



**Responsible Sourcing  
Standard**

**Steel Products for the  
Reinforcement of Concrete**

**Issue 2.0**

**[www.Eco-Reinforcement.org](http://www.Eco-Reinforcement.org)**

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## **FOREWORD**

Responsible sourcing of materials (RSM) provides a holistic approach to managing the impacts of a product's supply chain from the point at which a material is mined or harvested in its raw state, through its manufacture, processing and delivery to its use, re-use and recycling, until its final disposal as waste with no further value.

Responsible sourcing of materials is demonstrated through supply chain management of environmental, social and economic impacts and whole-life product stewardship, and incorporates a continuous stakeholder engagement process.

This Eco-Reinforcement sector Standard has been prepared to provide the reinforcing steel industry with a means of assessing their responsible sourcing practices, and achieving certification against a formal set of requirements. The key objectives of this Standard are:

- To promote responsible sourcing of reinforcing steel products through the provision of a set of industry-specific requirements;
- To give clear guidance on the sustainability aspects that should be addressed as priority issues of the sector;
- To provide confidence that materials and products are being responsibly sourced and;
- To provide a route to obtaining credits within the Materials sections of the Code for Sustainable Homes and the BREEAM family of certification schemes.

The Eco-Reinforcement Standard is owned by the Eco-Reinforcement Consortium. This Standard has been developed by BRE Global for the Eco-Reinforcement Consortium in consultation with relevant stakeholders including:

- Arup
- Arcelor Mittal Kent Steel Wire
- Bovis Lend Lease
- BRC Ltd
- British Association of Reinforcement
- British Precast
- CEEQUAL
- CELSA
- The Concrete Centre
- Crane Environmental
- Express Reinforcements Ltd
- Hy-Ten Ltd
- Kierbeck Ltd
- ROM
- Skanska
- Thamesteel
- The Roe Group
- UK Steel

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### **Relationship of Eco-Reinforcement to BES 6001 – Explained**

This Standard has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of BRE Global's Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products BES 6001.

The BES 6001 Standard was developed by BRE Global, in consultation with a wide range of industry stakeholders, to provide a route to certification for responsibly sourced construction products. It was developed as a framework against which sector Standards can be formulated to incorporate industry-specific requirements whilst also retaining comparability between sectors.

BES 6001 is the master Standard against which to demonstrate compliance. If the requirements of Eco-Reinforcement are met, it is possible to achieve certification to BES 6001 at the relevant level (e.g. Pass, Good, Very Good or Excellent).

In some circumstances, the mandatory requirements of Eco-Reinforcement go beyond the base compulsory requirements identified in BES 6001. The steel reinforcing industry is moving proactively to address the challenge of sustainability, and the Eco-Reinforcement Standard has been developed to measure, reward and challenge the industry in meeting these objectives.

This Standard has been approved by BRE Global as meeting the relevant requirements of BES 6001.

### **Revision of Eco-Reinforcement Standard**

As secretariat of the Standard, BRE Global is responsible for management of the Standard and will ensure that it remains consistent with future amendments of BES 6001. The Eco-Reinforcement consortium meets bi-annually to ensure that the Standard remains relevant and challenging. The latest version of the Eco-Reinforcement Standard and related documents are available at [www.eco-reinforcement.org](http://www.eco-reinforcement.org).

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 relating to the issue number and the fractional part relating to 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 sector Standard sets out the requirements of the Eco-Reinforcement certification scheme for a reinforcing steel product to be classified as being responsibly sourced against BES 6001 Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products.

The requirements of BES 6001 provide a framework against which all construction products may be assessed. This Standard provides a steel reinforcement sector-specific means to gain certification against the requirements of BES 6001.

This Standard has been structured to enable demonstration of compliance through a combination of meeting the requirements of other recognised certification schemes, establishing written policies, setting objectives and targets and engaging with relevant stakeholders.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

This Standard makes use of the term 'shall' to prescribe a requirement or procedure that is intended to be complied with in full and without deviation.

### **accredited organisation**

A United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accredited certification body or other certification body which is a member of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) or International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA).

### **assessed product**

The Eco-Reinforcement standard assesses all steel products for the reinforcement of concrete. For steel mills, the assessed product is defined as steel bar, coil or decoiled product for the reinforcement of concrete (as defined by BS4449). For steel fabricators, the assessed product is defined as cut and bent steel bars and mesh for the reinforcement of concrete. Billet and feedstock coil can also be assessed under the Eco-Reinforcement Standard.

### **benchmark**

The practices of those recognised as industry leaders.

### **biodiversity**

The variety of life on earth which includes all species, animal, plants, fungi, algae, bacteria and the habitats that they depend upon.

### **chain of custody**

The process used to maintain and document the chronological history of the unbroken path a product takes to the consumer, including all stages of manufacturing and distribution.

