRP BARS FOR CONCRETE STRUCTURES

*“Advances in concrete reinforcement”*

*August 3-4, 2021 - Virtual*

## High Performance Bent Bars

Borna Hajimiragha, B&B FRP Manufacturing Inc.(MST-BAR), Toronto

8 am Aug 4<sup>th</sup>



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# THIRD INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FRP BARS FOR CONCRETE STRUCTURES

*"Advances in concrete reinforcement"*

## Topics

- Bent bar primary use
- High performance bent bar
- Alternative to bent bars
- Mechanical connection
- When is good enough good enough?
- Scalability and Reality



### **Bent Bar Primary use**

Bent bars predominantly use for

- Anchorage (Connecting two components)
- Confinement & Shear
- Chair and placement of other rebar

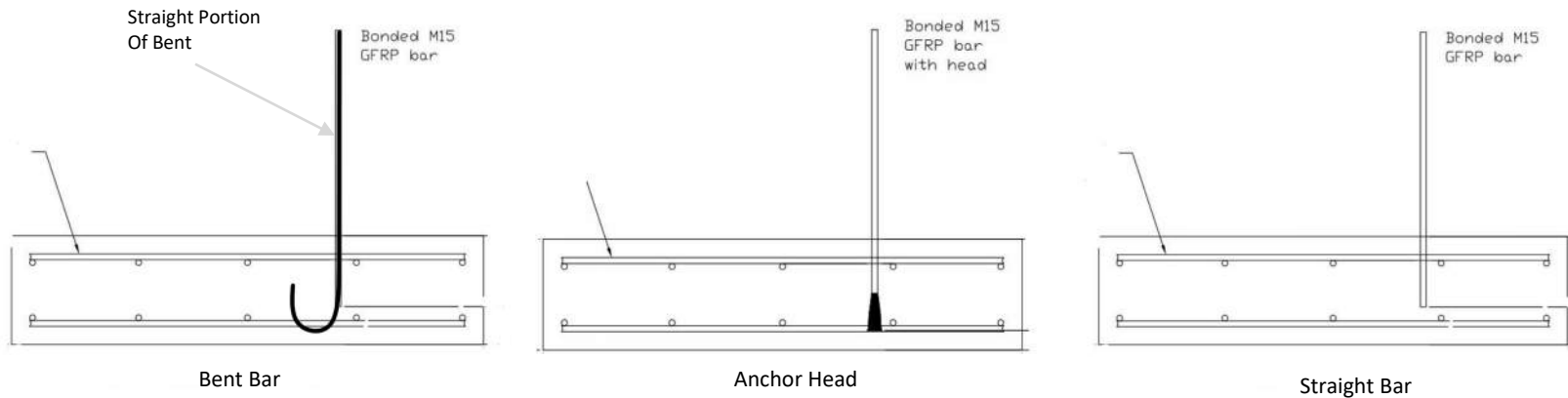


# THIRD INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FRP BARS FOR CONCRETE STRUCTURES

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## Anchorage of GFRP!

- Anchorage (Connecting two components)



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## High Performance Bent

Tested on #3,#4,#5 and #6



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## Straight Portion of the Bent

- Strength, Shear, Bond



LOT No.1



LOT No.2



LOT No.3

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## Straight Portion of the Bent

- Strength, Shear, Bond

Specimen	Lot #	Maximum tensile load (kN)	Ultimate tensile strength (MPa)	Tensile elastic modulus (GPa)	Ultimate tensile strain (%)
1	1	413	1454	57	2.6
2		393	1384	55	2.5
3		387	1363	55	2.5
4		404	1423	51	2.8
5		414	1458	54	2.7
6		346	1218	53	2.3
7		371	1306	53	2.5
8		377	1327	55	2.4
Average		388	1367	54	2.5
SD		23.2	81.6	1.7	0.16
COV %		6.0	6.0	3.1	6.2
1	2	352	1239	51	2.4
2		361	1271	55	2.3
3		366	1289	54	2.4
4		366	1289	57	2.3
5		373	1313	54	2.4
6		415	1461	51	2.9
7		340	1197	55	2.2
8		365	1285	56	2.3
Average		367	1293	54	2.4
SD		21.8	76.9	2.0	0.21
COV %		5.9	5.9	3.7	8.7

Table 2 - Tensile Strength of Bent Portions of MST GFRP Bent Bars #6 (Nominal Area 284 mm<sup>2</sup>)

Specimen	Lot #	Maximum load (kN)	Ultimate tensile strength (MPa)
1	1	254	894
2		262	923
3		278	979
4		258	908
5		251	884
6		243	856
7		267	940
8		251	884
Average		258	908
SD		10.9	38.5
COV %		4.2	4.2
1	2	263	926
2		241	849
3		250	880
4		233	820
5		229	806
6		231	813
7		248	873
8		242	852
Average		242	853
SD		11.4	40.2
COV %		4.7	4.7

Table 3 – Summary of Average Tensile Strength of Straight and Bent Portions of MST GFRP Bent Bars #6

Lot #	Average Tensile Strength of Straight Portion (MPa)	Average Tensile Strength of Bent Portion (MPa)	Bent Strength Ratio (%)
1	1367	908	66
2	1293	853	66



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## Straight Portion of the Bent

- Shear (CSA S807-19 :180MPa)

**Table 1:** Summary of experimental results of the transverse shear strength of the straight portion of 15 mm (#5) MST-BAR® BEND GFRP bent bar

Specimen	LOT No.1		LOT No.2		LOT No.3	
	Failure Force	Transverse Shear Strength	Failure Force	Transverse Shear Strength	Failure Force	Transverse Shear Strength
	kN	MPa	kN	MPa	kN	MPa
SAMPLE 01	80.41	202.0	90.3	226.9	87.08	218.8
SAMPLE 02	84.65	212.7	84.65	212.7	86.77	218.0
SAMPLE 03	82.37	207.0	87.4	219.6	84.45	212.2
SAMPLE 04	85.4	214.6	80.98	203.5	84.53	212.4
SAMPLE 05	82.3	206.8	81.3	204.3	83.22	209.1
SAMPLE 06	81.45	204.6	82.75	207.9	81.64	205.1
SAMPLE 07	81.83	205.6	78.15	196.4	85.99	216.1
SAMPLE 08	78.13	196.3	80.3	201.8	83.76	210.5
Average	82.1	206.2	83.2	209.1	84.7	212.8
Standard Deviation	2.1	5.4	3.8	9.4	1.7	4.4
Coefficient of Variation (%)	2.6	2.6	4.5	4.5	2.1	2.1

### **Buckling**

- Is it possible to Avoid?
- How important it is to prevent buckling?
- Size and Bent radius?



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## How Tight of Radius

- Is it possible to?
- Is it cost effective?



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## How Crazy?

- Complexity of the Bend?
- Cost Vs. Quantity?



