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Expose Starter Bars Inspection Checklist and Field Guide

Expose starter bars inspection checklist for vertical rebar. Use our interactive checklist—commentable with photos—and export as PDF/Excel for authenticated, traceable QA records.

Project:	
Date:	
Filled by:	

Pre-Exposure Controls	
1	Review latest drawings and specifications for starter bars serving future walls/columns; confirm gridlines and specified protrusion.
2	Establish exclusion zones and edge protection around vertical bars using barrier tape and guardrails; install high-visibility signage.
3	Select low-impact tools for controlled exposure (rotary hammer + bush chisel, hand chisels); document method statement and toolbox talk.
4	Scan concrete with a cover meter to confirm bar locations before breakout; save scan map and mark positions on the slab.

Exposure and Cleaning	
5	Remove residual concrete and laitance around each bar using plastic/nylon brushes; ensure 360° steel visibility at the emergence point.
6	Clean light surface rust with a hand wire brush; do not reduce bar diameter; photograph before/after close-ups with scale.
7	Wipe bars to remove oil, curing compound, or paint using approved solvent rags; verify clean surface by white-cloth swipe.

Length and Spacing Verification	
8	Measure protruding length from finished concrete surface with a steel rule; accept –10/+0 mm from specified projection; record per bar.
9	Inspect base concrete around emergence for spalling or cracking; accept intact cover with no breakout undermining embedment; photo evidence.
10	Measure centre-to-centre spacing using a tape; accept ±10 mm against drawings; record gridline references and bar numbers.
11	Check verticality using a plumb line or mini spirit level; accept ≤5 mm deviation over 1 m protrusion; capture photo with scale.
12	Confirm bar diameter with caliper or rebar gauge; accept match to schedule; record size and any mill marks visible.
13	Verify quantity and grouping per grid location against the bar schedule; annotate plan and photograph the marked-up area.

Integrity and Damage Assessment	
14	Inspect bars for nicks, gouges, or arc burns; accept no section loss >5% and no sharp notches; photograph defects.
15	Check straightness and any unintended bends; cold-correct with approved jig if needed; accept deviation ≤ bar diameter over 1 m.
16	Assess corrosion condition; accept uniform light rust only; reject pitting >0.5 mm or scale; note extent and location.
17	Remove temporary tie wires or spacers that could obstruct future works; dispose of waste; area left free and clear.

Protection and Temporary Measures	
18	Fit high-visibility protective caps to all exposed vertical bar ends; one cap per bar; photograph entire run.
19	Apply temporary corrosion protection (approved wax tape or coating) when exposure exceeds 7 days or marine spray risk exists; record batch.
20	Cover grouped bars with UV-resistant sheeting; secure against wind with soft ties to avoid chafing; photo after installation.
21	Tag location with unique ID showing gridlines and bar count; update checklist entry linking photos and measurements.
22	Maintain housekeeping around exposed bars; remove debris and trip hazards; supervisor confirms area safe for other trades.

Documentation and Handover	
23	Upload measurement logs, scaled photos, and annotated plans to the checklist; ensure traceability bar-by-bar.
24	Record nonconformances with corrective actions, responsible persons, and target dates; set status to open/closed.
25	Obtain digital signatures from inspector and contractor representative; distribute the signed lot pack per approved project specifications and authority requirements.

Comments:

Filled by:

Signature:

Introduction	How to use this checklist
Expose starter bars inspections help ensure vertical reinforcement revealed from concrete is ready for continuity work. This checklist focuses on vertical projecting rebar—often called starter reinforcement or protruding bars—emerging from slabs and footings to connect future walls and columns. It excludes coupler installation activities. You will confirm protruding lengths, bar spacing, verticality, and bar diameter against the approved drawings; evaluate integrity for damage, bends, arc burns, or corrosion; and verify protection such as high■visibility caps and temporary corrosion control. Proper exposure and verification reduce structural risks from insufficient development length, misalignment, or hidden damage, and prevent injuries from uncovered bar ends. The outcome is a safely managed workfront with traceable measurements, clear photo evidence, and ready-to-build status per approved project specifications and authority requirements. Use this interactive checklist to tick items, add comments with photos, and export your inspection record to PDF or Excel, complete with a QR for authentication.	1. Preparation: gather approved drawings, cover meter, steel rule, tape, plumb line, caliper, brushes, solvent rags, high-visibility caps, temporary coating, tags, PPE, and camera. 2. Open the interactive checklist, select project, location, and lot/pour. Confirm scope is vertical starter bars and that coupler installation is excluded. 3. Start inspection in interactive mode: tick items as completed, enter measured values, and attach photos with scales and annotated plan snapshots. 4. Use comments to flag issues, assign responsible persons, and set due dates. Reference gridlines and unique tag IDs in each comment for traceability. 5. Export progress or final records to PDF/Excel for distribution. The QR code on exports authenticates the dataset and links back to the live checklist. 6. Sign-Off: collect digital signatures from inspector and contractor representatives; archive the lot pack and share with stakeholders per project procedures.