



IS 9550: Surface Quality, Decarburization & Testing of Bright Steel Bars

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Testing of Bright Steel Bars 1

The **surface quality** and **integrity** of bright steel bars are critical for their performance in machining, forming, and engineering applications. IS 9550:2001 lays down clear standards for defects, decarburization, and testing.

At **Steelmet Industries**, we ensure our bright bars meet the highest surface and metallurgical standards in full compliance with IS 9550.

Surface Quality Classes in IS 9550

IS 9550 classifies surface quality into four defect classes based on bar diameter and shape. These define the **maximum permissible defect depth** on the surface of bright bars.

Table 1: Surface Defect Limits (Class-wise)

Nominai Size (u)	Class I	Class Z	Class 3	Class 4
Up to 15 mm	0.03 mm	0.03 mm	0.02 mm	Technically crack-free by testing
15 â?? 20 mm	0.02 Ã? d	0.02 Ã? d	0.02 mm	Technically crack-free
20 â?? 75 mm	0.02 Ã? d	0.02 Ã? d	0.01 Ã? d	l echnically crack-free
Above 75 mm	0.11 mm	0.50 mm	0.75 mm	â??

d = Nominal diameter or across-flats dimension

Additional Notes from IS 9550



- Drawn products may have minor imperfections like pores, pits, or scoring.
- Surface finish is generally better in round bars than in hexagonal or square sections.
- Crack-free bars are usually supplied in turned or turned and ground conditions only.
- Non-round sections do not carry surface finish class obligations as strict as round bars.

Decarburization Control

Surface decarburization reduces the strength and hardness of steel. IS 9550 specifies limits:

- Turned and ground bars: No surface decarburization permitted.
- **Cold drawn bars:** Total decarburization not permitted. Limited partial decarburization allowed only up to defect depth specified for Class 2.

Optional and Mandatory Tests

IS 9550 allows the purchaser and manufacturer to agree on additional tests beyond standard mechanical checks.

Table 2: Tests Applicable Under IS 9550

Test Type	Reference Standard 15 4163	
Hardenability (Jominy Test)	GC (IS 3848	
Inclusion Content	IS 4163 21 11 10 V	
Grain Size	IS 4748	
Microstructure Examination	IS 7739	
Crack Detection â?? Magnetic, Radiographic, Ultrasonic IS 2595, IS 3658, IS 3664, IS 3703		
Decarburization Measurement	IS 6396	
Surface Roughness (if applicable)	As mutually agreed	

Sampling Procedure for Testing

- For turned or ground bars: 1 sample per 20 tonnes (minimum 1 per cast)
- For cold drawn bars: 1 sample per cast
- For annealed/processed bars: 1 per batch of max 20 tonnes

Samples for mechanical testing are taken in the direction of the fibre (i.e., rolling direction).

Retesting Clause

If a sample fails a test, two additional samples are taken. If both pass, the material is accepted. If either fails, the batch is rejected.

+91-712-2728071 | www.steelmet.in

Steelmet Industries â?? Bright Bars with Guaranteed Surface Integrity

We deliver crack-free, scale-free, and decarb-controlled bright bars ideal for machining, forging, and critical load-bearing use. Test certificates and full traceability are available on request.

Contact Steelmet Industries to order IS 9550-compliant bars with guaranteed test performance and surface control.

FAQs on Surface Quality and Testing in IS 9550

What surface defects are allowed in IS 9550 bright bars?

Minor imperfections like pores and scoring may be present in drawn bars. IS 9550 limits surface defect depth by class, based on bar size.

Is decarburization allowed on IS 9550 bars?

No total decarburization is allowed. For turned and ground bars, surface decarburization is not permitted. Drawn bars may allow limited partial decarb.

Are test certificates required under IS 9550?

Steelmet Industries ... Alloy ess Steels Test certificates are optional and provided if mutually agreed. Steelmet Industries offers MTCs for all major tests upon request.

By Steelmet Industries Team â?? Experts in Special Steels

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1. IS:9550-2001

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