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**How about this?**

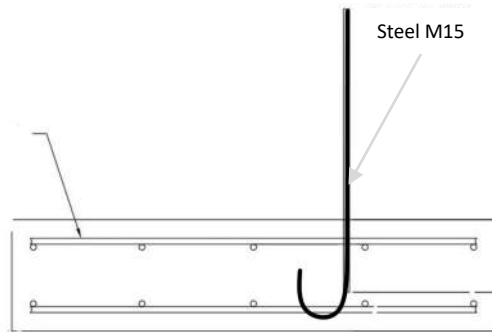
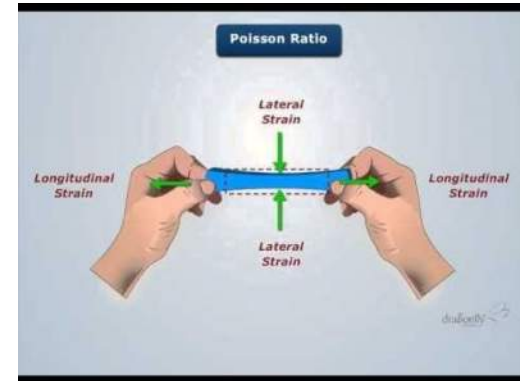


# THIRD INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FRP BARS FOR CONCRETE STRUCTURES

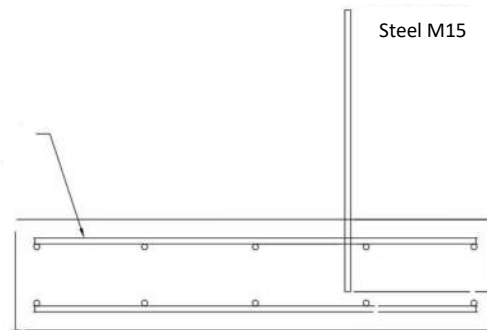
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## Steel: When is Good enough, Good enough!

- Anchorage (Connecting two components)



500MPa = 100kN 15M  
Steel fails



Steel Pull out 45kN at 100mm Embd.

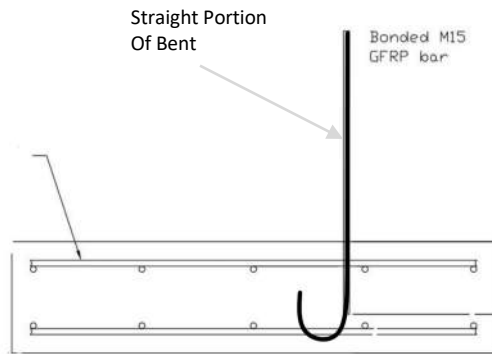
# THIRD INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FRP BARS FOR CONCRETE STRUCTURES

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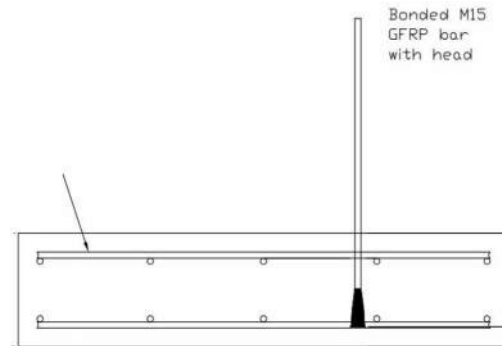
## When is Good enough, Good enough!

- Anchorage (Connecting two components)

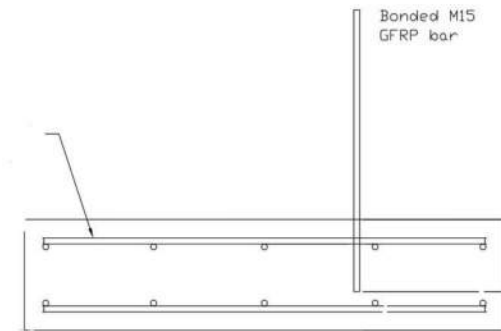
Why? **Low Passion's Ratio**  
**High Bond strength**



100kN-based on 500MPa  
Strength at bend  
160kN-based on 800 MPa  
Strength at bend  
200mm and more embed. required



100kN  
100mm Embd.



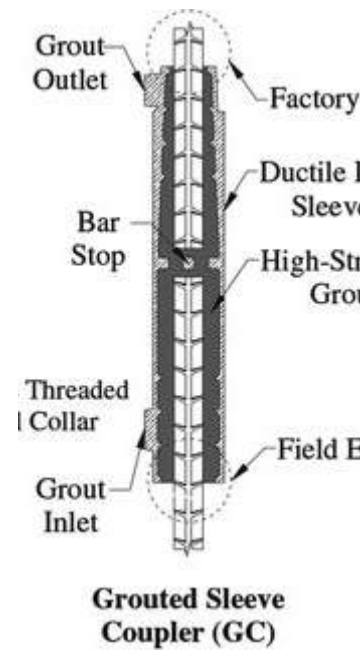
150kN at 100mm Embd.  
For fully threaded integral rib  
Before concrete breaks

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## Mechanical Coupler

- Grout Coupler Tested with
  - Off the Shelf High Strength Concrete
  - Test performed on #5 with standard #5 coupler





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## Mode of Failure

- Concrete Shear inside the coupler @ 3.5" each side 140kN
  - Off the Shelf High Strength Concrete
  - Test performed on #5 with standard #5 coupler
- 140kN(31,500lbf) – inline with design strength
- Not Meeting 1.2 x UTS
- Solution: Making the grout coupler longer
- Solution: Higher Concrete Strength/UHPC



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## Scalability and Reality

- Quantity
- Price
- Geometry



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## Scalability and Reality

If this can be done perfectly?



Can this be done perfectly too?

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## Epoxy For FRP Rebar

Bhavesh Muni & Huifeng Qian, Olin Epoxy, USA



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## About Olin



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FOR  
>100 YEARS**

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Composites based on Epoxy matrices have been used in various applications with extreme durability.

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## WHY EPOXY FOR FRP REBAR?



**VERSATILE CURE AND PROCESSING**



**EXCELLENT FATIGUE AND MECHANICAL PERFORMANCE**



**HIGH CORROSION RESISTANCE**



**STYRENE AND VOC FREE**



**SUPPLY CHAIN RELIABILITY**

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## REBAR PERFORMANCE – PRE ALKALINE TREATMENT

Methods	Test Description	SPEC. FDOT 932	Test Values	Comment
ASTM D7617	Guar. Transverse Shear Strength	>19 ksi	21.0 ksi	Pass
ASTM D2584	Fiber Content (by weight)	>70 %	79.8 %	Pass
ASTM D7205	Guar. Tensile Force	29.1 kip	33.1 kip	Pass
	Tensile Modulus of Elasticity	≥ 6.5 Msi	7.0 Msi	Pass
	Tensile Strain	≥ 1.1%	1.6 %	Pass
ASTM D792	Measured Cross Sectional Area	0.288 to 0.388 in <sup>2</sup>	0.292 in <sup>2</sup>	Pass
ASTM D570	Moisture Absorption Short Term	≤ 0.25 %	0.17 %	Pass
	Moisture Absorption Long Term	≤ 1.00 %	0.67 %	Pass
ASTM D7913	Guar. Bond Strength	>1100 psi	1227 psi	Pass
ASTM E2160	Degree of Cure	>95%	99.1 %	Pass
	Glass Transition Temperature (DSC)	>100 °C	139 °C	Pass



Basalt fiber: FVF 60-65%  
 Estimated Line Speed : 1-2 m/min  
 Tested in University of Miami



