

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

"Costruzioni Metalliche" is a bimonthly scientific and technical journal dedicated to promoting the use of steel in civil engineering and architecture. The journal is committed to maintaining the highest standards of publication ethics and is prepared to take all necessary steps to prevent publication malpractices. This **Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement** is intended to uphold a transparent, ethical, and rigorous publishing environment, reflecting the values and responsibilities shared by "Costruzioni Metalliche" and its community of authors, reviewers, and editors.

1. Peer Review Process

- All manuscripts submitted to "Costruzioni Metalliche" undergo a rigorous single-blind peer review, meaning that reviewers' identities are kept anonymous to authors. This process fosters objective assessments and protects reviewers from potential bias.
- Each submission is typically reviewed by two independent experts selected by the editorial team based on their expertise in the subject area. Final editorial decisions are grounded in the recommendations provided by reviewers.
- The journal is dedicated to an efficient review process, striving to reach a timely publication decision.

2. Authors' Responsibilities

- **Originality and Plagiarism:** Authors must ensure their work is original and has not been published or submitted elsewhere. Any use of other authors' work must be appropriately cited to acknowledge sources and prevent plagiarism.
- **Data Access and Retention:** Authors should be prepared to provide access to the raw data of their study if requested by reviewers or editors, and must retain this data for a reasonable period after publication.
- **Authorship Criteria:** All listed authors should have made significant contributions to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the study. Each author should approve the final version of the manuscript before submission.
- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** Authors must disclose any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be interpreted as influencing the results or conclusions of their work.
- **Source Acknowledgment:** Authors should properly acknowledge all sources and individuals who have contributed to or influenced their research.

3. Reviewers' Responsibilities

- **Confidentiality:** Manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. Reviewers should not disclose any information regarding the manuscript to anyone outside the peer review process.
- **Objectivity and Ethical Conduct:** Reviews must be conducted objectively, with constructive and respectful comments. Any conflict of interest should be disclosed to the editors, and reviewers must recuse themselves if they believe they cannot provide an unbiased review.
- **Identifying Relevant Works:** Reviewers should identify any relevant work that has not been cited by the authors and alert editors to any substantial similarities to other works.

- **Timely Review:** Reviewers are expected to complete their evaluations within the agreed timeframe to support a swift editorial decision process.

4. Editorial Board Responsibilities

- **Publication Decisions:** The editorial board of "Costruzioni Metalliche" is responsible for making publication decisions based on the manuscript's importance, originality, and clarity, as well as its relevance to the journal's scope.
- **Confidentiality:** The editorial team is committed to confidentiality during the peer review process and does not disclose any information about submitted manuscripts to unauthorized parties.
- **Addressing Ethical Issues:** The editorial team actively investigates any ethical issues reported in submitted or published works, such as plagiarism, data manipulation, or conflicts of interest, and takes action as needed to uphold publication integrity.
- **Ensuring Fair Play:** Editorial decisions are based on the quality and intellectual content of the manuscript, without regard to authors' personal characteristics, affiliations, or backgrounds.

5. Publication Ethics Violations

- **Plagiarism and Duplicate Submission:** "Costruzioni Metalliche" strictly prohibits plagiarism and multiple submissions. Authors must certify that their work is original, has not been published elsewhere, and is not under consideration by another journal.
- **Response to Misconduct:** The journal has established procedures for responding to suspected cases of ethical misconduct, including plagiarism, falsification of data, and conflicts of interest. In cases of verified misconduct, the journal may retract the article, publish corrections, or take other corrective actions as necessary.

6. Copyright and Licensing

- Upon acceptance of an article, authors are required to complete a copyright transfer agreement, assigning copyright to "Costruzioni Metalliche." This agreement enables the journal to manage distribution while authors retain certain rights to share their work as outlined in the publishing agreement.
- Authors are encouraged to indicate any reuse conditions as applicable, particularly if the work includes Open Access sections under specific licenses.