



# BRE Environmental and Sustainability Standard

BES 6001: Issue 4.0

## Framework Standard for Responsible Sourcing

This BRE Environmental & Sustainability Standard describes the organisational management, supply chain management and sustainability aspects to be addressed in the certification and approval of the responsible sourcing of construction products

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## FOREWORD

This Standard provides a framework for the assessment of responsible sourcing and to give a route to certification of construction products. The key objectives of this standard are:

- To promote responsible sourcing of construction products;
- To give clear guidance on the sustainability aspects that should be addressed;
- To provide confidence that materials and products are being responsibly sourced; and
- To provide a route to obtaining credits within Green Building certification schemes (such as BREEAM, HQM, LEED, SKA Rating & Cradle to Cradle certified ®).

This Standard has been structured so that compliance can be demonstrated through a combination of meeting the requirements of other recognised certification schemes, establishing written policies, setting objectives and targets and engaging with relevant stakeholders. Industry sectors are encouraged to prepare specific requirements addressing the framework principles defined in this Standard.

NOTES: Compliance with this BES standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations. Users of BRE Environmental & Sustainability Standards should ensure that they possess the latest issue and all amendments.

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### **Revision of BRE Environmental & Sustainability Standards**

BRE Environmental & Sustainability Standards will be revised by issue of revised editions or amendments. Details will be posted on our website at [www.GreenBookLive.com](http://www.GreenBookLive.com).

Technical or other changes which affect the requirements for the approval or certification of the product or service will result in a new issue. Minor or administrative changes (e.g. corrections of spelling and typographical errors, changes to address and copyright details, the addition of notes for clarification etc.) may be made as amendments.

The issue number will be given in decimal format with the integer part giving the issue number and the fractional part giving the number of amendments (e.g. Issue 3.2 indicates that the document is at Issue 3 with 2 amendments).

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## 1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for organisational management, supply chain management and management of sustainability issues in order to allow organisations to demonstrate an on-going commitment to the principles of responsible sourcing in relation to the provision of a specific construction product.

The requirements of this Standard provide a framework against which all construction products may be assessed (construction products and products with similar or related material supply chains). The framework comprises a number of criteria setting out the requirements of an organisation in managing the supply of construction products in accordance with a set of agreed principles of sustainability, the precise scope of which is determined by stakeholder engagement.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

In this Standard, the following verbal forms are used:

“shall” indicates a requirement;

“should” indicates a recommendation;

“may” indicates a permission;

“can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

### 2.1 accreditation

third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.

[BS EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017]

### 2.2 accreditation body

authoritative body that performs accreditation (2.1).

NOTE: The authority of an accreditation body is generally derived from government.

[BS EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017]

### 2.3 benchmark

reference value against which relative performance can be judged.

### 2.4 biodiversity

the volume of life forms and their degree of variation within a given habitat or ecosystem.

### 2.5 by-product

A substance or object, resulting from a production process, the primary aim of which is not the production of that item, may be regarded as not being waste referred to in point (1) of Article 3 but as being a by-product only if the following conditions are met: further use of the substance or object is certain;

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the substance or object can be used directly without any further processing other than normal industrial practice;  
the substance or object is produced as an integral part of a production process; and  
further use is lawful, i.e. the substance or object fulfils all relevant product, environmental and health protection requirements for the specific use and will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impacts.

[Directive 2008/98/EC [4], Article 5]

## **2.6 chain of custody**

The process by which inputs and outputs and associated information are transferred, monitored and controlled as they move through each step in the relevant supply chain.

[ISO 22095:2020]

## **2.7 community reuse and recycling**

typically a social enterprise charity supporting organisations and communities working to manage resources sustainably, especially through waste prevention, reuse and recycling.

## **2.8 commodity**

good for which there is a market demand and which is supplied without qualitative differentiation

NOTE Commodity classes relevant to the construction products sector include, but are not limited to, fossil resources; precious metals; industrial metals; minerals; natural rubber; bio-mass; and commodity chemicals.

NOTE Some materials are traded via commodity exchanges and may be physically and virtually bought and sold many times before they become an input to a physical process.

NOTE Some commodity materials may be supplied in bulk via common infrastructure shared by several supplier organisations.

## **2.9 constituent material**

material component of a product (2.21)

NOTE Water is excluded from the requirements that apply to constituent materials in this Standard.

## **2.10 corruption**

the abuse of entrusted power for private gain

NOTE Corruption includes practices such as bribery facilitation payments, fraud, extortion, collusion, and money laundering. It also includes an offer or receipt of any gift, loan, fee, reward, or other advantage to or from any person as an inducement to do something that is dishonest, illegal, or a breach of trust in the conduct of the enterprise's business. This may include cash or in-kind benefits, such as free goods, gifts, and holidays, or special personal services provided for the purpose of an improper advantage or that may result in moral pressure to receive such an advantage.

[Transparency International 2011, Global Reporting Initiative G4 Guidelines]

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### 2.11 due diligence

the process enterprises should carry out to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address actual and potential adverse impacts related to corporate governance, workers, human rights, the environment, bribery, and consumers in their own operations, their supply chain and other business relationships.

[OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct: 2018, OECD (2011), OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises]

### 2.12 environmental stewardship

the responsible planning and management of natural resources through conservation and sustainable use including biodiversity considerations.

### 2.13 freely and publicly available

can be readily obtained in an appropriate format to all stakeholders without payment and without the need to request permission from the owner.

### 2.14 impact

positive or negative effect of one thing on another.

### 2.15 intensity

amount per unit of output or function. A measure of efficiency.

### 2.16 metric

parameter used for measurement.

### 2.17 objective

stated aim, or desired outcome, of a policy (2.19) or action.

### 2.18 organisation

person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its objectives.

NOTE: The concept of organisation includes but is not limited to sole-trader, company, corporation, firm, enterprise, authority, partnership, charity or institution, or part or combination thereof, whether incorporated or not, public or private.

[BS EN ISO 14001:2015]

### 2.19 policy

formal expression of an organisation's (2.18) intent and direction with regards to an issue, or set of issues.

### 2.20 priority species / habitat

species or habitat that is the subject of an action plan that is endorsed by a local, national or supra-national governmental body.

### 2.21 product

output of an organisation (2.18) that can be produced without any transaction taking place



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between the organization and the customer.

NOTE: Production of a product is achieved without any transaction necessarily taking place between provider and customer but can often involve this service element upon its delivery to the customer.

[EN ISO 9000:2015]

## **2.22 procedure**

specified way to carry out an activity or a process (0).

Note 1 to entry: Procedures can be documented or not.

[EN ISO 9000:2015]

## **2.23 process**

set of interrelated or interacting activities which transforms inputs to deliver an intended result.

NOTE: Whether the “intended result” of a process is called output, product or service depends on the context of the reference.

NOTE: Inputs to a process are generally the outputs of other processes and outputs of a process are generally the inputs to other processes.

NOTE: Two or more interrelated and interacting processes in series can also be referred to as a process.

NOTE: Processes in an organization are generally planned and carried out under controlled conditions to add value.

NOTE: A process where the conformity of the resulting output cannot be readily or economically validated is frequently referred to as a “special process”.

[EN ISO 9000:2015]

## **2.24 raw materials**

unprocessed materials that are acquired from nature for subsequent use in the realisation of a product (2.21).

## **2.25 recovered material**

material derived from an operation, the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function.

[Directive 2008/98/EC [4], Article 3, 15]

## **2.26 recycled material**

material derived from a recovery operation in which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes.

[Directive 2008/98/EC [4], Article 3, 17]

## **2.27 responsible sourcing**

management of sustainable development in the provision or procurement of a product (2.21).

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[BS 8902:2009]

### **2.28 risk**

effect of uncertainty on objectives (2.17).

NOTE: An effect is a deviation from the expected. It can be positive, negative or both, and can address, create or result in opportunities and threats.

NOTE: Objectives can have different aspects and categories and can be applied at different levels.

NOTE: Risk is usually expressed in terms of risk sources, potential events, their consequences and their likelihood.

NOTE: Risk is often characterised as a combination of the likelihood of something occurring and the impacts associated with it occurring.

NOTE: Objectives may be social, environmental and/or economic.

[BS ISO 31000:2018]

### **2.29 significant**

threshold level at which meaning is attained.

NOTE: A significant risk (2.28) requires mitigation.

NOTE: An issue is significant if, in the view of senior management and those charged with governance, it is of such relevance and importance that it could substantively influence the organisation's ability to create value over the short, medium and long term.

### **2.30 small to medium sized enterprise (SME)**

An organisation with less than 250 employees and a turnover of less than €50 million or balance sheet total of less than €43 million.

NOTE: Current exchange rates may be used to estimate equivalent criteria in other currencies.

[European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC]

### **2.31 stakeholder**

individuals, groups and/or organisations (2.18) who either affect, or could be affected by, an organisation's activities, products (2.21) or services and associated performance.

### **2.32 supplier**

organisation (2.18) that provides a product (2.21).

### **2.33 supply chain**

series of processes or activities involved in the production and distribution of a material or product through which it passes from the source.

Note 1 to entry: A supply chain is typically composed of a series of different organizations.

[ISO 22095:2020]

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### **2.34 sustainability aspect**

element of an organisation's activities or products (2.21) or services that can interact with the environment and/or socio-economic systems.

NOTE: A significant sustainability aspect may have a meaningful impact on the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

### **2.35 sustainability issue**

area of influence/impact related to the pursuit of an enduring, balanced approach to economic activity, environmental responsibility, and social progress.

[adapted from BS 8900:2006, BS 8902:2009]

NOTE Sustainability issues may be interrelated.

### **2.36 Traceability**

ability to trace the history, application, or location of an object.

NOTE: When considering a product (2.21) or a service, traceability can relate to: the origin of materials and parts; the processing history; the distribution and location of the product or service after delivery.

[BS ISO 9000:2015]

### **2.37 waste**

substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard.

[Directive 2008/98/EC [4], Article 3, 1]

### **2.38 water abstraction**

temporary or permanent removal of water from the hydrological cycle.

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### **3 PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE SOURCING**

#### **3.1 General**

The purchasing decisions of a single organisation can affect society and the environment well beyond the immediate impact of its own operations. Responsible sourcing involves the promotion and support of broader-scale adoption of responsible practices throughout the supply chain. This can stimulate demand for socially and environmentally preferable products.