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## REBAR PERFORMANCE – POST ALKALINE TREATMENT

Test Method	Test Description	Spec. FDOT 932	Values	Result
SAMPLE #3				
ASTM D7205	Tensile Load Retention (with load) <sup>1</sup>	>70 %	78.3 %	Pass
ASTM D7617	Trans. Shear Strength Retention	n/a	84.2 %	n/a
ASTM E2160	Degree of Cure	>95 %	99.06 %	Pass
	Glass Transition Temperature (DSC)	>100 °C	139 °C	Pass
SAMPLE #4				
ASTM D7705	Tensile Load Retention (with load) <sup>1</sup>	>70%	92.3 %	Pass
ASTM D7617	Trans. Shear Strength Retention	n/a	107.6 %	n/a
ASTM E2160	Degree of Cure	>95 %	99.4 %	Pass
	Glass Transition Temperature (DSC)	>100 °C	128 °C	Pass
SAMPLE #5				
ASTM D7705	Tensile Load Retention (with load) <sup>1</sup>	>70 %	89.8 %	Pass
ASTM D7617	Trans. Shear Strength Retention	n/a	106.2 %	n/a
ASTM E2160	Degree of Cure	>95 %	99.1 %	Pass
	Glass Transition Temperature (DSC)	>100 °C	139 °C	Pass



Epoxy Rebar with **LITESTONE™** 3200E/2131H exceeds or meets FDOT 932 specs

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For Further information and discussion, Please contact

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Tel: 562-412-9962

# THIRD INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FRP BARS FOR CONCRETE STRUCTURES

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## How thermoplastic GFRP can help



Paolo Casadei Ph.D. P.E., SiregGeotech, Italy



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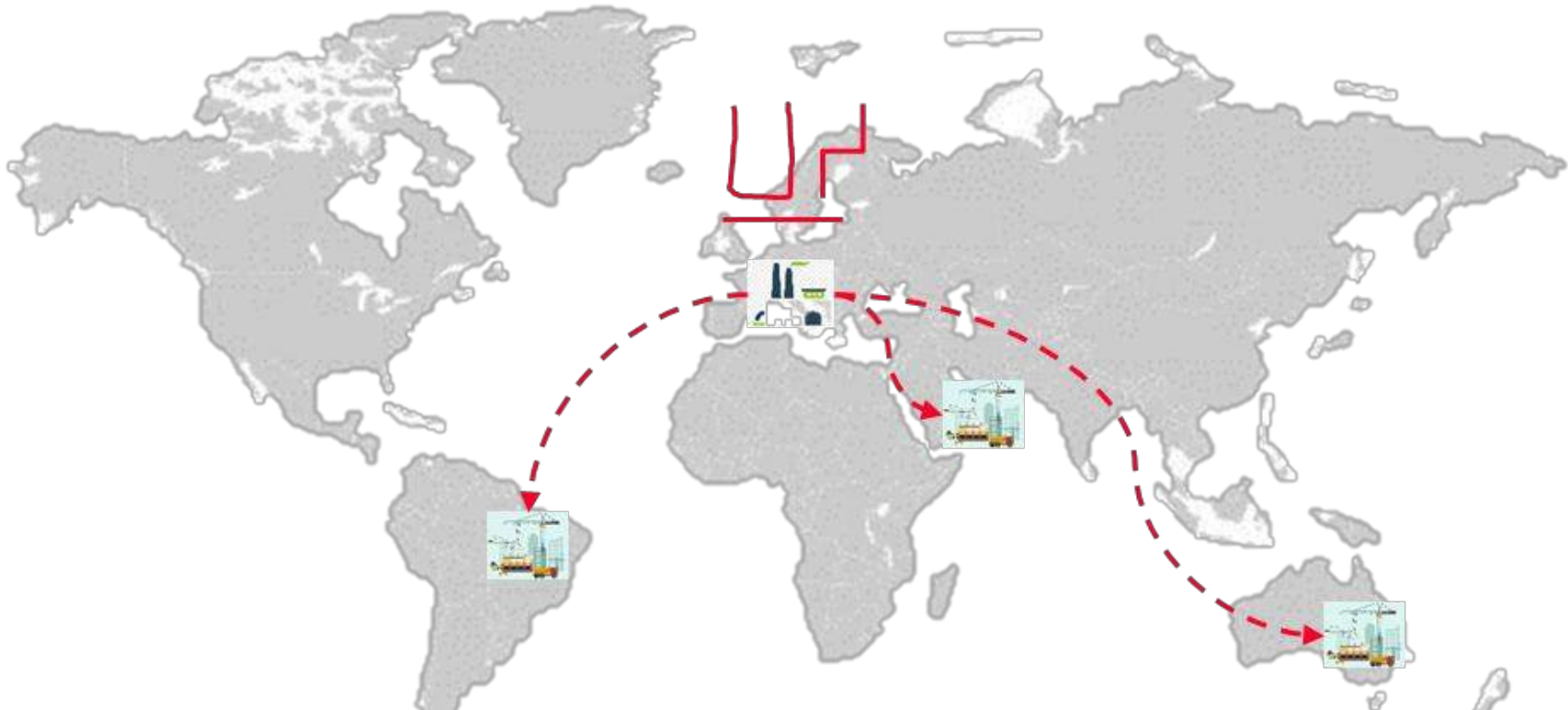


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**Why GFRP rebars are currently implemented mainly in straight applications such as decks and slabs, with limitations as stirrups and bent portions?**

## FRP REBAR CURRENT MANUFACTURER MODEL



- Rebars are not bendable after curing of the resin (thermoset – irreversible hardening):
  - Production of straight rebars shipped to contractor on-site
  - If stirrups are needed, manufacturer needs to receive technical drawings to produce accordingly!

## FRP CURRENT LOGISTIC LIMITATIONS

**CURRENT FRP REBARS WITH THERMOSET RESIN (Vinilester/Epoxy) CANNOT BE BENT LOCALLY BUT ONLY AT MANUFACTURING SITE which causes:**



- Longer lead time for bending & shipping
- Higher transportation costs (volumes)
- More difficult overall logistic if something goes wrong

**THERE ARE ALSO TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS :**

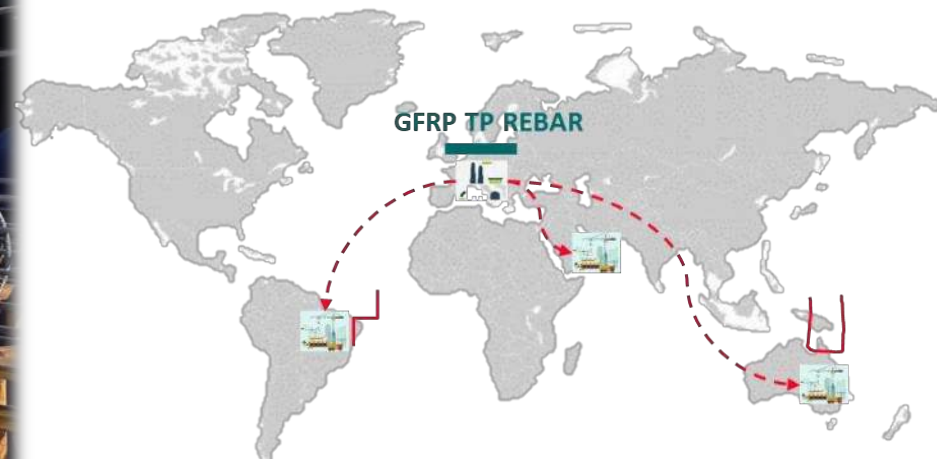


- Not constant quality of the bended rebars
- Lower mechanical properties of the bended rebars compared to straight rebars
- Large bent radius which limits the positioning of longitudinal rebars

## HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THOSE DIFFICULTIES?

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE SAME BUSINESS MODEL OF STEEL REBARS: Rebars are manufactured straight and then shipped to «Transformation centers» which bend rebars, based on design, and prepare cages to be shipped on site.