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**constituent material(s)**

The raw material(s) and/or component(s) used in the manufacture and/or fabrication of the assessed product. Constituent materials are those present as a constituent of the product as delivered to the customer. For reinforcing steel, constituent materials may include the following, depending on the grade of steel produced:

- Scrap steel;
  - Iron ore;
  - Coking coal;
  - Ferro Alloys.
- } Constituent materials

The following materials may be used during the process of steel manufacture/fabrication but are not included within the scope of Eco-Reinforcement:

- Lime;
  - Oxygen;
  - Ferro Alloys;
  - Inject carbon;
  - Coke;
  - Nitrogen;
  - Hydraulic oils;
  - Argon;
  - Biocides;
  - Mould lubricant;
  - Flocculants;
  - Corrosion Inhibitor;
  - Lubricating Oils;
  - Oxygen scavenger.
- } Process consumable materials

Please note that the above lists are not exhaustive. It is the responsibility of the organisation under assessment to provide evidence for which of the above materials are present as constituent materials within the final product.

*NOTE 1: water is excluded from the requirements that apply to constituent materials in this Standard.*

**customer**

For steel mills, the customer is defined as the fabricator. For fabricators, the customer is defined as the pre-cast company, stockist or site.

**due diligence**

The performance of relevant and appropriate investigations and monitoring of an organisation's supply chains so that the actions of those supply chains do not compromise the organisation's commitments to responsible sourcing.

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**environmental stewardship**

The responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment, demonstrated through continuous improvement of environmental performance, and a commitment to efficient use of natural resources, protection of ecosystems, and, where applicable, ensuring a baseline of compliance with environmental requirements<sup>1</sup>. This could be demonstrated, for example, through the use of site biodiversity plans, end-of-use site remediation plans etc.

**ethical principles**

Principles of right or good conduct in the context of a particular situation which are consistent with international norms of behaviour.

**ethics**

The ethical principles an organisation upholds in making and implementing decisions in pursuit of its objectives.

**metric**

The objective measurement of economic, environmental or social performance

**non-renewable resource**

Non-renewable resources are those that exist in a fixed amount and are not replenished on a human time scale.

**objective**

A strategic goal set by the organisation arising from its policy

**organisation**

The organisation seeking certification of its product(s) to this Standard. This includes steel mills and fabricators.

**policy**

A written plan of plan or course of action, intended to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters

**renewable resource**

Renewable resources are those that replace themselves unless overused e.g. timber or sources of energy that can not be depleted e.g. wind. Scrap steel is derived from a non-renewable resource (iron ore) but is recycled and therefore qualifies as a renewable resource for the purpose of this Standard.

**responsible sourcing**

The promotion and support of responsible practices throughout the supply chain demonstrated by actions and behaviour consistent with

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<sup>1</sup> As defined by S.L. Johnson within US EPA 'Everyday Choices: Opportunities for Environmental Stewardship' report. Available <http://www.epa.gov/epainnov/pdf/rpt2admin.pdf>.

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responsible sourcing principles.

**responsible sourcing principles**  
**principles of responsible sourcing**

The principles an organisation upholds in making and implementing decisions with respect to its purchasing practices in accordance with Sub-clause 4.1. It is logically and ethically consistent that these principles apply equally to the organisation making these purchasing decisions as well as its supply chains.

**senior management**

The organisation's leadership or governing body.

**source**

The point of extraction and acquisition of raw materials, or the point of recovery of recycled materials, or the point of production of by-products or production residues. For mills, the source of scrap steel is defined as the point of recovery of recycled steel by the scrap merchant. For fabricators purchasing reinforcing steel product from an Eco-Reinforcement certified mill, the source is defined as the steel mill.

**stakeholder**

Individuals, groups and/or organisations who affect and/or could be affected by an organisation's activities, products or services and associated performance.

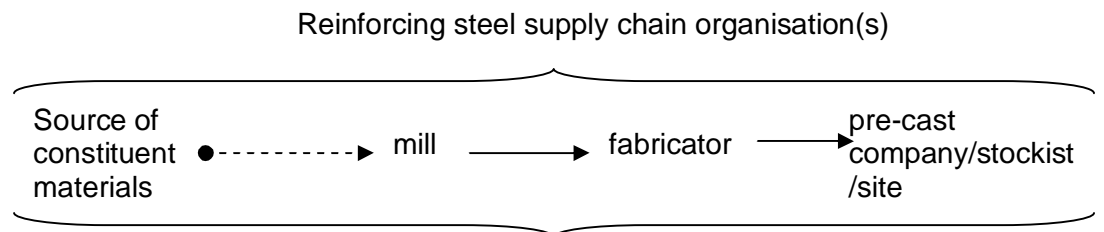
**supplier(s)**

The immediate supplier(s) of the constituent material(s) of the assessed product to the organisation e.g. suppliers of scrap steel, reinforcing steel product, alloying agents etc.

**supply chain**

**supply chain organisation(s)**

System of individuals, organisations and resources involved in developing the different elements of a product:



*NOTE 1: the supply chain, according to the requirements of the Eco-Reinforcement Standard, refers to stages of production, processes or activities for delivery of products that occur before the organisation takes major responsibility for the product, and stages of production, processes or activities for delivery of products undertaken by the*

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*organisation.*

**sustainable development**

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.<sup>2</sup>

**target**

Detailed performance requirements arising from an organisation's objectives, quantified where practicable.