There is no comprehensive list of what constitutes 'responsible practice' when selecting and approving suppliers. The principles described below reflect what is considered good practice and it is logically and ethically consistent that the principles apply equally to the organisation making these purchasing decisions as well as its suppliers.

The principles reflect current expectations, however other issues may come to be seen as important in the future and it is expected this Standard will evolve to reflect these changes in subsequent revisions.

#### **3.2 Ethics**

Recognise the need to adopt and apply standards of ethical behaviour appropriate to the purpose and activities of the organisation.

#### **3.3 Legal compliance**

Comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

#### **3.4 Management systems**

Have systems in place to operate in a legal, efficient and financially sustainable manner with continual improvement in the management of quality, health and safety, the environment and human resources.

#### **3.5 Supply chain management**

Communicate and work constructively with the supply chain to deliver sustainable policies and practices.

#### **3.6 Stakeholder engagement**

Identify stakeholders affected by the activities of the organisation and its supply chains and be responsive to their needs.

#### **3.7 Complaints and prosecutions**

Operate with transparency and record and report all complaints and prosecutions and associated corrective actions.

#### **3.8 Fundamental rights at work**

Respect international norms concerning human rights and labour practices and recognise fundamental rights at work including the abolition of child labour, forced or compulsory labour, the rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining, and the elimination of discrimination.

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### **3.9 Health and safety**

Operate in a responsible manner to protect employees, contractors and visitors.

### **3.10 Climate change and energy**

Use energy efficiently in the production of materials and products and minimise the emission of greenhouse gases associated with these processes. Reduce fossil fuel consumption and utilise renewable sources of energy.

### **3.11 Resource use**

Recognise the need to use all materials in the most appropriate and sustainable manner.

### **3.12 Site stewardship**

Be responsible stewards of sites used by preventing pollution and recognising the importance of national heritage, ecological value and biodiversity during use and after the end of life of each site.

### **3.13 Water**

Use water efficiently to minimise demand on potable water supplies, and treat process water and site run-off effectively to mitigate against pollution risks.

### **3.14 Waste management**

Manage all waste streams effectively by adopting the waste reduction hierarchy and minimise waste incinerated and disposed of to landfill without energy or material recovery.

### **3.15 Transport impacts**

Recognise the social and environmental impacts of transportation and the need to adopt appropriate strategies to reduce adverse impacts.

### **3.16 Employment and skills**

Continue to support sustainable communities by providing employment and economic activity through fair operating practices, and recognise the importance of developing a skilled and competent workforce.

### **3.17 Local communities**

Liaise effectively with the local community and strive to develop mutual understanding and respect.

### **3.18 Financial stability**

Manage for long term financial performance. Provide stability and enable long term investment in social and environmental aspects which underpin the economy.

### **3.19 Contribution to the built environment**

Develop products that improve the quality and sustainability of the built environment.

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## 4 REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1 General

The requirements of the Standard consist of actions to be taken to demonstrate adoption of the principles of responsible sourcing as described in Section 3.

The requirements and associated actions have been structured into three sections:

- Organisational Management Requirements
- Supply Chain Management Requirements
- Requirements related to the sustainable manufacture of construction products

Certain requirements, or elements of the requirements, are considered compulsory for organisations applying for certification against this Standard. This is indicated in the description of the requirement. Furthermore, additional Performance Ratings are allocated to the voluntary elements of the requirements. Unless stated otherwise, voluntary elements of the requirements are sequential.

Where it is stated in the description of the requirement that the voluntary elements are non-sequential, the points available within these sections can be awarded in isolation once the compulsory element is achieved.

Throughout this Standard, where the requirements refer to consultation with stakeholders, the organisation shall consult with its stakeholders, and take appropriate actions as a result of that consultation, in accordance with the guidance given in BS 8900-1.

Where requirements refer to an accredited body it shall be a member of IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

Where requirements refer to 'equivalent' schemes, please see the BES 6001 Guidance Document for further information.

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## 4.2 Organisational Management Requirements

### 4.2.1 Responsible Sourcing Policy

	Description	Performance Rating
4.2.1.1	<p>The organisation shall have a written policy appropriate to the purpose and activities of the organisation to address the responsible sourcing principles described in Section 3 of this standard.</p> <p>The policy shall be approved by senior management and be integrated into the organisation's management system(s). The policy shall be reviewed in line with the management review requirements of the management system(s) and be effectively communicated to employees and stakeholders.</p> <p>An independent responsible sourcing policy is not necessary if principles are covered in existing policies.</p>	Compulsory

### 4.2.2 Compliance Obligations

	Description	Performance Rating
4.2.2.1	<p>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a procedure(s) to identify and monitor changes to applicable local, national and ratified international laws and regulations by which the organisation is bound.</p> <p>The organisation shall ensure that when establishing, implementing and maintaining its responsible sourcing policy and management systems, the requirements of the relevant laws and regulations are adhered to.</p>	Compulsory

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#### 4.2.3 Management Systems & Operational Management of Responsible Sourcing