CERTIFIED TRANSFORMATION SITES ARE DISLOCATED LOCALLY IN THE TERRITORY



# THERMOPLASTIC REBAR REVOLUTION

## NEW BUSINESS MODEL

### FROM MAKE-TO-ORDER INTO MAKE-TO-STOCK

**Supply chain model:** we can switch from the current make-to-order model, with lead time of **3-4 weeks**, to a make-to-stock model.

Lead Time 3-4 days

Manufacture and  
storage of **straight**  
rebars or coils



Shipping to **bending**  
and **distribution**  
centers



Bend the rebars into  
their **final shapes**



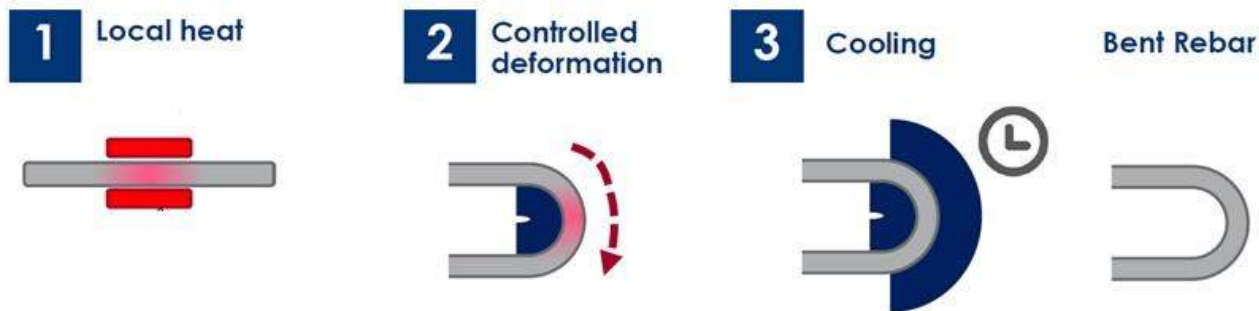
Shipping to  
construction sites /  
final customer



## NEW BENDABLE FRP REBARS

REPLACING **THERMOSET RESIN** BY **THERMOPLASTIC RESIN**, FRP REBARS BECOME BENDABLE LOCALLY!

- Resin is softened by heat and thermoformable (thermoplastic – reversible hardening):
  - When stirrups/bent bars are needed, manufacturer produces straight rebars shipped straight or in coils (to avoid waste) to certified transformation centers that will bend them locally just like they do with steel.



## NEW BENDABLE FRP REBARS

### WHAT ABOUT MECHANICAL-DURABILITY PROPERTIES?

- ✓ **SIMILAR OR BETTER MECHANICAL PROPERTIES** than of thermoset rebars;
- ✓ **BENT BARS HAVE SAME MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF STRAIGHT REBARS** as they are the same rebar simply bent after production – no difference whatsoever respect to straight rebars (no need of having two standards for straight and bent bars).
- ✓ **BENT RADIUS SIMILAR TO STEEL** – allows improving placement of flexural rebars and the overall optimization of design process;
- ✓ Surface treatment to obtain **SAME BONDING** to concrete of thermoset rebars;
- ✓ **Same DURABILITY PROPERTIES** of thermoset rebars (Alkaline and long term behaviour tested)

# NEW BENDABLE FRP REBARS

## WHAT ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY?

- ✓ THERMOPLASTIC REBARS ARE RECYCLABLE !!!
  - ✓ Mechanical recycling compounds
  - ✓ Chemical recycling



THIRD INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FRP BARS FOR CONCRETE  
STRUCTURES

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**THANK YOU!**



**Sireg Geotech S.r.l.**

Phone: **+39 039 627021**

E-mail: **[info@sireg.it](mailto:info@sireg.it)**

Website: **[www.sireggeotech.it](http://www.sireggeotech.it)**

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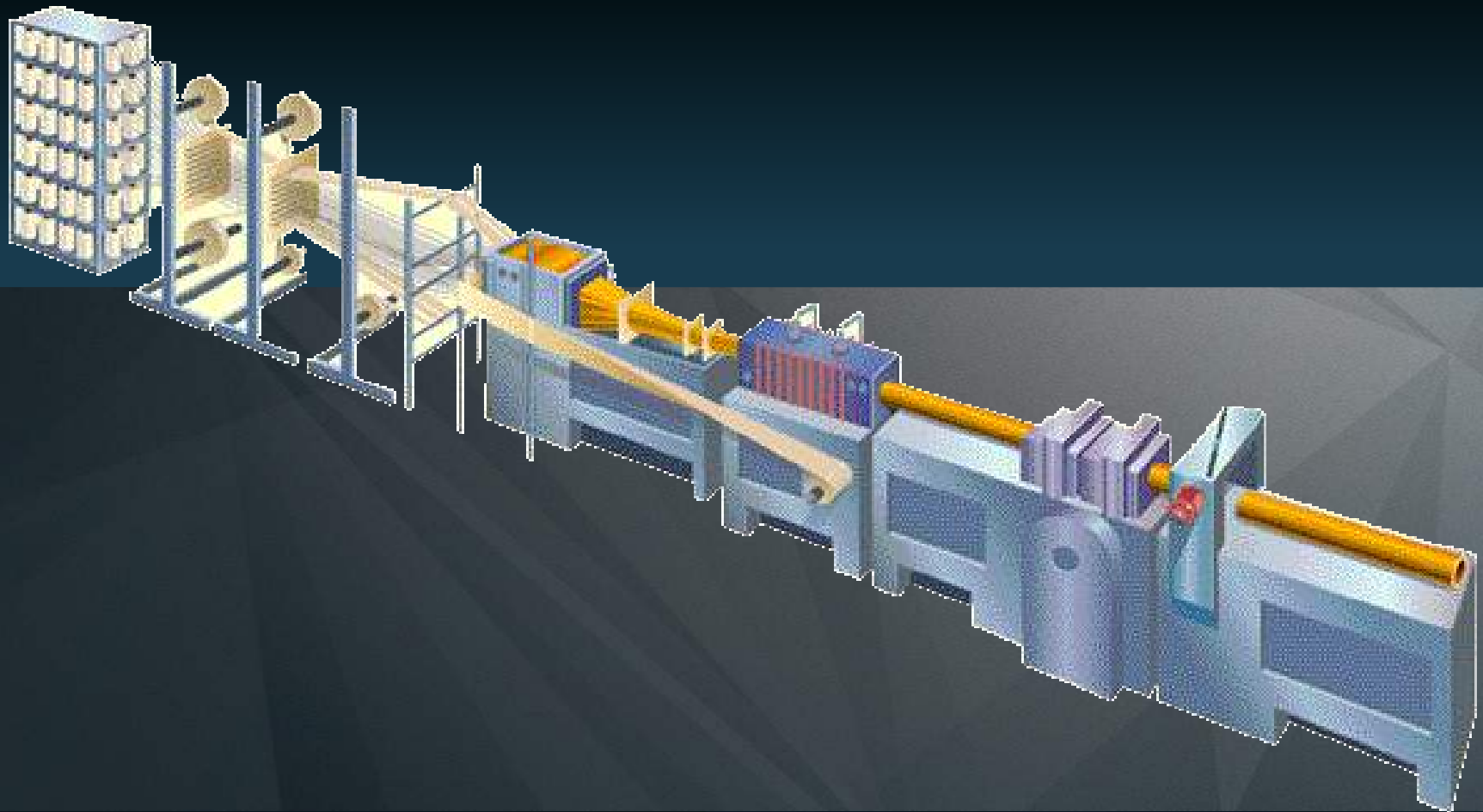
# FRP Rebar Composition

