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Set column starter bars (vertical) inspection checklist

Set column starter bars (vertical) with an interactive checklist that’s commentable and export as PDF/Excel. Verify position, cover, plumb alignment, and protection—excluding caps.

Project:	
Date:	
Filled by:	

Pre-Setout Verification	
1	Confirm latest IFC drawings, rebar schedule marks, lap lengths, and cover requirements are issued for construction; brief crew on tolerances and acceptance evidence.
2	Inspect starter bars for kinks, necking, heavy corrosion, oil, or mud; clean with wire brush and rags; quarantine defective bars. Evidence: before/after photos; acceptance: clean, undamaged steel.
3	Verify bar diameter and grade against schedule using caliper and mill certificates; tag bundles by bar mark. Evidence: caliper reading and cert/heat number recorded.

Position & Layout	
4	Establish gridlines/column centerlines with total station and chalk; mark offsets on slab. Evidence: photos of marks; acceptance: marks legible and closed within survey tolerance.
5	Install a rigid plywood/steel template plate with pre-drilled holes matching bar spacing; verify hole positions to drawing ±3 mm using steel rule.
6	Place each starter bar through the template at the correct coordinates; measure to grid with steel tape. Acceptance: position within project tolerance (record mm deviation).

Cover & Spacers	
7	Fit approved concrete cover blocks/spacers of specified thickness at the slab interface; tie or clip to prevent displacement. Acceptance: measured cover within required value ±5 mm; attach photos with ruler.
8	Confirm minimum clear spacing between adjacent bars and to future formwork path using spacer gauge. Acceptance: not less than drawing requirement; record minimum measured clearance in mm.
9	Verify spacer material and compressive class match project requirements; avoid plastic in exposed or high-temperature areas. Evidence: delivery dockets and batch/lot numbers logged.

Alignment & Restraint	
10	Check plumb in two orthogonal planes using a spirit level or digital inclinometer over 1 m. Acceptance: within project plumb tolerance; record mm/m out-of-plumb.
11	Tie bars at intersections using annealed tie wire (double twist); fold cut ends inward to avoid snagging. Evidence: close-up photos; acceptance: no loose ties.
12	Install temporary braces or screw-fixed timber/steel nogs to restrain the bar group and template; confirm no brace infringes cover. Test with ~100 N push; deflection minimal. Photo evidence.

Protection from Damage (No Caps)	
13	Set up perimeter guardrails or dense mesh barriers around protruding bars to prevent impact/impalement. Do not fit plastic bar-end caps on column starters. Evidence: area photos.
14	Shield bars from grinders, weld spatter, and heat using fire blankets; prohibit welding on reinforcement unless specifically approved. Evidence: permit or supervisor confirmation.
15	Apply removable geotextile wrap below the future lap zone to prevent contamination without affecting cover; remove before lapping. Evidence: photo and removal check.
16	Maintain a 1 m exclusion zone for plant and materials; mark on floor with high-visibility paint/tape. Evidence: annotated site plan and photos.

Exclude Caps & Pre-Pour Readiness	
17	Immediately before pour or formwork erection, verify zero bar-end caps present on vertical starters. Evidence: 360° photo sweep; acceptance: no caps.
18	Confirm alternative impalement protection in place (guardrails/mesh/cover boards) per approved project specifications and authority requirements. Evidence: supervisor sign-off and photos.

Documentation & Handover	
19	Survey and record as-built positions for a defined sample or all columns using total station; export CSV with deviations to grid. Acceptance: within project tolerance; attach file.
20	Tag each column starter set with column ID, bar mark, date, and installer initials; update QA log. Evidence: tag photo and digital log entry.

Comments:

Filled by:

Signature:

Introduction	How to use this checklist
Set column starter bars (vertical) is a focused, field-ready checklist designed to help crews correctly place vertical rebar starters for columns. It verifies bar position to grid, required concrete cover, plumb alignment, and robust protection from damage. Within the defined scope of column dowels and starter reinforcement, this guide excludes bar-end caps, while still addressing safe alternatives for impalement prevention. By emphasizing accurate setout, reliable spacers, and secure restraint, it reduces rework, honeycombing, clashes with formwork, and misaligned lapping. It also covers clean steel, proper tagging, and measured evidence so QA/QC can sign off confidently per approved project specifications and authority requirements. Use the checklist to capture photos, measurements, and comments at each step, ensuring traceable acceptance before pours or subsequent works. Start in interactive mode to tick items as you progress, @-mention issues, and export as PDF/Excel with a QR-secured link for supervisors, engineers, and auditors.	1. Preparation: Gather total station, steel tape, chalk line, rigid template, spirit/digital level, tie wire and pliers, cover blocks, wire brush, braces/clamps, guardrails/mesh, camera-enabled device, and required PPE. 2. Open the interactive checklist for the work area, select the column IDs, and confirm the latest drawing and schedule revisions are referenced in the header. 3. Work through items sequentially in the field; tick each step after completing the measurement or photo evidence. Attach images, mm readings, and batch numbers directly to the item. 4. Use comments to flag nonconformances, @-mention responsible parties, and add corrective actions with due dates. Recheck items and close out with resolution notes. 5. Export the checklist and evidence as PDF/Excel for daily reports. Share the QR-secured link with supervisors, engineers, and auditors for traceable access. 6. Sign-Off: Obtain digital signatures from the installer, QA/QC, and responsible engineer. Archive records in the project system with location tags and timestamps.