	Description	Performance Rating
4.2.3.1	The organisation shall have in place, as a minimum, a documented quality, environmental and health and safety management system to implement its responsible sourcing procedures. The management system(s) shall follow the fundamentals of ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 45001 and include within its scope the assessed product.	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.2.3.1.		
4.2.3.2	The organisation shall demonstrate that its quality management system(s) to implement its responsible sourcing procedures are certified to ISO 9001 (or equivalent) by an accredited third-party certification body (or Conformity Assessment Body). For SMEs, the organisation shall demonstrate that it has a valid Certificate of Factory Production Control which includes in its scope the assessed product(s) and manufacturing locations; and that its quality management system follows the fundamentals of ISO 9001 and that it is actively working towards ISO 9001 certification.	+ 1
4.2.3.3	The organisation shall demonstrate that its environmental management system(s) to implement its responsible sourcing procedures are certified to ISO 14001, EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or equivalent, by an accredited third-party certification body (or Conformity Assessment Body). For SMEs, the organisation shall demonstrate that its environmental management system is structured in compliance with BS 8555 (where audits for phases one to four are completed) or ISO 14005 (where the highest maturity levels have been reached in phases one to five).	+ 1
4.2.3.4	The organisation shall demonstrate that its health and safety management system(s) to implement its responsible sourcing procedures are certified to ISO 45001 (or equivalent) by an accredited third-party certification body (or Conformity Assessment Body). For SMEs, the organisation shall demonstrate that its health and safety management system follows the fundamentals of ISO 45001.	+ 1



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#### 4.2.4 Procurement and Supplier Management

	Description	Performance Rating
4.2.4.1	<p>The organisation shall have in place, appropriate to the purpose and activities of the organisation and its products, a documented management system for its purchasing process and for approval of its suppliers.</p> <p>The management system shall reference the policy established in clause 4.2.1 of this Standard and the supplier approval process shall review supplier commitments to address the responsible sourcing principles as described in Section 3 of this standard.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall maintain a list of approved suppliers of constituent materials in the assessed product.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Where the organisation under assessment acquires constituent materials from any supplier based outside the UK, EU, or from states that have not declared adherence to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the organisation shall undertake an appropriate risk assessment and demonstrate due diligence in its monitoring of the supplier's compliance with the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.</p> <p>If any constituent material is sourced from a supplier based outside the UK/EU/OECD, risk assessments and due diligence shall be provided for 98% of constituent materials (by mass, volume or cost).</p> <p>Where the assessed organisation is responsible for the extraction of a raw material at source, the organisation shall demonstrate traceability from the source of the raw material to the assessed product through any subsequent processes of product realisation.</p>	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.2.4.1.		

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	Description	Performance Rating
4.2.4.2	<p>The organisation shall demonstrate that its procurement processes and function are in line with the principles for sustainable procurement as set out in ISO 20400.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation has a published Code of Conduct for its suppliers. Adherence with the code shall be an obligation for all suppliers. The code shall be regularly reviewed and approved by senior management.</p>	+ 1
4.2.4.3	<p>The organisation shall demonstrate that it actively engages with its constituent material supply chain, as identified as traceable in Section 4.3 Supply Chain Management Requirements, on the principles of responsible sourcing.</p>	+ 1
4.2.4.4	<p>For the constituent material supply chain as identified as traceable in Section 4.3 Supply Chain Management Requirements, the organisation shall have in place a documented risk assessment and undertake due diligence in relation to the potential for environmental and social risks. The risk assessment and due diligence shall be reviewed at regular intervals appropriate to the operations of the organisation.</p>	+ 2

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### 4.3 Supply Chain Management Requirements

For each of the following sub-sections, constituent materials shall be traceable to the supplier(s) responsible for:

- The extraction of raw materials; or
- The provision of recycled/recovered materials; or
- The production of by-products; or
- The processing of commodity traded materials

The % performance rating for each sub-section should be based on any ONE of a number of criteria e.g., volume OR mass OR cost, whichever is most appropriate for the construction product being assessed. This choice must be clearly defined and justified at assessment. Whichever metric is used it must be the same basis for all 4.3 clauses in this standard.

Where requirements refer to 'equivalent' schemes, please see BES 6001 Guidance Document (PN 327) for further information.

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#### 4.3.1 Quality Management Systems in the Supply Chain

	Description	Performance Rating
4.3.1.1	<p>A minimum of 70% of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with a quality management system(s) certified to ISO 9001 (or equivalent) by an accredited third-party certification body (or Conformity Assessment Body).</p> <p>For SME suppliers, confirmation that a valid Certificate of Factory Production Control which includes in its scope the constituent material and manufacturing location(s) is in place; and that its quality management system follows the fundamentals of ISO 9001, satisfies the requirement for traceability.</p>	Compulsory
4.3.1.2	80% of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with a certificated quality management system, or to SME suppliers who satisfy the traceability requirements stated in 4.3.1.1.	+ 1
4.3.1.3	90% of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with a certificated quality management system, or to SME suppliers who satisfy the traceability requirements stated in 4.3.1.1.	+ 1

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#### 4.3.2 Environmental Management Systems in the Supply Chain