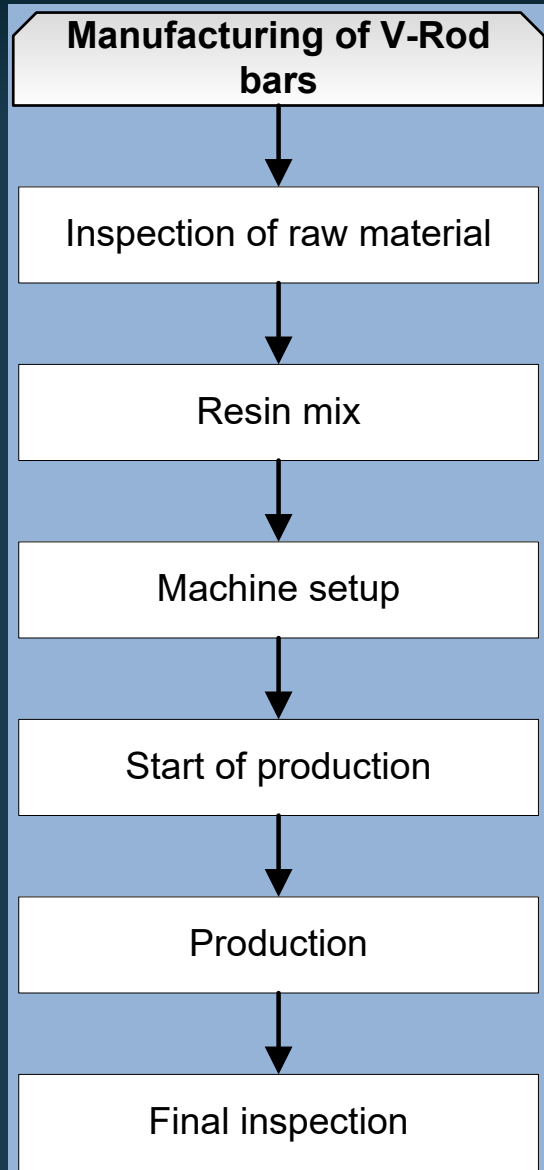
Fibres (Reinforcements)  
Resins (Polymers)  
Fillers  
Additives



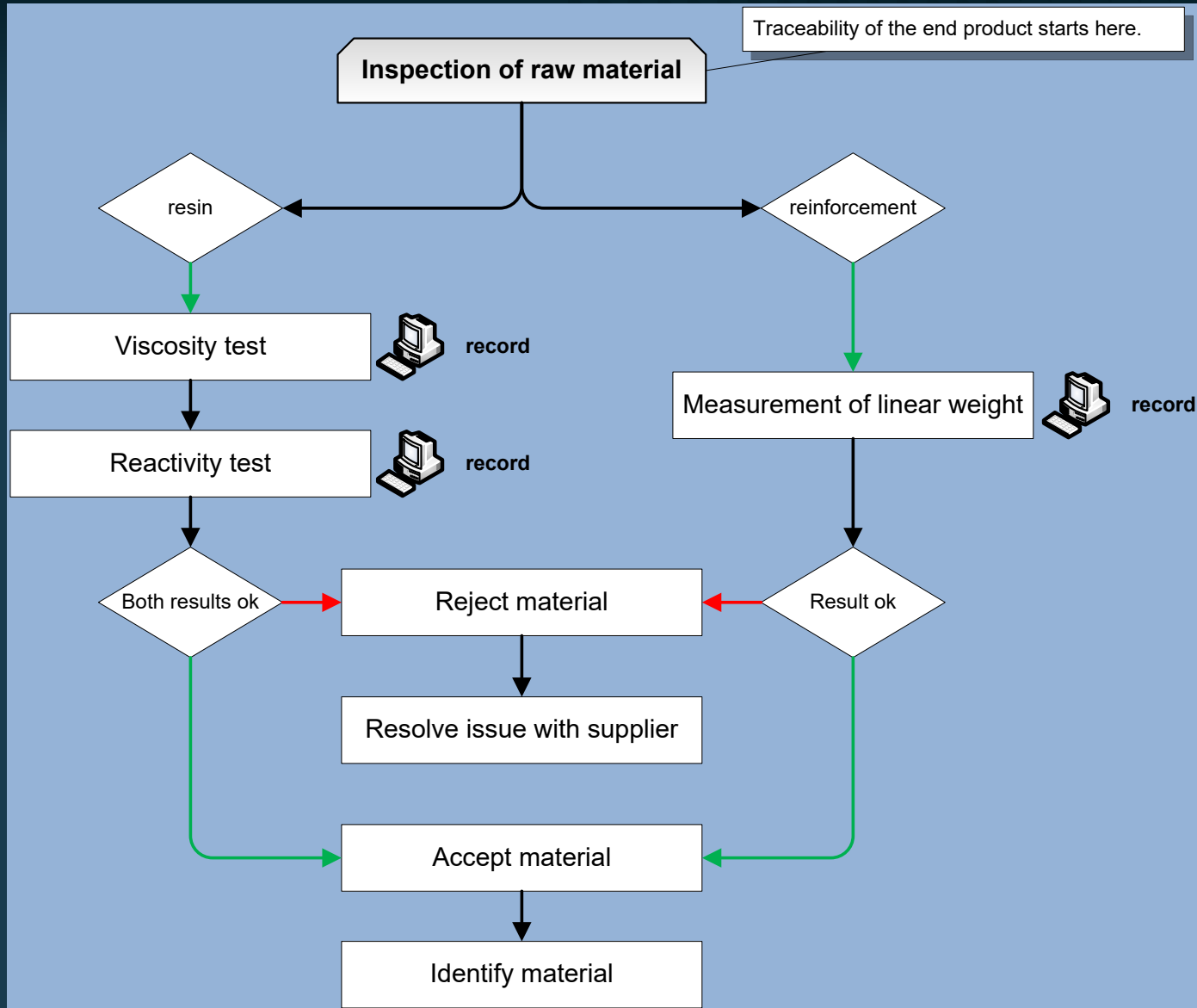
Fibres – Mechanical strength  
Resins – Chemical resistance

