

BREEAM Recognised Responsible Sourcing Certification Schemes and BREEAM Scheme Applicability V2.0

Introduction

BREEAM awards credits for responsibly sourced materials under the Mat 03 – Responsible Sourcing of Material issue to encourage responsible material specification and procurement in construction. To achieve these credits, applicable specified materials (as listed in the relevant assessment manual) must be covered by a BREEAM recognised Environmental Management System (EMS) or a responsible sourcing certification scheme; collectively referred to as Responsible Sourcing Certification Schemes (RSCS).

Within BREEAM, recognised RSCS are awarded point scores based on their demonstrated compliance with mandatory requirements set out in the following document:

- Criteria for the Evaluation of RSCS within BREEAM V 3.0: BRE Global 2014.

These points are then used in conjunction with the Mat 03 calculator tool to determine a percentage score which in turn is then used to determine how many BREEAM credits can be awarded.

Background information on the RSCS evaluation criteria, the appeals procedure and details of scheme application acceptance (including submissions and evaluations) are available in the Resources page on the BREEAM website.

This Guidance Note provides a list of currently recognised RSCS, their scope and associated point scores. It also offers guidance on how to apply this RSCS scoring to previous schemes.

Application to BREEAM versions

The BREEAM recognised RSCS's and their associated point scores set out in this Guidance Note are applicable to the following BREEAM schemes:

- BREEAM UK New Construction 2014 scheme
- BREEAM UK Non-Domestic Refurbishment & Fit-Out 2014
- BREEAM UK Domestic Refurbishment 2014
- BREEAM International New Construction 2013
- BREEAM UK New Construction 2011

BREEAM Recognised RSCS

Table 1 provides a list of BREEAM recognised RSCS and their associated point scores on a scale of 1 to 10. At present, all full responsible sourcing schemes fall within a single score level as they all meet a set of mandatory minimum standards. It is envisaged that this will change over time as schemes evolve and detailed criteria are finalised to allow for greater differentiation between schemes.

Independently certified EMS's are also recognised to a limited degree as they partially comply with the BREEAM evaluation criteria. This is reviewed based on the extent to which they cover the supply chain process. Internationally recognised schemes, such as ISO14001, EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme) and local and / or sector specific EMS's, fall into this category.

This Guidance Note will be re-issued as necessary from time to time to include new RSCS or to take account of any changes in the currently recognised RSCS. Project teams should ensure they are referring to the latest version of this Guidance Note when carrying out new assessments. However, table 1 that was current at the time of registration of an assessment can be used to avoid the risk of changes in scores arising from materials selection during the design process.

Table-1: BREEAM recognised Responsible Sourcing Certification schemes.

BREEAM Recognised Responsible Sourcing Certification Schemes	Associated Responsible Sourcing Point Score
Reused materials only. Currently there are no other BREEAM recognised responsible sourcing certification schemes that achieve this point score	10
Currently there are no BREEAM recognised responsible sourcing certification schemes that achieve this point score	9
Currently there are no BREEAM recognised responsible sourcing certification schemes that achieve this point score	8
Currently there are no BREEAM recognised responsible sourcing certification schemes that achieve this point score	7
Currently there are no BREEAM recognised responsible sourcing certification schemes that achieve this point score	6
General: — BRE Global, BES 6001 - Framework Standard for Responsible Sourcing (all ratings) Metals: — CARES Sustainable Constructional Steel (SCS) Scheme — Eco-reinforcement Timber and Timber based products: — Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) — Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) affiliated schemes — Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI)	5
Currently there are no BREEAM recognised responsible sourcing certification schemes that achieve this point score	4
Currently there are no BREEAM recognised responsible sourcing certification schemes that achieve this point score	3
Environmental Management System (EMS) (certified): Key Process ¹ and supply chain ² extraction process (see Table-2 below).	2
Environmental Management System (EMS) (certified): Key Process ¹ (see Table-2 below).	1
¹ Key Process: The final major aspects of processing that are carried out for the product / material in question. There may be a single process or multiple processes requiring assessment, depending on the end product. The scope of the process covered by the certified EMS for each applicable material category is detailed in Table-2: Compliant EMS scope by material category.	
² Supply Chain EMS: Supply chain EMS covers all of the major aspects of processing and extraction involved in the supply chain for the end product. Note that recycled materials are not required to demonstrate a Supply Chain EMS. If the EMS certification is provided for the Key Processes for recycled materials, this is assumed by default. The scope of the key process and supply chain covered by the certified EMS for each of the assessed material category are detailed in Table-2: Compliant EMS scope by material category.	
Notes: — Recycled content of materials is taken into account in the above schemes where appropriate and is not separately recognised in this table. — This table will be updated periodically to reflect changes arising as a result of scheme development/further evaluation.	

EMS Scope by Material Category

Table-2 below provides a list of the key process and supply chain (extraction) processes (by material category) that the scope of the EMS must cover in order to achieve the point scores.