	Description	Performance Rating
4.3.2.1	<p>70% of constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with an environmental management system. The suppliers' environmental management system shall follow the fundamentals of ISO 14001 and shall include within its scope key processes of raw material extraction and primary material production, where appropriate to the scope of its operations.</p> <p>Constituent materials which are recycled materials, recovered materials or by-products shall be deemed to satisfy this requirement without further verification.</p>	Compulsory
4.3.2.2	<p>A minimum of 70% of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with an environmental management system(s) certified to ISO 14001, EMAS (or equivalent) by a third-party certification body (or Conformity Assessment Body).</p> <p>For SME suppliers, confirmation that the environmental management system is structured in compliance with BS 8555 (where audits for phases one to four are completed) or ISO 14005 (where the highest maturity levels have been reached in phases one to five) satisfies the requirement for traceability.</p>	+ 1
4.3.2.3	<p>80% of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with a certificated environmental management system, or to SME suppliers who satisfy the traceability requirements stated in 4.3.2.2.</p>	+ 1
4.3.2.4	<p>90% of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with a certificated environmental management system, or to SME suppliers who satisfy the traceability requirements stated in 4.3.2.2.</p>	+ 1

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#### 4.3.3 Health and Safety Management Systems in the Supply Chain

	Description	Performance Rating
4.3.3.1	<p>70% of constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with a health and safety management system.</p> <p>The suppliers' health and safety management system shall be compliant with local legislation and shall incorporate the recording of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near miss incidents</li> <li>• Time loss incidents</li> <li>• Fatal incidents</li> </ul>	Compulsory
4.3.3.2	<p>A minimum of 70% of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to suppliers with a health and safety management system certified to ISO 45001 (or equivalent) by a third-party certification body (or Conformity Assessment Body).</p> <p>For SME suppliers, confirmation that the health and safety management system follows the fundamentals of ISO 45001 satisfies the requirement for traceability.</p>	+ 1
4.3.3.3	<p>80% of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with a certificated health and safety management system, or to SME suppliers who satisfy the traceability requirements stated in 4.3.3.2.</p>	+ 1
4.3.3.4	<p>90% of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product(s) shall be traceable to supplier(s) with a certificated health and safety management system, or to SME suppliers who satisfy the traceability requirements stated in 4.3.3.2.</p>	+ 1

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#### 4.4 Requirements Related to the Management of Sustainable Development

##### General Requirements

To avoid repetition, the phrases 'establish a policy, supported by a documented management system', 'report to its stakeholders' and 'external verification' shall be understood to require the following actions where used in the requirements of clause 4.4.

##### *Establish a policy, supported by a documented management system*

The organisation shall have a written policy approved by the organisation's senior management to address the requirement. The policy shall be compatible with current industry practice and the organisation shall establish appropriate metrics for measuring its performance according to the policy.

The policy shall be reviewed in line with the management review requirements of the organisation's management system(s) and be effectively communicated to all employees and stakeholders.

An independent policy may not be necessary if principles are covered in existing policies e.g. a sustainability policy.

The organisation shall have objectives and targets approved by the organisation's senior management for the requirement, and shall consult with stakeholders, including supply chain organisations, in setting these objectives and targets. The organisation shall review its performance against relevant industry benchmarks where available according to the requirement at appropriate intervals.

Procedural aspects related to the requirement shall be documented and controlled within a management system.

##### *Report to its stakeholders*

The organisation shall report to its stakeholders on its performance against the requirement. The report shall be freely and publicly available and allow the information contained within it to be compared on a year-to-year basis. Data that is aggregated and presented as an industry average is not acceptable as a 'report to its stakeholder' unless it is product/product group and company specific. Data may be reported through a relevant representative organisation (e.g. a Trade Association) but it shall be product, and company specific to satisfy the requirements.

##### *External verification*

The organisation shall provide for external verification that the data and information that it communicates to stakeholders fulfils its stated purpose and is accurate. This shall be undertaken by an independent, competent third party who is not involved in the organisation's BES 6001 certification assessment.

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#### 4.4.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.1.1	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system, for the monitoring and reduction of the intensity of its greenhouse gas emissions. This aspect may be managed within the scope of an existing management system.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall quantify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions associated with their operations;</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions associated with their operations.</li> </ul>	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.4.1.1.		
4.4.1.2	<p>The organisation shall have in place a documented process to identify significant sources of scope 3 emissions associated with their operations</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall quantify the intensity of its significant scope 3 emissions associated with its operations.</p>	+ 2
4.4.1.3	<p>The organisation shall have targets set for the reduction of their greenhouse gas emissions, relative to output over time. The targets will be in line with climate science to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Targets are approved by senior management and progress against targets is reviewed regularly.</p>	+ 1
4.4.1.4	<p>The organisation shall report to its stakeholders on their emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>If legal requirements related to competition mean that reporting cannot be legally conducted at company level, then the information shall be reported at sector level. This may be via a trade body.</p> <p>Where sector specific standards for GHG reporting exist, these are acceptable methods for reporting.</p>	+ 1
4.4.1.5	<p>The organisation shall have external verification of their GHG information and data.</p>	+ 1