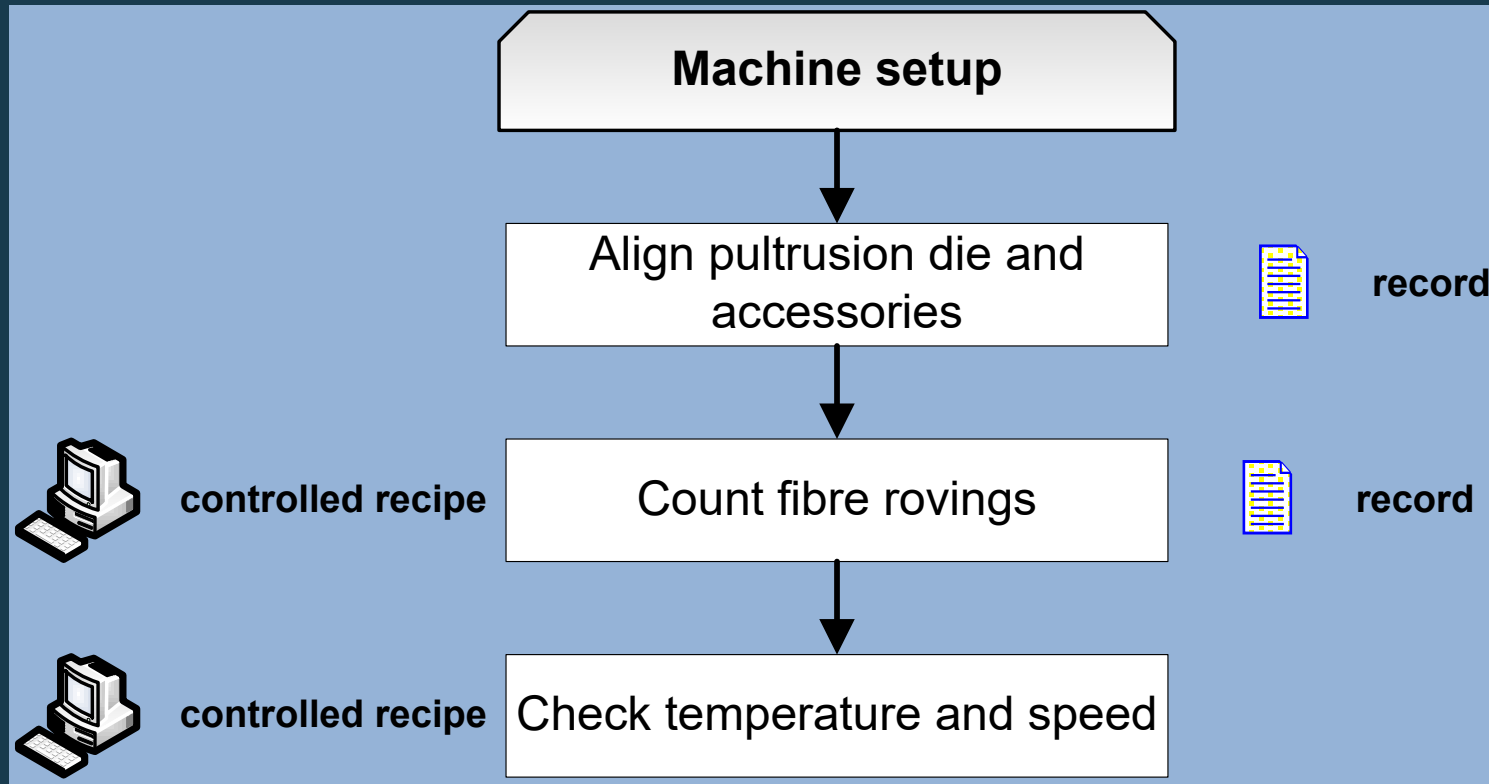
# The process : Pultrusion

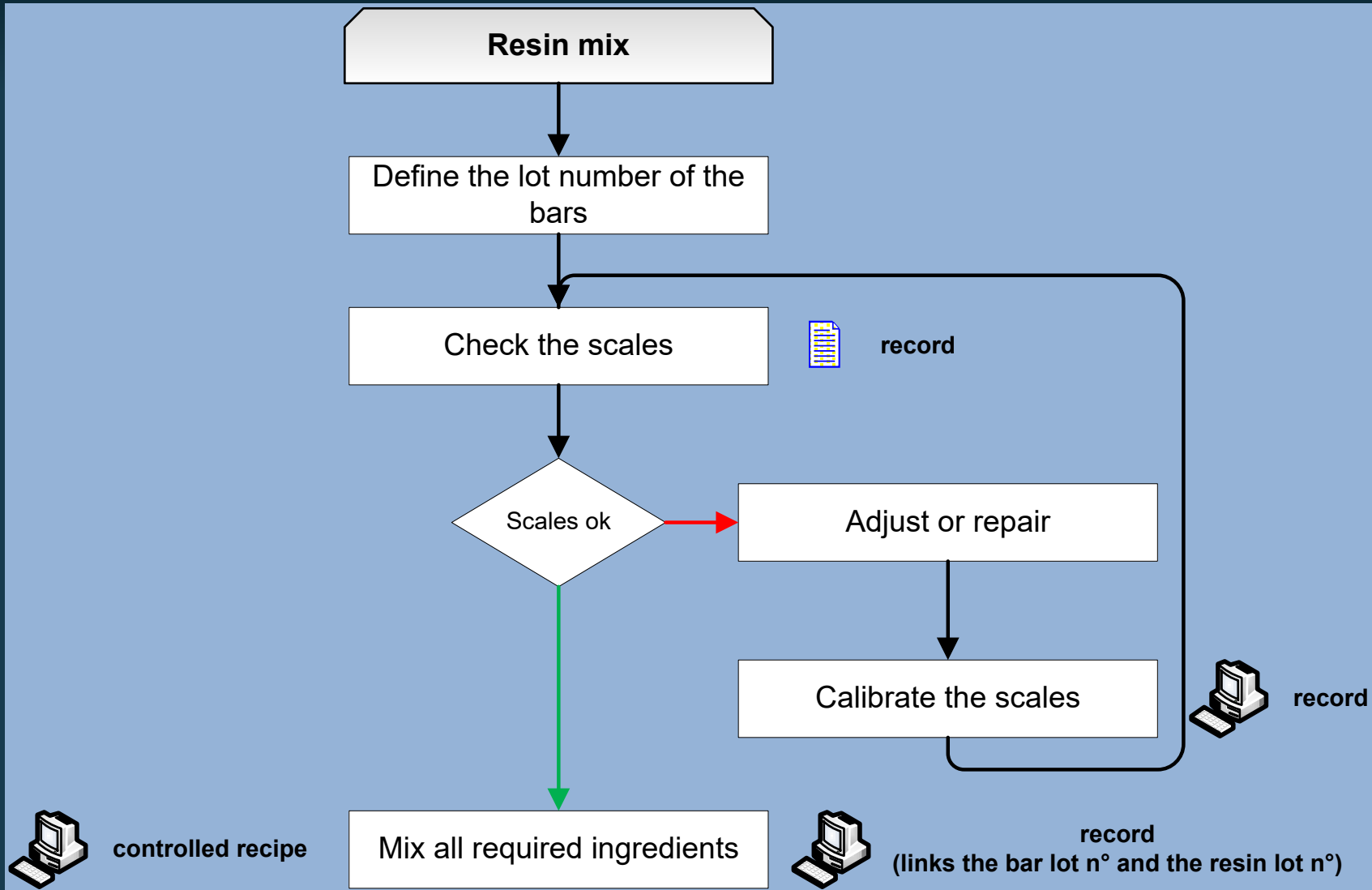


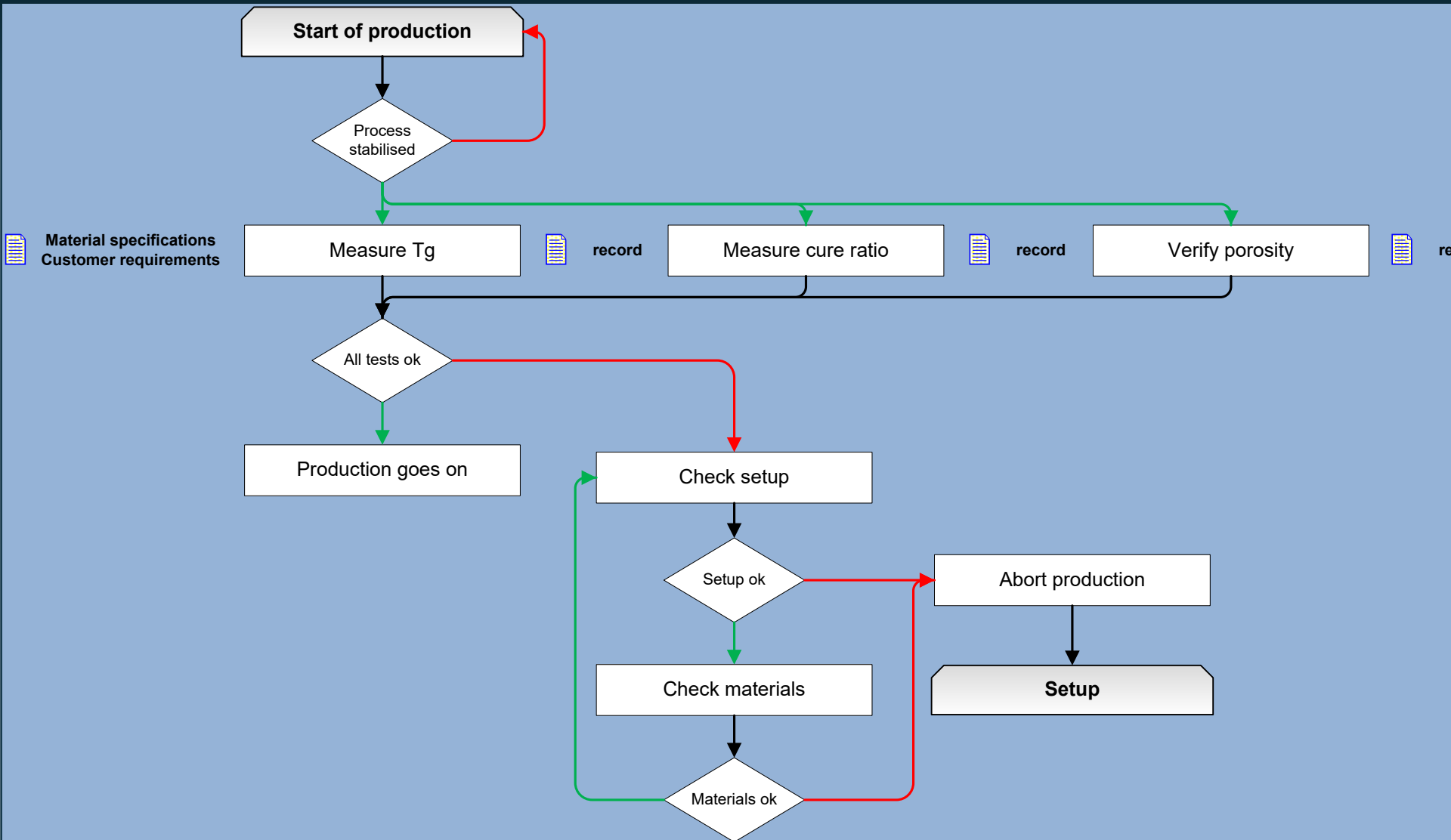


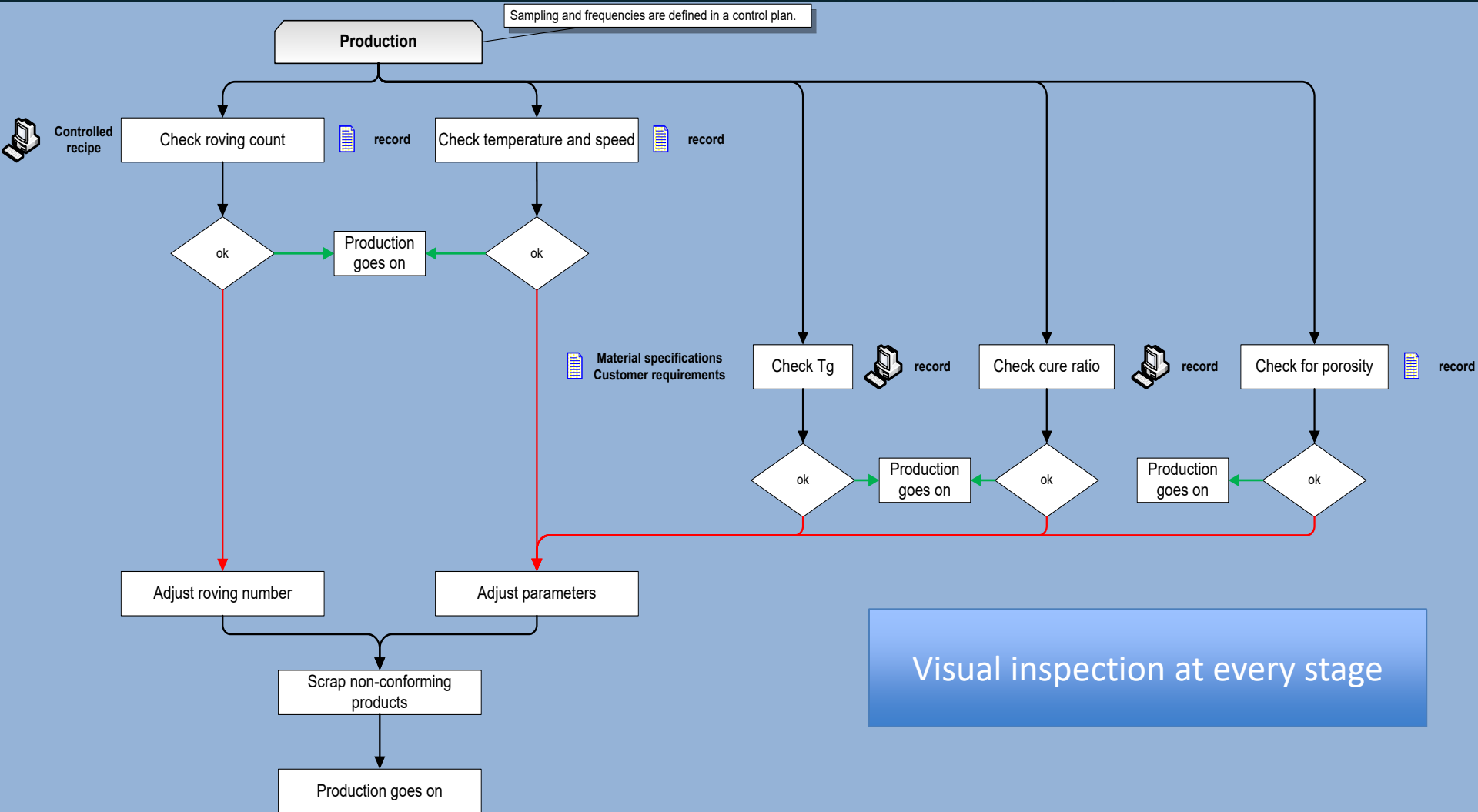




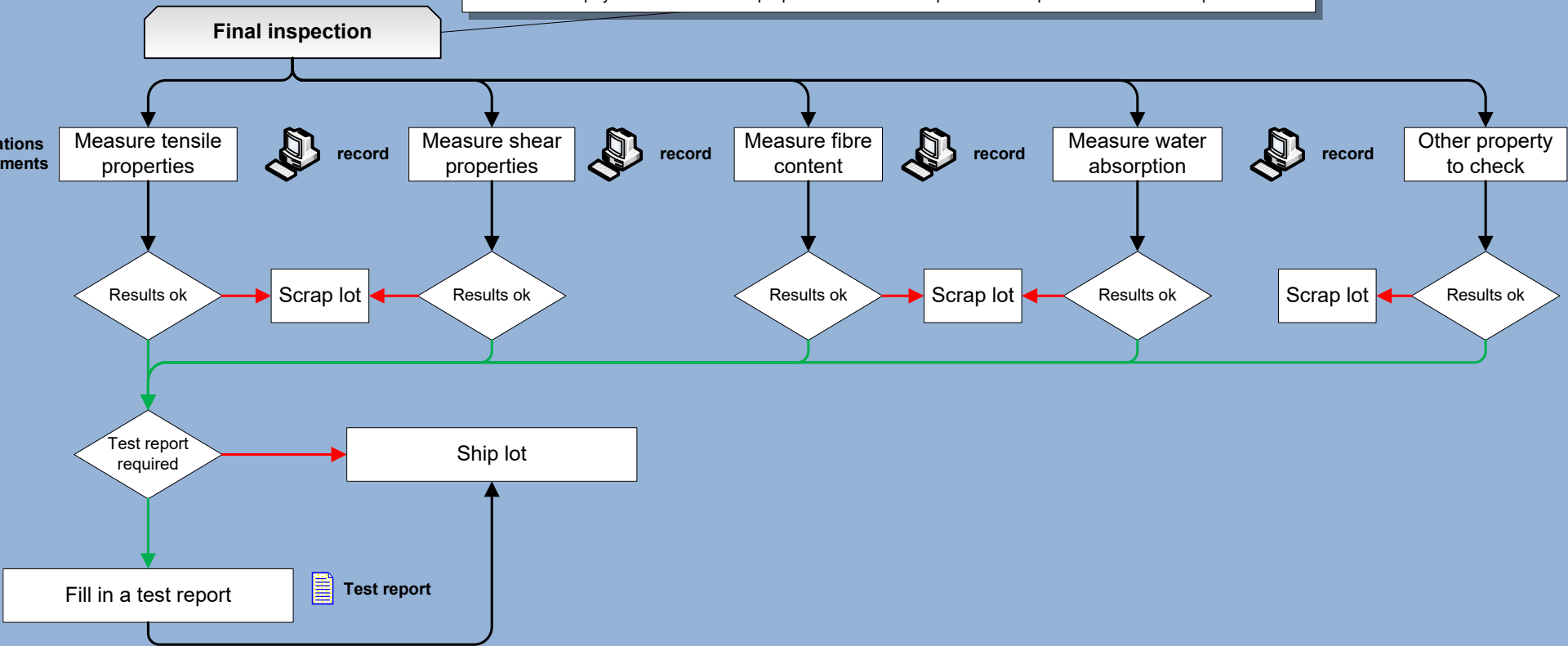








The number of physical or mechanical properties to validate depends on the product and on the requirements.



## Materials

bar #5 grade III  
 type of resin: vinylester, lot number 1702193P  
 type of fibre: glass

## Production

manufacturing process: pultrusion  
 lot number: 1711002-5-60 with a total of m, started on and ended on .  
 a production lot is defined by a change of the lot number of the resin and/or a change of machine

## Product characterisation

Cross sectional area:  
 test method CSA S806 Annex A

sample	mm <sup>2</sup>
1	226
2	225
3	227
4	224
5	224
average	225
std deviation	1,1

required minimum: 189,1  
 required maximum: 238,8

## Longitudinal tensile properties:

test method CSA S806 Annex C

sample	load at break (kN)	strength (MPa)	modulus (MPa)	elongation (m/m)
1	279	1411,2	61670	2,3%
2	284	1435,3	61876	2,3%
3	293	1478,3	61526	2,4%
4	297	1499,2	62190	2,4%
5	282	1422,2	61624	2,3%
average	286,9	1449,2	61777	2,3%
std deviation	6,7	33,8	236	0,1%

required minima: 200 60000 1,2%

## Transverse shear strength

test method ACI 440.3R test method B4

sample	load at break (kN)	strength (MPa)
1	96,6	244,0
2	99,9	252,4
