

Executive Summary

During the April 2013 to March 2014 period the BES 6001 Standard has experienced great change. The new Issue of the Standard has been developed with significant input and support from a wide range of stakeholders. Many workshops and events were held during the reported period where stakeholders robustly expressed how they felt the Standard should be developed.

New agreements are now being developed with BES 6001 Licensees which will greatly benefit not only the Licensees (with additional support from BRE Global) but clients as well, through a wider offering of auditing bodies to choose from.

Meanwhile, whilst these changes were underway, the day to day provision of certification services to clients continued to grow apace with new clients in new sectors and new geographic areas completing their audits and securing BES 6001 certification. And through this guaranteeing their market differentiation from their competitors and assuring their customers distinctively different products with the advantage of enhanced performance in BREEAM evaluations.

1. Background

This report covers the period April 2013 to March 2014. 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 five years. As anticipated in the 2012/13 Annual Report this period covered the bulk of the work associated with the development and launch of Issue 3 of the Scheme. It was a year of both continued expansion of the certification client base as well as one of significant scheme change and development.

2. Certifications

During 2013/14 a total of 20 new certifications were completed by BRE and the three sub-licensees of the scheme. Table 1 (overleaf) indicates the sectoral spread of these new certificates.

Products from four new sectors (Stone, Insulation Products, Glass and Steel Products) were certified whilst three previously active sectors (Blocks, Plasterboard and Structural Steel Products) saw no new certifications.

An interesting development in the year was the interest shown from non-UK based companies. Four of the certificates issued in the year were from outside the UK – Spain, Portugal, France and Germany.

Table 1 – New Certificates by Sector in 2013/14

Product Type	No.	Product Type	No.
Plastic products	3	Structural steel products	0
Blocks	0	Roof tiles	1
Plasterboard	0	Cement	3
Aggregates, sand, gravel, asphalt and ready mixed concrete	4	Precast concrete, concrete products	1
Reinforcing steel	3	Insulation products (New)	1
Stone (New)	1	Glass (New)	1
Composite Sandwich Panels	1	Steel products (New)	1

Major companies achieving certification in 2013/14 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 89 certificates covering 76 companies (some companies have multiple certifications).

All certified companies continue to retain 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 continue to be small number of industry re-organisations which have resulted in some certificate amendments (renaming, re-allocation of sites between organisations etc).

3. Licensees

The three BES 6001 Licensees (BSI, Lucideon and QSRMS) have all contributed to the continued development of the Standard. During the year BSI contributed eight new certificates, Lucideon two more and QSRMS another two; BRE Global contributed the remaining eight certificates. Licensees also continued to play a full part in the stakeholder consultation activity supporting the scheme development outlined below in section 6.

As the development of Issue 3 of the Scheme progressed work began on developing new agreements with the current three Licensees. The new agreements will strengthen BRE's oversight of the Licensees activities whilst simultaneously delivering enhanced technical support from BRE to the Licensees. New agreements are planned to be in place by late Summer 2014.

In addition, work began on identifying potential new Licensees to support the expansion of BES 6001 into new markets. This expansion is hoped to broaden both the geographical coverage of the scheme, with Europe beyond the UK already beginning to show interest in the Scheme it is thought the opportune time to consider other markets such as the US and Asia. To this end negotiations are well-developed with a major multi-national certification body around their application to become a BES 6001 Licensee. Further organisations are also in discussion with BRE regarding Licensing.

4. Scheme Review

With the scheme still in a state of transition during the reporting period and stakeholders continuing to contribute their thoughts regarding scheme structure and coverage throughout the reporting period there was no single formal Annual Scheme Review undertaken during the reporting period.

However, during the development of the scheme in the reporting period there were a number of formal opportunities for stakeholders to engage with BRE in providing scheme review input, these were:

- a. Two stakeholder Workshops in May and June 2013 to discuss the results of the on-line Review held in January – March 2013, ie in the previous reporting year and reported in the 2012-13 Annual Report.
- b. An online stakeholder consultation in October – November 2013 seeking views on the first draft of Issue 3 of the Scheme.
- c. A stakeholder workshop in December 2013 to discuss the outcomes of the consultation in b. above.
- d. A 'rapid response' (2 week long) online stakeholder consultation in February to comment on the final version of Issue 3 of the Scheme.
- e. An open, free of charge, information day at BRE in April 2014 at which the final version of Issue 3 of the Scheme was presented along with transition arrangements between Issue 2 and Issue 3 of the Scheme.

The overall response to this entire review process was published online and made freely available to all stakeholders as it occurred. A summary of the information remains available on the BRE website at www.bre.co.uk/page.jsp?id=3104.