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#### 4.4.2 Energy Use

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.2.1	The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system, for the monitoring and reduction of the energy intensity of those operations over which it has financial and/or operational control.	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.4.2.1.		
4.4.2.2	The organisation shall have targets set for the reduction of energy usage, relative to output over time. Targets are approved by senior management and progress against targets is reviewed regularly.	+ 1
4.4.2.3	The organisation shall report to its stakeholders on the intensity of the energy usage of its operations. Reporting shall include levels of energy usage relative to output over time, and thereafter reported on an annual basis.	+ 1
4.4.2.4	The organisation shall have external verification of its energy information and data.	+ 1
4.4.2.5	The organisation shall have developed and implemented an action plan for the continual reduction of use of energy from fossil fuels and for the increase of use of energy from renewable energy sources within their operations.	+ 1

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#### 4.4.3 Resource Use and Product Circularity

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.3.1	The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system for the efficient use of constituent materials and for the assessment of its products' circularity, as appropriate to the product(s) under assessment.	Compulsory
4.4.3.2	The organisation shall demonstrate at least two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions taken to encourage future resource use at end-of-life of the assessed product(s)</li> <li>• Actions to extend the lifespan of the assessed product(s)</li> <li>• Declaration of recycled content</li> <li>• A product development approach to design products for a circular economy</li> </ul>	+ 1
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.4.3.1 and 4.4.3.2.		
4.4.3.3	The organisation shall report to stakeholders on its performance against the above.	+ 1
4.4.3.4	The organisation shall have external verification of its resource use and product circularity information and data.	+1

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#### 4.4.4 Waste Prevention and Waste Management

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.4.1	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system, for the diversion of waste from landfill or incineration without energy recovery in accordance with the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall provide evidence that all controlled waste arising from its operations is stored, transported and treated such that risks to human health and the environment are minimised and that all local regulatory requirements are fulfilled.</p>	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.4.4.1.		
4.4.4.2	The organisation shall have targets set for the reduction of waste, relative to output over time, and for the diversion of waste from landfill or incineration without energy recovery. Targets are approved by senior management and progress against targets is reviewed regularly.	+ 1
4.4.4.3	The organisation shall report performance to stakeholders. Reporting shall include levels of waste production relative to output over time and comparison to industry benchmarks (where available), and thereafter reported on an annual basis.	+ 1
4.4.4.4	The organisation shall have external verification of its waste information and data.	+ 1

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#### 4.4.5 Water Usage or Abstraction

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.5.1	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system, for the monitoring and reduction of the intensity of its water usage or abstraction.</p> <p>The scope of the policy and management system may exclude:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seawater;</li> <li>• water removed and then returned to the same source with no change in water quality. Water lost through evaporation shall be included in this category;</li> <li>• water stored in holding lakes on site for recirculation; and</li> <li>• rainwater collected, stored or used as part of the production process.</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall quantify the intensity of its water usage or abstraction.</p>	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.4.5.1.		
4.4.5.2	<p>The organisation shall have targets for the reduction of the intensity of water usage, relative to output over time. Targets are approved by senior management and progress against targets is reviewed regularly.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The organisation shall have processes in place to implement the use of sustainable water sources at their manufacturing site(s).</p>	+ 1
4.4.5.3	The organisation shall report performance to stakeholders. Reporting shall include the intensity of their water usage or abstraction (as quantified for the compulsory clause) and reported on an annual basis.	+ 1
4.4.5.4	The organisation shall have external verification of its water information and data.	+ 1

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#### 4.4.6 Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.6.1	The organisation shall use life cycle thinking and/or life cycle assessment (LCA) methods to identify significant environmental aspects and impacts throughout the product lifecycle; and shall have in place a documented approach for continual improvement of life cycle environmental performance.	Compulsory
4.4.6.2	The organisation shall provide an independently verified Environmental Product Declaration(s) (EPD) that conform to the requirements of ISO 14025 and either ISO 21930 or EN 15804 for the assessed products.  The EPD is valid and publicly available on the EPD Scheme operator's website and organisation's website.	+ 2

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#### 4.4.7 Ecotoxicity

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.7.1	<p>Where chemicals are procured for manufacturing the assessed product, the organisation shall undertake a hazard assessment. The scope of the assessment shall include all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substances in Annex XIV "Authorisation List" of UK REACH and EU REACH;</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substances on the Candidate List of substances of very high concern (SVHC) for Authorisation of EU REACH and UK REACH.</li> </ul>	Compulsory

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#### 4.4.8 Transport Impacts

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.8.1	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system, for the continual reduction of environmental and social impacts associated with the transport of assessed product(s), goods and people involved in its operations.</p> <p>The procedures for identification of appropriate, significant, direct environmental and social impacts and mitigation strategies shall be documented.</p>	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.4.8.1.		
4.4.8.2	The organisation shall have targets for the reduction of environmental and social impacts associated with the transport of the assessed product(s), goods and people involved in its operations. Targets are approved by senior management and progress against targets is reviewed regularly.	+ 1
4.4.8.3	<p>The organisation shall report on its transport use to stakeholders.</p> <p>Reporting shall include, as a minimum, significant environmental and social impacts of the transport of the assessed product(s) identified by the organisation, and mitigation strategies.</p>	+ 1
4.4.8.4	<p>The organisation shall extend the scope of its transport policy and procedures to cover the impacts of the transport of constituent material(s) in the assessed product.</p> <p>Where the assessed organisation is responsible for the constituent material(s) at the source, the scope and boundaries of the policy shall cover all transport modes used, from the source of the constituent material(s) to the assessed product(s).</p>	+ 1
4.4.8.5	<p>The organisation shall report on the transport of its constituent material(s) to stakeholders.</p> <p>Reporting shall include significant environmental and social impacts identified in section 4.4.8.4 for the transport of its constituent material(s).</p>	+ 1

