

BES 6001 Verification Statement

Responsible Sourcing has become an increasingly significant part of the standards landscape in the construction industry. As a result, a number of construction product manufacturers have achieved certification to the BES 6001 standard for responsible sourcing. BES 6001 requires construction product manufacturers to demonstrate levels of achievement against a series of specific requirements. Within these requirements, some clauses contain compulsory requirements, with many also offering additional credits for achieving additional progress beyond the compulsory level. Depending upon the score achieved by the organisation, it is possible to gain a Pass, Good, Very Good or Excellent rating. Higher rating levels often require that the environmental and social data communicated to stakeholders are externally verified.

This is Responsible Solutions Ltd statement on BES 6001 environmental and social activities (qualitative and quantitative) based on British Gypsum's 2015 sustainability data.

Nature and Scope of Verification

Responsible Solutions was commissioned by British Gypsum to verify a number of environmental and social issues which are communicated to stakeholders through the sustainability report. The scope of verification focused on specific clauses in the BES 6001 V3.0 Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products. Responsible Solutions has not been involved in the preparation of the sustainability report in any circumstances.

Statement on Responsible Solutions and Independence

Responsible Solutions has been supporting clients in demonstrating their sustainability credentials for over 13 years. Our team has, between them, over 120 years' experience in supporting companies in a range of services including; Environmental Management Systems (including ISO 14001 and BS 8555); Responsible Sourcing (including BES 6001); Corporate Responsibility Strategies; Performance reporting/verification and other services. Responsible Solutions is completely independent from British Gypsum without any bias or conflict of interest.

The verification exercise was conducted by Dr James Upstill-Goddard who has experience of responsible sourcing in both commercial and academic capacities. Dr Upstill-Goddard has supported a number of different product manufacturers to certification and external verification to BES 6001 since 2011, and has also been involved in collaborative research on the topic in this time.

Responsible Sourcing Issues

The specific clauses of BES 6001 relevant to this verification are Greenhouse Gases (3.4.1); Resource Use (3.4.3); Waste (3.4.4); Water (3.4.5); Employment & Skills (3.4.9) and Local Communities (3.4.10). The majority of the verification process focused on the metrics communicated to stakeholders; however, part of the process examined existing policy as per the requirements of the BES 6001 framework standard.

The exercise was conducted to ensure that the information communicated to stakeholders was:

- a) Materially accurate;

- b) Supported by appropriate documentation and evidence.

Verification Standard

There is no specific verification standard for BES 6001. Greenhouse Gas emissions are required to be calculated to the principles of ISO 14064-1 and verification of the Greenhouse Gas emissions to ISO 14064-3. Many organisations fall into a number of Carbon measurement schemes such as EUETS, CRCEES and CCA; therefore, direct emissions data are often already verified as part of legal compliance to a scheme. In such instances the existing verification can be accepted and other indirect energy streams verified to meet the principles of ISO 14064 parts 1 and 3.

Verification Opinion

Based on the information and data contained within the sustainability report we are satisfied that it provides a fair and balanced representation of British Gypsum's sustainability activities in 2015 with respect to the requirements for BES 6001 clauses as described on page 1. This verification opinion relates to British Gypsum's operations based on a representative sample set. Based on our work we conclude that:

- The information presented in the sustainability report is materially accurate;
- A reasonable level of assurance is given to the Greenhouse Gas calculations (as per ISO 14064-3) meaning that the GHG assertion is:
 - Materially correct and a fair representation of the GHG data and information; and
 - Is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the EU ETS.
- There was a process by which primary information was collated (i.e Bills, invoices, meters) and used for reporting purposes; primarily for clauses 3.4.1, 3.4.4 and 3.4.5;
- Constituent materials were able to demonstrate environmental stewardship at source, primarily for clause 3.4.3 with a significant percentage of the supply chain having certification to ISO 14001;
- Statements are materially accurate and supported by a range of documents from within the management systems and from reports, minutes, company publications and other sources; primarily for clauses 3.4.9 and 3.4.10.



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