3	97,9	247,3
4	97,1	245,4
5	97,0	245,2
average	97,7	246,8
std deviation	1,2	2,9

required minimum: 180

## Fibre content (per weight):

test method ASTM D2584 (temp 650°C, sand coating discarded from result)

sample	%
1	83,4%
2	83,8%
3	83,9%
4	83,4%
5	83,5%
average	83,6%
std deviation	0,2%

required minimum: 70%

## Void content:

test method ASTM D5117 (15 min wicking with basic fuchsin)

sample	wicking
1	ok
2	ok
3	ok
4	ok
5	ok

## Water absorption:

test method ASTM D570 (50°C)

sample	weight variation 24h	weight variation long term
1	0,06%	0,12%
2	0,06%	0,10%
3	0,07%	0,11%
4	0,07%	0,11%
5	0,07%	0,12%
average	0,07%	0,11%
std deviation	0,00%	0,01%

required minima: 0,25% 0,45%

## Cure ratio and glass transition temperature:

test method ASTM D3418 and CSA S807 Annex A (half-height @ 20°C/min)

sample	cure ratio (%)	Tg (°C)
1	99,90	138
2	99,61	134
3	99,68	129
4	99,73	131
5	99,51	127
average	99,69	131,7
std deviation	0,13	3,7

required minima: 95 100

## The quality system

- ▶ ISO9002-1994 since 1994
- ▶ ISO9001-2000 since 2003
- ▶ TS16949 since 2008
- ▶ ISO14001 since 2016

The image displays two BSI certificates for Pultrall Inc. and a large BSI ISO 9001 FM 516533 logo. The certificates are for Quality Management Systems (QMS) and are issued by the Certification Body of the United Kingdom (Ce of UK).

**Left Certificate:**  
Ce of UK  
QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
