

BES 6001 Annual Report 2012/2013

Executive Summary

BES 6001 continues to grow steadily in terms of client/user recognition, and the number and scope of certificates. It is now recognised by BRE Global and industry stakeholders that the time is now right to move forwards with a significant revision of BES 6001 to reflect the increasing maturity within the responsible sourcing marketplace. The launch of this revised Standard is planned for early 2014.

A short to medium term forward look suggests an increase in interest in the Standard in early 2013/14 with a significant increase in interest from non-UK clients in both Europe as well as further afield.

1. Background

This report covers the period April 2012 to March 2013. BRE Global's BES 6001 *Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Materials* and the sister sector scheme *Eco-Reinforcement* (for the reinforcing steel sector) have been in operation for a period of about four years. By 2012/13 BES 6001 has secured its place in the UK as a major force in the field of responsible sourcing certification for construction products.

2. Certifications

During 2012/13 a total of 15 new certifications were completed by BRE and the three sub-licensees of the scheme (see below). The split of products certified were:

Table 1 – Certificates in 2012/13

Product Type	No.	Product Type	No.
Plastic products	2	Structural steel products	2
Blocks	2	Roof tiles	1
Plasterboard	2	Cement	2
Aggregates, asphalt, cement and ready mixed concrete	1	Precast concrete, concrete products and ready mixed concrete	2
Reinforcing steel	1		

Major companies achieving certification in 2012/13 included:



(NB all certificate holders can be online at www.greenbooklive.com/search/scheme.jsp?id=153)

At year end the total number of valid certificates stood at 81 certificates covering 59 companies (some companies have multiple certifications).

To date all certified companies have retained their certification in the manner determined by individual scheme certification bodies. No certified companies have declined to undergo the necessary re-evaluation in order to continue certification and all those companies who have undergone this process have been successful and have retained certification. There have been a small number of industry re-organisations which have resulted in some certificate amendments (renaming, re-allocation of sites between organisations etc).

3. Sub-licensees

The three sub licensees (BSI, Lucideon and QSRMS) have all contributed to the progress of the Standard. During the year BSI contributed five new certificates, Lucideon one more and QSRMS a further four; BRE Global contributed the remaining five certificates. The sub-licensees also played a full part in the stakeholder consultation activity around the scheme development activities outlined below.

4. Scheme Review

Whilst there was not a formal Annual Scheme Review during the reporting period the activities in the stakeholder engagement (both online and at the individual workshops) associated with the development of Issue 3 of the Scheme constitute an equivalent - see the section below on 'Scheme Development'.

Some key findings emerged from this review process are summarised below:

1. **Thresholds** – Whilst some stakeholders suggested that the scoring thresholds (60%, 75% and 90%) used in the scheme in sections 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 should be slightly lowered a similar number suggested that they should be raised. Over 50% of respondents were generally content with the current thresholds.
2. **Certification Levels** – Stakeholders were generally content with the scoring methodology and four levels of pass within the Scheme (over 50% proposing 'no change'). Comments were made regarding the transparency of the scoring on Certificates.
3. **Scheme Coverage** – About 75% of respondents were content with the scope of the Scheme and, at the time of this report, BRE is seeking to expand the scheme coverage in order to move the Scheme forwards.

The overall response to this review was published online and made freely available to all stakeholders. A summary of the information remains available at www.bre.co.uk/page.jsp?id=3104. A chart from this review is included in this Report in the section on Scheme Development on page 4. This chart shows the scope of the review by topic.

It is planned that an Online Stakeholder Review of the scheme will be undertaken annually. The Review will be based on the methodology used to support the development of Issue 3. The precise date of the first Review will be dependent on the timing of the roll-out of Issue 3 and the Transition Procedures enacted around the roll-out.

These Annual Reviews will be used to judge how scheme stakeholders view the scheme and, unless there are any clearly crucial issues which require immediate change, the review data will be used to set the parameters for the development of the next Issue of the Scheme. One clear steer from the stakeholder process used to develop Issue 3 was that stability in the scheme's overall outlook and approach was important.

5. Scheme Performance

In section 1, there is a table indicating the number and sectoral source of new certificates in 2012/13. It is proposed that in future Annual Reports a specific review is undertaken to determine both the general relationship between the different levels of pass (ie Pass, Good, Very Good and Excellent) as well as some analysis of the scoring by clauses in order to understand better where high and low scoring is being achieved. This type of analysis will provide invaluable data when future revisions of the Scheme are worked on.

During the 2012/13 reporting period the periodic review noted above was replaced by a similar but far more comprehensive review undertaken by a visiting student as a part of their PhD activities. It is planned that this review is shortly to be published by the ICE and made freely available to stakeholders via the BES 6001 Green Book Live page. This review was based on certificate data from both BRE as well as from the other three BES 6001 Licensees, and comprised data from 114 scores from 82 certificates. This was not based on the total number of certificates as some data was not available from some certificate holders due to confidentiality reasons.

Some outline findings from an early data review are that:

1. In 2012/13 the scoring breakdown by certificate level (based on all certificates) was:
 - Pass - 8 certificates (5.8%)
 - Good – 51 certificates (37.0%)
 - Very Good – 76 certificates (55.0%)
 - Excellent – 3 certificates (2.2%)
2. There is generally higher correlation between individual clause scores as the certificate score increases from Pass to Excellent ie the higher the certificate score the more matched are the Clause scores.

