

Executive Summary

During the April 2014 to March 2015 period the BES 6001 standard experienced great change with the publication of version 3 in May 2014. The new issue of the standard was developed with significant input and support from a wide range of stakeholders. Many workshops and events were held during the prior reported period where stakeholders robustly expressed how they felt the Standard should be developed.

New agreements were 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; thus 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 2014 to March 2015. 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 six years. Issue 3 of the BES 6001 standard was published in May 2014 after which there was a transition period for organisations to be reassessed under Issue 3.

2. Certifications

During 2014/15 a total of 23 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 three new sectors (clay products, drainage systems and admixtures) were certified whilst four previously active sectors (glass, stone, composite sandwich panels and plastic products) saw no new certifications. The highest number of certifications were made for the aggregates, sand, gravel, asphalt and the ready mixed concrete sector, seeing growth from the previous year which only saw five certifications.

As noted in the 2013/2014 report there has been continued interest from non-UK based companies; with a number of the certificates issued to those from outside the UK.

Table 1 – New Certificates by Sector in 2014/15

| Product Type | No. | Product Type | No. |
|--|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Plastic products | 0 | Structural steel products | 1 |
| Blocks | 0 | Roof tiles | 2 |
| Plasterboard | 1 | Cement | 2 |
| Aggregates, sand, gravel, asphalt and ready mixed concrete | 7 | Precast concrete, concrete products | 2 |
| Reinforcing steel | 1 | Insulation products | 0 |
| Stone | 0 | Glass | 0 |
| Composite Sandwich Panels | 0 | Steel products | 2 |
| Clay Products (New) | 1 | Drainage Systems (New) | 2 |
| Waterproofing concrete admixtures (New) | 1 | | |

(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 118 certificates covering 94 companies (some companies have multiple certifications).

All certified companies continue to retain their certification in the manner determined by individual scheme certification bodies with the exception of one company that did not migrate from version 2 of the scheme to version 3. There continue to be a 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 QSRMC) have all contributed to the continued development of the Standard. During the year BSI contributed seven new certificates, Lucideon five more and QSRMS another five; 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 were 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

During the 14/15 reporting period the scheme was not reviewed as many organisations were in the process of re-certification to version 3.

5. Scheme Performance

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. Table 2 has been prepared for the whole sample. The sample size was all 118 certificates (where all necessary data was available). The table is presented below:

Table 2 – Table showing the pass level percentage of product certifications

| Product | Pass level percentage (%) | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Pass | Good | Very Good | Excellent |
| Plastic products | 70% | | 30% | |
| Blocks | | | 90% | 10% |
| Plasterboard | | | 50% | 50% |
| Aggregates, sand, gravel, asphalt and ready mixed concrete | 14% | 14% | 70% | 2% |
| Reinforcing steel | | 50% | 50% | |
| Stone | | | 100% | |
| Composite sandwich panels | | 20% | 80% | |
| Structural steel products | | 75% | 25% | |
| Roof tiles | | 40% | 20% | 40% |
| Cement | | | 74% | 26% |
| Precast concrete, concrete products | 20% | 20% | 40% | 20% |
| Insulation products | | 50% | | 50% |
| Glass | | | 100% | |
| Steel products | | 60% | 20% | 20% |
| Clay products | 20% | 30% | 50% | |
| Drainage systems | | | 100% | |
| Waterproofing concrete admixtures | 100% | | | |
| Total | 10% | 24% | 55% | 11% |

6. Scheme Development

Two aspects of development review will take place in 2016 which are:

1. An evolution of the scheme in light of current and emerging regulation/good practise
2. A longer term strategy of how continual improvement can be integrated

7. Forward Look

The outlook for BES 6001 is positive. Issue 3 has been successfully developed and launched. With this a new impetus has been established with existing BES 6001 Licensees as well as with new entrants into the Licensing arena.

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.

BRE
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