This is to certify that:  
Pultrall Inc.  
700, 9e rue Nord  
Theftord Mines  
Québec  
G6G 6Z5  
Canada  
Holds Certificate No: FM 516533  
and operates a Quality Management System  
Design and manufacturing of compo  
This certificate is traceable to this co  
3450-2 dated 05/12/2000 and issued

**Right Certificate:**  
Ce of UK  
QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
This is to certify that:  
Pultrall Inc.  
700, 9e rue Nord  
Theftord Mines  
Québec  
G6G 6Z5  
Canada  
Holds Certificate No: TS 516531  
and operates a Quality Management System w  
scope:  
Manufacture of composite parts by pull  
Permitted Exclusions: Product Design

**Large BSI Logo:**  
BSI™  
ISO 9001  
FM 516533

**Signatures and Dates:**  
For and on behalf of BSI:  
VP Regulatory Affairs, BSI Group America Inc.  
Originally Registered: 03/15/2007  
Originally Registered: 09/13/2011  
IATF Number: 0126720

**Logos:**  
BSI, IAF, and other certification logos are visible at the bottom of the certificates.



## Certification

**V-ROD is CSA-S807-10  
and ASTM-D7957  
certified**



# Conclusion

- ▶ The quality system should be independently audited annually
- ▶ The product range should comply with CSA-S807 and ASTM D7957 (independently tested by a third party).
- ▶ Every manufacturing step should be subjected to inspections

***PULTRALL***

*STRONG and FLEXIBLE*

*Thank you*