

Prove your products are sourced responsibly... ...by certifying your products to BES 6001.

Overview

With the government's increasing focus on sustainable development, many construction companies are recognising the need to prove that their buildings are built with sustainability in mind. One element of this is in the responsible sourcing of products used in their construction and the onus of proof is increasingly being passed down to the manufacturers of those construction products.

The BRE standard BES 6001 has been published to enable construction product manufacturers to ensure and then prove that their products have been made with constituent materials that have been responsibly sourced. The standard describes a framework for the organisational governance, supply chain management and environmental and social aspects that must be addressed in order to ensure the responsible sourcing of construction products.

BES 6001 shares many of the principles of other management systems and

requires the organisation to have a quality management system, supplier management system in place and establish policies, objectives and metrics for environmental issues including greenhouse gas emissions and water management and social issues including employment and skills and local communities. The standard also sets expectations on sourcing constituent materials from suppliers who themselves have environmental management and health and safety management systems in place.

Who is it for?

BES 6001 is relevant to any organisation that manufactures construction products from foundation products such as cement and steel to concrete pipes and blocks, windows, flooring, roof tiles, plastics and wood products.

Whilst it is more relevant to the B2B market, BES 6001 is also relevant to retail organisations that sell construction products such as the large DIY stores.



Claiming compliance

Any organisation can claim that they comply with the requirements of a standard. However, self-declaring compliance will not satisfy all your stakeholders.

BES 6001 has been written such that it can be independently audited and certified against by an experienced and competent body such as BSI.

BSI is delighted to offer an independent, third party assessment and certification scheme against the requirements of BS 6001, giving organisations the ability to demonstrate to clients, contractors and designers that the materials used in building products have been sourced responsibly and add credibility to any claims made.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS OF USING BES 6001

Improve business performance

Promote your responsible sourcing policy and embed responsible sourcing thinking throughout the supply chain.

Reduce the impact of your products on the environment and society

Meet stakeholders expectations or obligations now and in the future.

Protect reputation

Minimise risk to reputation through better management of suppliers and consultation with stakeholders.

How can BSI help?

The assessment process

The certification assessment is conducted by one of our highly trained and experienced client managers who will have an excellent understanding of your business area and will support you as you move forward with the assessment and certification of your responsible sourcing management system.

The assessment is typically conducted in two stages. The first stage will look at the top level policy, documentation, processes and procedures in place to manage your environmental and social aspects relating to the sourcing of materials and your client manager will identify any omissions or weaknesses that need resolving before the main assessment. Stage two of the assessment is focused on the effective implementation of the policy, documentation, processes and procedures and will involve discussions with all levels of staff within your organisation.

Subject to a successful assessment, a certificate of registration will be issued to demonstrate the scope of your activities, the locations covered, and the standard against which you have been assessed. The certificate will be valid for three years, and your assessor will visit you regularly to ensure you remain compliant, and support you in the continual improvement of your systems.

Benefits of certification

Certification will bring you the following benefits:

- **Added credibility of claims of compliance**

Certification provides independent assurance of robustness of responsible sourcing management systems and compliance to the standard.

- **Protection and enhancement of reputation**

Certification will enable you to prove that your organisation takes the environmental and social impact of sourcing construction products seriously, thus protecting and enhancing your reputation and brand image.

- **Enhanced competitiveness**

By differentiating you from your competitors, your organisation will be more attractive to customers enabling you to win more tenders. Certification will also increase your competitiveness by enabling your customers to benefit from additional credits under schemes such as BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes.

Next steps

There are a number of ways to move towards certification to BES 6001. For further information or to get a quote, please contact us.

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The BSI certification mark can be used on your stationery, literature and vehicles when you have successfully achieved certification.

