

# Criteria for the evaluation of responsible sourcing certification schemes within BREEAM – synopsis of 2<sup>nd</sup> round of consultation

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This document provides a short summary of the second round of consultation on the *Criteria for the evaluation of responsible sourcing certification schemes within BREEAM*. A summary of BRE Global's response is also provided.

NOTE: this second round of consultation also included the evaluation & appeals process, and a proposed revision to the Mat03 credit calculation methodology in BREEAM 2014 New Construction. The scope of this summary is limited to the scheme evaluation criteria.

## 1 Details of consultation

The second round of consultation ran from 12/03/2014 – 04/04/2014

The consultation related to BRE Global document: *Criteria for the evaluation of RSC schemes in BREEAM v2.2*

The consultation was undertaken via BRE Global's website, where the documents were freely and publically available for download.

The consultation was publicised via BRE Group communication channels and by the Construction Products Association.

Respondents were asked to provide editorial, technical and general comments on the document.

## 2 Respondents

Responses to the consultation were received from (in alphabetical order):

Organisation	Sector
BM Trada	Timber
British Construction Steel Association (BCSA)	Steel
British Woodworking Federation (BWF)	Timber
Celsa Steel UK Ltd.	Steel
FSC UK	Timber
Mineral Products Association (MPA)	Minerals
PEFC UK	Timber
Rockwool International - Denmark	Insulation (mineral)
Rockwool International - Netherlands	Insulation (mineral)
Rockwool Ltd. UK	Insulation (mineral)
Siniat	Gypsum
Timber Trade Federation (TTF)	Timber
UK CARES	Steel

### 3 Synopsis of responses

No individual comments are listed here, but where several respondents made a similar comment the point it is summarised. Individual comments have been reviewed and taken into account.

#### 3.1 Comments on the individual evaluation criteria

There was a general consensus that the simplification of the criteria from the first version to the second version was a welcome change.

There were very few comments on the individual evaluation criteria, or the accompanying guidance notes. Some clarifications were requested but there were no major issues raised.

#### 3.2 Linking the evaluation to the BREEAM tier table

Respondents generally commented that the linking of scores against the evaluation criteria (0, 1 or 2 for each of the individual criteria) to the BREEAM tier level was complex and therefore not clear.

There was not a general consensus behind the idea of categorising responsible sourcing certification schemes as *material resource stewardship* schemes and/or *sustainable development management* schemes. Several respondents raised concerns that using the concept of organisational maturity, as presented, was too subjective.

#### 3.3 Other comments

Many respondents commented that the proposed approach could be difficult for SMEs.

Several respondents commented that the approach was too strongly focused on the UK market to be broadly applicable to BREEAM's international market.

Several respondents raised concerns that the proposed changes to the tier table would not be understood by contractors and specifiers, and that the results of the evaluation might be perceived, incorrectly, as a general downgrading of some or all schemes.

### 4 Summary of BRE Global responses to second round of consultation

Minor revisions have been made to the evaluation criteria and guidance notes to incorporate feedback from respondents, but no significant changes to the purpose or scope of the individual criteria have been made.

Due to the general lack of consensus behind the proposed approach of distinguishing between *material resource stewardship* schemes and *sustainable development management* schemes, BRE Global proposes to further simplify the evaluation process in terms of how it links to BREEAM.

The guiding principles are that:

- i) a combination of good practice in standard setting, stakeholder consultation and transparency will result in requirements that are appropriate to a particular sector, allowing it to demonstrate that the main risks are being managed; and

- ii) if certification activities are well managed, and well governed, then the scheme itself will provide high quality assurance that the requirements are being implemented.

All schemes meeting the mandatory levels specified in Table 5-1 will be approved for credit at the same tier level. No summing of scores against individual criteria will be undertaken.

EMS, and Small Company EMS elements of the BREEAM 2011 Mat03 tier table will be retained at a lower tier level.

The results of each scheme evaluation will be made freely and publically available. This is in order to provide a transparent means by which the scope of responsible sourcing assessment standards and schemes can be compared by a broad range of stakeholders, including users of BREEAM. It is hoped that this will help to highlight the relative strengths and weaknesses of the different schemes and standards, and by doing so provide an incentive for further developments and improvements.