3. The lowest scoring clauses are Clause 3.4.6 Life Cycle Assessment and Clause 3.4.7 Transport Impacts (this is reflected in the stakeholders' views on where changes should occur in Issue 3 in Figure 1 below).
4. Proportionately higher scores than may be expected against final certificate levels occur in Clause 3.4.3 Resource Use (again supported by the views of stakeholders as in Figure 1 below).
5. Looking at the sectors with the largest representation in the Scheme (Aggregate, Asphalt, Crick, Cement, Concrete and Steel) there is little fundamental difference in performance across sectors, ie there is no one sector with a markedly different (either better or worse) performance in one or more clauses. All sectors generally behave in the same way as noted in points 2, 3 and 4 above.

6. Scheme Development

During 2012 work began on a new issue of BES 6001, this is to be Issue 3 of the Standard. The first revision of BES 6001 (in October 2009) produced relatively minor changes. This second revision is planned to be a major overhaul of the Scheme and will reflect the increasing maturity of the responsible sourcing marketplace and increased pressures to demonstrate a wider range of assessment criteria. In addition, the revision will enable nearly four years of practical experience of undertaking audits to be channelled into the standard to increase robustness, operability and clarity of intent.

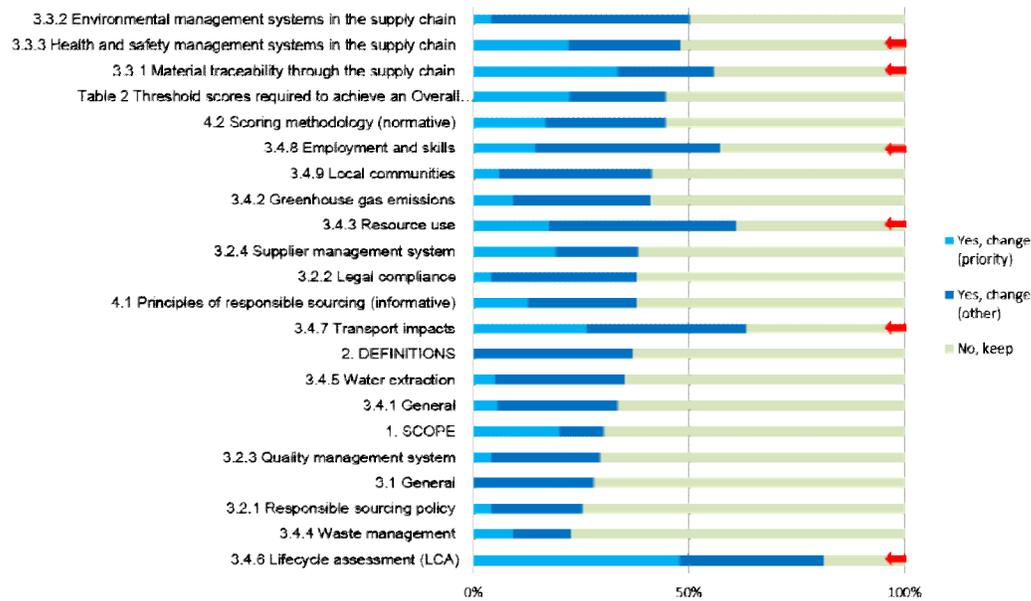
The revision activity began in October 2012 with a stakeholder workshop organised in partnership with the Construction Products Association. This workshop enabled participants to freely express their views on how the scheme might be changed. This preliminary workshop was then followed by an on-line questionnaire (lasting from January to March 2013) enabling a wider range of stakeholders to participate in the discussion process. The results of the two activities were then made available and discussed at a further two stakeholder workshops held in May and June 2013.

The chart overleaf shows a summary of views indicating which parts of the Standard stakeholders wished to see revised in some way. The longer blue columns with red arrows show those parts with most pressure for change.

BRE Global staff is now working on the revised standard and a further brief online stakeholder consultation activity is planned for November 2013. This will be followed by a final workshop in December 2013 to present a document in advance of the planned launch of the revision in early 2014.

In addition to the launch of a new issue of the standard the opportunity of the revision will be used as a springboard to develop and launch new services around the Standard for stakeholders, clients and sub-licensees. Increased on-line pre audit facilities will be developed to assist clients, more information around the progress of the Standard will be made available to the industry and sub-licensees will have enhanced communication channels.

Figure 1 – Stakeholders' Views on Potential BES 6001 Changes



7. Forward Look

From a BRE Global perspective the short to medium term forward look for BES 6001 is extremely positive. At the time of writing this Report (September 2013) there have been three further BRE Global certifications with seven additional audits underway; a 100% increase in activity with only 50% of the year complete. In addition, work is also underway on extensions to two existing certificates, bringing in additional products to existing certifications. A particularly interesting development is that of the seven new audits five are outside the UK in both Europe and the Far East.

The launch of Issue 3 of the Standard will be challenging with a need to arrange for a smooth transition between Issue 2 and Issue 3 (given that certification can last for three years). It will be vital to ensure that existing certificate holders suffer no disbenefits by being innovative in the uptake of the Standard whilst ensuring that newcomers to the Standard, and seeking certification to BES 6001 for the first time, experience no challenges through being early adopters of the revised Standard.

BRE Global
September 2013