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#### 4.4.9 Biodiversity & Site Stewardship

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.9.1	The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system, for managing the risks and potential impacts of the organisation's activities on biodiversity and ecosystems.	Compulsory
4.4.9.2	The organisation shall have developed and implemented a biodiversity action plan to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity. The plan shall include controls to minimise impacts, remediation measures and actions to increase biodiversity.	+ 1
4.4.9.3	The organisation shall report to stakeholders on demonstrable actions taken above.	+ 1



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#### 4.4.10 Human Rights and Modern Slavery

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.10.1	The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system appropriate to the purpose and scope of the organisation, to respect human rights and protect workers. The policy shall be in accordance with Guiding Principle 16 of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.4.10.1.		
4.4.10.2	The organisation shall have in place a documented risk assessment and due diligence process to identify and act upon actual and potential human rights risks for workers and other stakeholders.	+ 1
4.4.10.3	The organisation shall publish an annual Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking statement setting out the steps taken to prevent modern slavery in their business and their supply chains. The statement shall demonstrate a commitment to continual improvement.	+ 1

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#### 4.4.11 Business Ethics

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.11.1	<p>The organisation shall have in place a documented code of business ethics or conduct. Adherence with the code shall be an obligation for all employees of the organisation.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall have in place a documented risk assessment of its internal operations focussed on the avoidance of bribery and corruption. The risk assessment shall be reviewed regularly, as appropriate to the operations of the organisation.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall have in place a policy and mechanism for the confidential reporting, investigation and resolution of suspected cases of bribery and/or corruption.</p> <p>The policy shall be communicated widely and protect the whistleblower from harassment or victimisation; and the organisation shall have an accessible grievance process in place.</p>	Compulsory

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#### 4.4.12 Employment and Skills

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.12.1	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system, for the learning and development of its employees and carry out regular reviews of its performance.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Responsible Sourcing awareness/training shall be evidenced in all relevant professional and functional training; and the organisation shall operate an induction programme which refers explicitly to aspects related to health and safety, human rights, sustainability, corporate responsibility, and business ethics.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall have appropriate &amp; transparent human resource practices for recruitment, contract, fair wages &amp; working hours.</p>	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.4.12.1.		
4.4.12.2	The organisation shall report to stakeholders on its performance relating to the learning and development of its employees.	+ 1
4.4.12.3	The organisation shall have external verification of their learning and development information and data.	+ 1
4.4.12.4	The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system, for enhancing the diversity and inclusiveness of its workforce, and carry out regular reviews of its performance.	+ 1

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#### 4.4.13 Local Communities

	Description	Performance Rating
4.4.13.1	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system, to identify and consult with local community stakeholders directly affected by the activities and operations of the organisation.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall have written procedures to record all complaints from local community stakeholders and any subsequent and associated actions including prosecutions.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The organisation shall carry out regular reviews of its performance in terms of local community relationships, liaison activities and complaints incidents.</p>	Compulsory
The following criteria are assessed individually on the basis of meeting 4.4.13.1.		
4.4.13.2	The organisation shall report annually on local community engagement, liaison activities and complaint incidents to stakeholders on an annual basis.	+ 1
4.4.13.3	The organisation shall have external verification of its local community engagement, liaison activities and complaint incidents.	+ 1
4.4.13.4	The organisation shall establish a policy, supported by a documented management system to promote local sourcing of products and services; and the use of local staff and expertise where appropriate and practical.	+ 1

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## 5 SCORING METHODOLOGY (NORMATIVE)

### 5.1 Overview

An organisation that meets the requirements of the Standard receives an Overall Assessment Score and a corresponding Performance Rating as detailed in Table 2.

The organisation must satisfy all compulsory elements and achieve additional levels of compliance within the (voluntary) requirements of the Standard to achieve a performance rating. The Overall Assessment Score is recorded on the Certificate.

### 5.2 Methodology

Assessment against the Standard is divided into three sections:

- 4.2 Organisational Management Requirements
- 4.3 Supply Chain Management Requirements
- 4.4 Requirements related to the management of sustainable development

Each section consists of a number of requirements.

Each requirement may have a number of elements.

Each element is either voluntary (in which case it is assigned a number of 'points') or it is compulsory (in which case it is not assigned points).

Some requirements are non-sequential. Therefore, the voluntary points available within some sections can be awarded in isolation once the compulsory credit is achieved.

A summary of all available points is shown in Table 1.