Table-2: Compliant EMS scope by material category

Material Category	Key Process	Key Supply Chain Process
Timber / timber based		
Virgin timber	Timber from certified sources	Timber from certified sources
Wood panel and wood based composite products such as Oriented Strand Board, plywood, HPL, chipboard/particle, glulam, LVL, etc.	Wood products, including those with recycled content, can only use the timber certification route	
Concrete / Cementitious		
In situ concrete (including ready mix and cementitious mortars and renders')	Ready mixed concrete plant	Cement production, Aggregate extraction and production
Precast concrete and other concrete products (including blocks, cladding, precast flooring concrete or cementitious roof tiles)	Concrete product manufacture	Cement production, Aggregate extraction and production
Plasterboard/ plaster	Plasterboard or plaster manufacture	Gypsum extraction, Synthetic gypsum (from flue gas desulphurisation) by default (recycled content)
Cement bonded particle board	Due to significant cement content, in addition to requiring timber certification, the key supply chain process must also be considered to obtain the relevant point score. Timber from certified sources	Cement production. Timber from certified sources
Metals		
Metals (steel, aluminium etc.)	Metal product manufacture- e.g. cladding production, steel section production	Metal production: Steel: Electric arc furnace or basic oxygen furnace process, Aluminium, ingot production, Copper: ingot or cathode production
Stone		
Dressed or building stone (including slate)	Stone product manufacture	Stone extraction
Clay based		
Bricks (including clay tiles and other ceramics)	Product manufacture	Clay extraction
Glass		
Glass	Glass production	Sand extraction Soda ash production or extraction

Plastic, polymer, resin, paint, chemicals and bituminous		
Plastics and rubbers (including polymeric renders, EPDM,TPO, PVC, and VET roofing membranes)	Plastic/ rubber product manufacture	Main polymer production
Resin based composites and materials (including GRP and polymeric render but excluding timber based composites)	Composite product manufacture	Glass fibre production (or other principle matrix material) Polymer production
Bituminous materials, such as roofing membranes and asphalt	Product manufacture	Bitumen production, Aggregate extraction and production
Insulation		
Foam Insulation	Insulation manufacture	Main polymer production, e.g. Polystyrene, MDI, Phenolic resin or equivalent
Stone wool, glass & cellular glass made using < 50% recycled input	Product manufacture	Any quarried or mined mineral over 20% of input
Wool	Product manufacture	Wool scouring
Products using > 50% recycled content except those using timber	Product manufacture	Recycled content by default
Timber-based insulation materials including those using recycled timber	Product manufacture	Recycled timber by default, all other timber from one of the recognised timber certification schemes in BREEAM issue Mat 03
Other renewable-based insulation materials using agricultural by-products (e.g. straw)	Product manufacture	By-product manufacture by default
Other		
Other mineral-based materials, including fibre cement and calcium silicate	Product manufacture	Cement production, Lime production, Other mineral extraction and production
Products with 100% recycled content	Product manufacture	Recycled input by default
Product with lower percentage of recycled content	Product manufacture	Supply chain process/processes for any virgin material in the relevant product type above. Recycled input by default
Any other product	Key processes is likely to be product manufacture	1 or 2 main inputs with significant production or extraction impacts should be identified
<p>¹ Where cement and aggregate, or dry mix concrete are mixed on site, (i.e. not concrete previously certified as pre-cast concrete products or wet ready mix concrete), certification must cover the manufacture of the cement and the primary process, and the extraction of the aggregate and limestone used to make cement as the supply chain process.</p>		

Use of the revised RSCS scores in assessments under previous versions of BREEAM

Following the release of version V1.0 and V1.1 of this Guidance Note, work was undertaken to align other current and superseded BREEAM schemes to the new RSCS point score approach. This gives a choice to projects still undertaking assessment under earlier versions of BREEAM and increase the applicability of new and / or revised RSCS.

A thorough analysis was conducted to determine how projects would perform under the new scoring system and compare these to the performance under the previous tier table approach. Based on the results of the analysis, an alternative set of credit percentage thresholds have been developed so that in the majority of cases, the credits achieved under both scoring systems will remain the same.

Therefore, the new scoring system is applicable to the following schemes:

- BREEAM International New Construction 2013
- BREEAM UK New Construction 2011

The new scoring approach should be applied using one of the following options as follows;

On-going assessments under these 2013 and 2011 BREEAM schemes can choose to:

1. apply the new list of BREEAM recognised RSCSs and their associated point scores (as outlined in Table 1) and credit percentage thresholds (as outlined in Table 3).

OR

2. continue to use the RSCS tier levels and associated scores and percentage thresholds provided in the relevant BREEAM scheme manual.

Assessors cannot use a combination of both options.

When choosing option 1, please also note that:

- The assessment criteria, compliance notes, evidence requirements, calculation methodology, additional information and other information as stated under the issue in the relevant BREEAM scheme manual remain the same.
- Tier levels are no longer required to be reported; the calculator tool will only require the applicable RSCS. The associated point scores are then automatically assigned by the tool.

Table 3: Option 1 credit percentage threshold applicable to BREEAM International New Construction 2013 and BREEAM UK New Construction 2011

BREEAM Credits	% of Available Points Achieved
Exemplary level	100%
3	≥77%
2	≥46%
1	≥18%

Note: For all other assessment scheme versions, the assessor should continue to use the assessment and scoring method as set out in the relevant scheme manual.

Schedule of changes

Guidance note Version	Release date	Description of changes/ additions to previous changes
1.0	01/09/14	First version of Guidance Note 18, compliant with issue 2.0 of SD5076 BREEAM UK New Construction 2014 scheme technical manual.
1.1	29/11/14	Updated version of the Guidance Note to ensure compliance with issue 1.0 of SD5077 BREEAM UK Domestic Refurbishment 2014
2.0	01/12/14	Updated version of the Guidance Note to ensure compliance with SD 5073 BREEAM UK New Construction 2011 scheme and SD 5075 BREEAM International New Construction 2013 scheme.