Hemp and steel: compare like for like

Compare the same property, test conditions and intended use.

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1 Identify the material

Hemp fibre, rope and hemp-lime composites are different products. Steel wire, cable and structural steel are also distinct.

2 Choose the property

Tensile strength, stiffness, density and breaking load answer different questions.

3 Control the comparison

Use the same test basis, geometry, conditioning and loading method. Breaking loads alone are not material strength.

4 Consider the assembly

Knots, connections, flaws, manufacture and moisture can affect rope or component performance.

5 Require product evidence

For structural or lifting use, demand the applicable specification, test results, design and traceable certification.

6 Assess sustainability separately

Use a defined life-cycle scope. A renewable feedstock does not establish every environmental or durability benefit.

Before making a comparison: obtain certified values measured on an equivalent basis.

REFERENCE GUIDANCE

GOV.UK: Approved Document A

Use current product instructions and the approved project design. For regulations, confirm the UK nation, applicable edition and transitional arrangements.

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