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Table 1: Performance Ratings

<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>		<b>POINTS AVAILABLE</b>					<b>TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE</b>
<b>4.2.1</b>	Responsible Sourcing Policy	C					0
<b>4.2.2</b>	Compliance Obligations	C					0
<b>4.2.3 *</b>	Management Systems & Operational Management of Responsible Sourcing	C	1	1	1		3
<b>4.2.4 *</b>	Procurement and Supplier Management	C	1	1	2		4
<b>4.3.1</b>	Quality Management Systems in the Supply Chain	C	1	1			2
<b>4.3.2</b>	Environmental Management Systems in the Supply Chain	C	1	1	1		3
<b>4.3.3</b>	Health and Safety Management Systems in the Supply Chain	C	1	1	1		3
	<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>15</b>
<b>4.4.1 *</b>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	C	2	1	1	1	5
<b>4.4.2 *</b>	Energy Use	C	1	1	1	1	4
<b>4.4.3 *</b>	Resource Use and Product Circularity	C	2	1	1		4
<b>4.4.4 *</b>	Waste Prevention and Waste Management	C	1	1	1		3
<b>4.4.5 *</b>	Water Abstraction	C	1	1	1		3
<b>4.4.6</b>	Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)	C	2				2
<b>4.4.7</b>	Ecotoxicity	C					0
<b>4.4.8 *</b>	Transport Impacts	C	1	1	1	1	4
<b>4.4.9</b>	Biodiversity & Site Stewardship	C	1	1			2
<b>4.4.10 *</b>	Human Rights and Modern Slavery	C	1	1			2
<b>4.4.11</b>	Business Ethics	C					0
<b>4.4.12 *</b>	Employment and Skills	C	1	1	1		3
<b>4.4.13 *</b>	Local Communities	C	1	1	1		3
	<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>35</b>

\* Indicates requirements where voluntary points are not sequential and can be scored independently on the basis of meeting the compulsory requirement.

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The Overall Assessment Score depends on:

- The total score achieved in the requirements of sections 4.2 and 4.3 combined; and
- The total score achieved in section 4.4

The overall assessment rating is given by the lowest score achieved in either the combined sections 4.2 & 4.3, or 4.4 as shown in Table 2 (e.g., if an organisation achieves a 'Very Good' in 4.2 & 4.3 but only achieves a 'Good' in 4.4, then it will receive an Overall Assessment Score of 'Good').

Table 2: Threshold scores required to achieve an Overall Assessment Score in the Standard

<b>Section</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>Total score in 4.2. &amp; 4.3</b>	Compulsory	5	7	10
<b>Total score in 4.4</b>	Compulsory	10	20	30

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## 6 PUBLICATIONS REFERRED TO:

This Standard incorporates provisions from other publications. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications apply to this Standard only when incorporated into it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

### 6.1 Normative references

EN ISO 9000:2015	Quality Management Systems – Fundamentals and Vocabulary
BS EN ISO 9001:2015	Quality Management Systems – Requirements
BS 8555:2016	Environmental management systems – Guide to the phased implementation of an environmental management system including the use of environmental performance evaluation
BS EN ISO 14001:2015	Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use
BS EN ISO 14021:2016	Environmental labels and declarations – Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)
BS EN ISO 14024:2018	Environmental labels and declarations – Type I environmental labelling – Principles and procedures
BS ISO 14025:2006	Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations – Principles and procedures
BS EN ISO 14064-1:2019	Greenhouse gases — Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals
BS EN ISO 14064-3:2019	Greenhouse gases -- Part 3: Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions
BS ISO 21930:2017	Sustainability in building construction – Sustainability in Buildings and Civil Engineering Works — Core Rules for



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Environmental Product Declarations of Construction Products and Services

BS 8900:2006	Guidance for managing sustainable development
SAI SA8000:2014	Social Accountability International Social Accountability 8000 standard
EN 15804:2012+A2:2019	Sustainability of construction works — Environmental product declarations — Core rules for the product category of construction product
ISO 14044:2006	Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Requirements and guidelines
ISO 14040:2006	Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Principles and framework
ISO 45001:2018	Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems - Requirements with Guidance for Use
BS EN ISO 50001:2018	Energy Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use
BS ISO 20400: 2017	Sustainable Procurement – Guidelines
ISO 22095:2020	Chain of Custody - General terminology and models

International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises revision 2000

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

## 6.2 Informative references

BS EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Conformity assessment. General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

BS ISO 31000:2009 Risk management. Principles and guidelines

<b>Issue: 4.0</b>	<b>BRE ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD</b>	<b>BES 6001</b>
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European Directive 2008/98/EC [4], Article 3 (in relation to waste and resources)

European Directive 2008/98/EC [4], Article 5 (in relation to by-products) ISO 22095:2020 Chain of Custody – general terminology and models

European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC (in relation to SMEs)

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines version 4 (general)

Transparency International <http://www.transparency.org/> (in relation to business ethics)

BS 13500:2013 Code of practice for delivering effective governance of organizations

BS 10500:2011 Specification for an anti-bribery management system

EU Commission ‘Interpretative Communication on waste and by-products’ defines a ‘production residue’

For undated references please refer to the latest published issue.

## 7 AMENDMENT HISTORY

<b>Revision No</b>	<b>Amendment Details</b>	<b>Date</b>
Issue 3.1	Minor changes to wording in criteria in section 3.	Sep 2016
Issue 3.2	Minor changes to wording in section 3 to include UK & EU requirements post-Brexit.	Jan 2021
Issue 4.0	Major changes to criteria & scoring structure.	Nov 2022