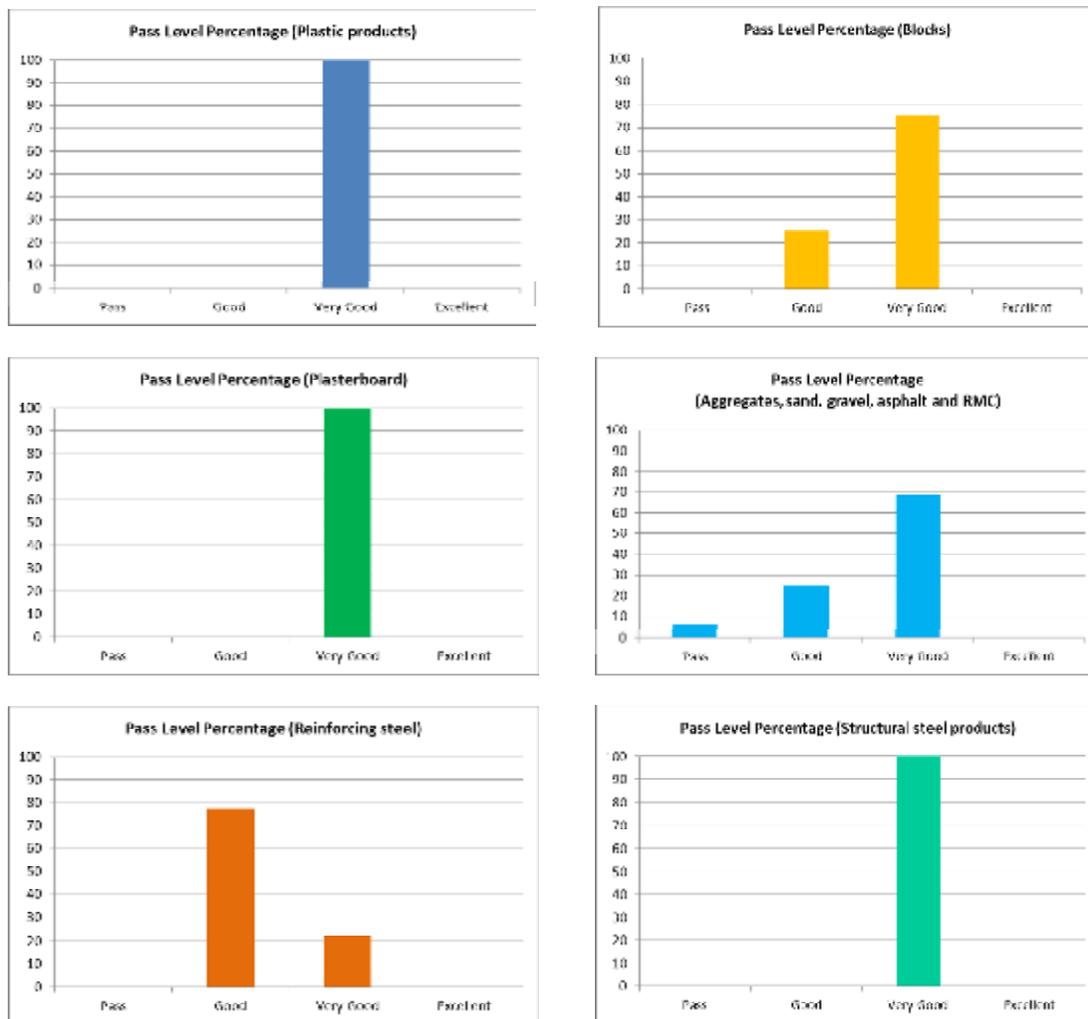
As noted in the 2012/13 Annual Report it is planned that an Online Stakeholder Review of the scheme will be undertaken annually. The Review will be based on the methodology used to support the development of Issue 3. With Issue 3 of the scheme successfully launched in May 2014 it is planned to hold the first of these reviews in March/April 2015 by which time stakeholder experience and perception of the scheme will be established. The results of the review will be presented in the next (2014-15) Annual Report.

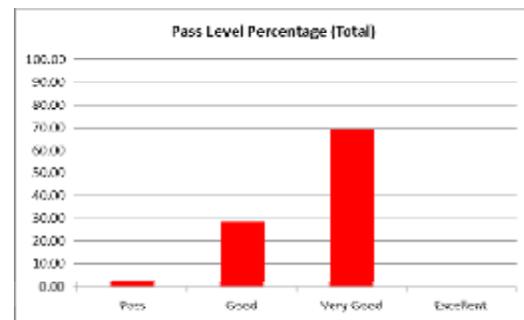
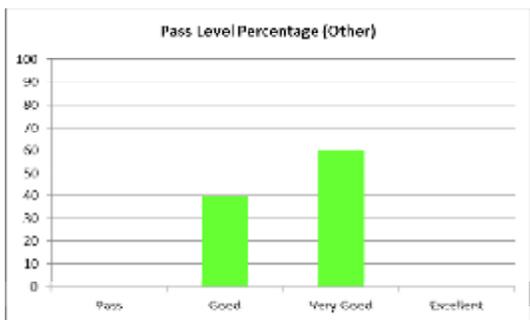
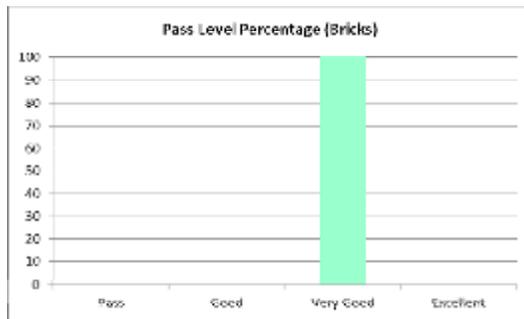
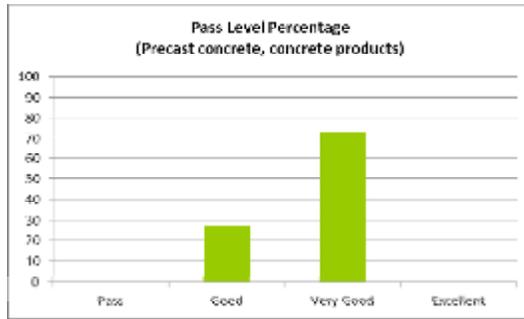
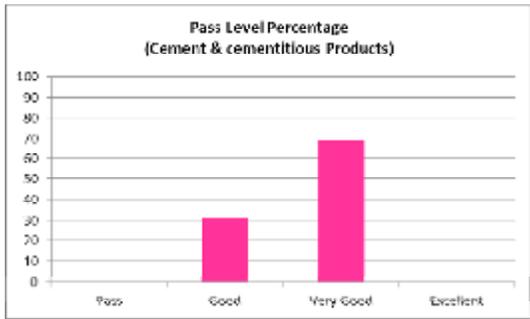
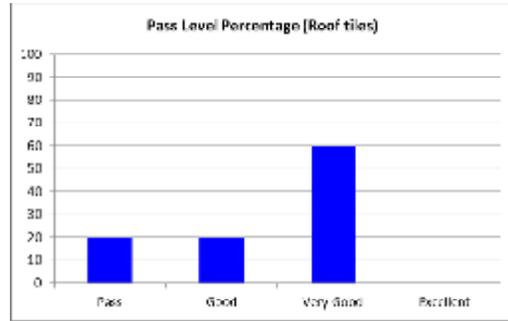
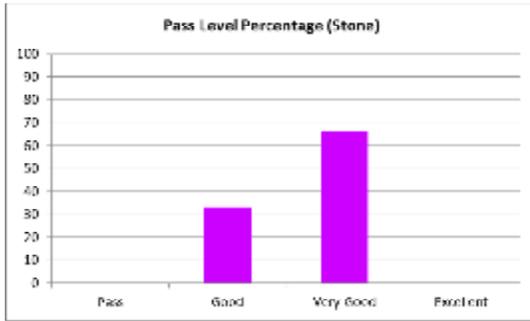
5. Scheme Performance

Section 2. includes a table indicating the number and sectoral source of new certificates in 2012/13.

In the 2012/13 Annual Report it was noted that a comprehensive review was undertaken by a visiting student as a part of their PhD activities. The report from this review is still planned to be published in a major institutional journal. When it is available it will be made freely accessible to stakeholders via the BES 6001 Green Book Live page.

A new review of Scheme performance was undertaken for this Annual Report. In this review the pass level of all certificates, by sector (as defined in Section 2. above) were analysed. Charts have been prepared for each sector as well as for the whole sample. The sample size was 84 certificates (where all the necessary data was available). The charts are presented below:





In the main the graphs show a common trend across nearly all sectors with 'Very Good' certificates dominating over 'Good' in a ratio of about 2:1 with very few 'Pass' and currently no 'Excellent' scores.

Some sectors (generally those with a lower sample size) have 100% 'Very Good' certificates. Whilst the only sector to have more 'Good' than 'Very Good' certificates is the Reinforcing Steel sector.

The issue regarding the focusing of certificate scores is one which the revised scoring regime in Issue 3 aims to improve (see Section 6. below). It is hoped that the 'entry level' score of 'Pass' will be seen to be more accessible to organisations (particularly SMEs) through the re-alignment of some clauses. Similarly, the offering of additional credits in other clauses is expected to offer high performing organisations to extend their scoring into the 'Excellent' level. The overall impact being to populate more fully the 'Pass' and 'Excellent' certificate scores.

6. Scheme Development

As noted in the 2012-13 Annual Report work began on Issue 3 of BES 6001. In the 2012-13 Annual Report the activities up to the planned two stakeholder workshops held in May and June 2013 was reported.

The progress of the activity including and after these Workshops is reported in Section 4. of this Annual Report. By the end of this reporting period (April 2014) the new Issue of the Standard is completed and is undergoing due diligence through the internal BRE Global review procedures (including evaluation by independent experts). The launch of the new Issue of the Scheme will be in May 2014.

Key changes in the new Issue of BES 6001 which were developed with the full support and input of key stakeholders are:

- Three new non-compulsory clauses in 3.4 Environmental and Social Requirements:
 - 3.4.2 Energy use
 - 3.4.7 Ecotoxicity
 - 3.4.11 Business Ethics.
- Changes to eight clauses:
 - Clarification of wording in 3.4.2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - Restructuring of 3.4.3 Resource Use to include issues around promoting end of life actions including post-consumer retrieval schemes, extending product lifetime, and supply chain engagement activities to promote behavioural change and share best practice
 - Re-titling and clarification of wording in 3.4.4 Waste Prevention and Waste Management
 - Re-titling and clarification of wording in 3.4.5 Water Abstraction
 - Restructuring of 3.4.6 Lifecycle Assessment to allow 'life cycle thinking' and participation in 'generic' LCA to score points.
 - Restructuring of 3.4.8 Transport Impacts to move away from general statements concerning impacts to a range of more specific activities considered at company level.

- Restructuring of 3.4.9 Employment and Skills to include the issue of enhancing the diversity and inclusiveness of its workforce.
- Restructuring of 3.4.10 Local Communities to include the issue of local sourcing
- 'Supplementary credits' (which can be scored independently of other credits in the clause) available in four Clauses:
 - 3.4.3 Resource Use for verified evidence of environmental stewardship at the source of raw material.
 - 3.4.4 Waste Prevention and Waste Management for reporting to stakeholders on at least two aspects of its performance.
 - 3.4.5 Water Abstraction for staff and supply chain engagement to promote behavioural change and share best practice in water use reduction.
 - 3.4.8 Transport Impacts for reporting performance against certain objectives to stakeholders.
- A greater transparency in the certificate where all clause scores will now be displayed:

Appendix to Certificate No: 1234		Issue: 01			
The Company					
Scoring Table					
Action	Score	Number of Credits			
	1	2	3	4	5
3.2.1 Responsible sourcing	C				
3.2.2 Lead time reduction	C				
3.2.3 Green design and engineering	C				
3.2.4 Supplier environmental performance	C				
3.2.5 Material efficiency through a pipeline	C				
3.2.6 Efficient supply chain	C				
3.2.7 80/20 rule supply chain	C				
3.2.8 Greenhouse gas emissions	C				
3.2.9 Energy management	C				
3.2.10 Resource use	C				
3.2.11 Waste prevention and management	C				
3.2.12 Waste reduction	C				
3.2.13 L100	C				
3.2.14 Carbon footprint	C				
3.2.15 Transport impacts	C				
3.2.16 On-site energy efficiency	C				
3.2.17 On-site energy efficiency	C				
3.2.18 On-site energy efficiency	C				
3.2.19 On-site energy efficiency	C				
3.2.20 On-site energy efficiency	C				

Type	Description	Maximum available credits

Signature line: [Signature] Date of Issue: [Date]

Table of Dates: [Table with columns for Date of Issue and Issue No.]

BES 6001 logo and other certification details.

- Scoring, where all clauses carried forwards from Issue 2 now have a compulsory level of attainment and the balance of scoring and revised levels of pass marks have been implemented.

7. Forward Look

The forward look for BES 6001 is extremely positive. Issue 3 has been successfully developed and launched. And with this a new impetus has been established with existing BES 6001 Licensees as well as with new entrants into the Licencing arena.

With the addition of an international certification body as a Licensee it is anticipated that non-UK BES 6001 certifications will begin to significantly increase.

BRE Global and the Licensees are now very active in transitioning existing clients across to new Issue 3 certificates (Issue 2 certificates will cease to be valid at the end of May 2015) and new clients continue to approach BRE Global and the BES 6001 Licensees. The launch of Issue 3 and the associated publicity has stimulated additional interest in the scheme.

In addition, there are developments within the updating of BREEAM which will impact on BES 6001 and the wider field of Responsible Sourcing certification. Plans are now in place to develop, within BREEAM, a means of assessing and offering basic comparisons between the growing number of Responsible Sourcing schemes with the ultimate aim of providing an impartial and transparent means of assessing schemes for acceptance into the BREEAM methodology. BES 6001 will need to respond to these challenges which will act as a spur to stimulate the continued improvement of not only the scheme itself but the supporting governance and stakeholder engagement activities behind BES 6001.