**traceability**

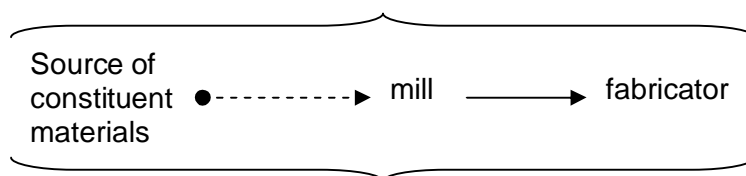
The ability to trace and follow a constituent material intended to be, or expected to be incorporated into a construction product, through all stages of production, processing and distribution. Traceability may be established through a third-party accreditation scheme, where applicable.

*NOTE 1: 'stages of production, processing and distribution' means any stage from and including the source of the constituent material, up to and including its storage, transport, sale or supply to the organisation.*

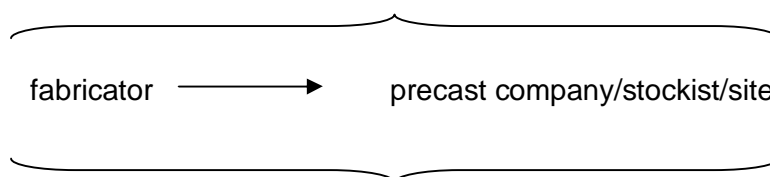
**transport recording**

For Eco-Reinforcement members, responsibility for measurement and recording of transport distances and modes is assigned as follows:

Mill - transport of constituent materials to mill and transport of reinforcing steel product from mill to fabricator



Fabricator - transport of fabricated product to customer



**Type I Environmental Declaration**

Environmental label, as defined by BS EN ISO 14024, which identifies products determined to be environmentally preferable within a particular product category. Type I environmental labelling programmes are voluntary, can be operated by public or private agencies and can be national, regional or international in nature.

<sup>2</sup> As defined by G.H. Brundtland within United Nations 'Our Common Future report' (1987). Available <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>.

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### **Type II Environmental Declaration**

Self-declared environmental declaration, as defined by BS EN ISO 14021, based on clear, transparent, scientifically sound and documented evaluation methods, ensuring that those who purchase or may potentially purchase products can be assured of the validity of the claims.

### **Type III Environmental Declaration**

Environmental declaration, as defined by BS ISO 14025, based on lifecycle assessment (LCA) providing quantified environmental data using predetermined parameters and, where relevant, additional environmental information

*NOTE 1: The predetermined parameters are based on the ISO 14040 series of standards, which is made up of ISO 14040 and ISO 14044.*

*NOTE 2: The additional environmental information may be quantitative or qualitative.*

### **waste hierarchy**

The waste hierarchy promotes waste management in the following order of preference: waste reduction; re-use; recycling and/or materials recovery such as composting; energy recovery; final disposal to landfill or incineration without energy recovery. This includes measures such as provision of takeback schemes for surplus/offcut product and its packaging (with subsequent re-use, recycling or recovery); design of product to improve disassembly, and the ability to re-use, recycle or recover; and avoidance of hazardous and non-recyclable/recoverable materials in the product or its packaging, or otherwise identifying resource/waste management facilities to recycle or recover products.

### **water extraction**

All water extraction, except:

- Seawater
- Water extracted and then returned to the same source with no change in water quality (water lost through evaporation would be included in the category)
- Water stored in holding lakes on site for recirculation ('top-up' water from other sources is included)
- Rainwater collected, stored and/or used as part of the production process

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### **3 REQUIREMENTS**

#### **3.1 General**

The requirements of the Eco-Reinforcement Standard consist of actions to be taken to demonstrate adoption of the principles of responsible sourcing as described in Sub-clause 4.1.

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

- Organisational Management Requirements
- Supply Chain Management Requirements
- Environmental and Social Requirements

Certain requirements, or elements of the requirements, are considered compulsory for organisations applying for certification against this Standard. Where requirements are marked as simply 'Compulsory', the requirement relates to all organisations being assessed against the Standard. Other specific requirements are marked as 'Compulsory for Fabricators' or 'Compulsory for Mills'. Where actions are defined as 'Recommended', it is not compulsory to comply with the requirement but the industry is aiming towards this level of best practice. Furthermore, additional Performance Ratings (on a scale of 0 to 7) are allocated to the voluntary elements of the requirements. The scoring methodology is explained in Sub-clause 4.2.

Recommended Key Performance Indicators are specified throughout this Standard to provide guidance to the industry on how to comply with the requirement for environmental and social metrics. It is recommended that these are used by organisations seeking certification against BES 6001 through the Eco-Reinforcement route to ensure sector consistency. If other metrics are used, the organisation shall demonstrate that these metrics are appropriate to the purposes and activities of the organisation.

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 8900:2006. In some circumstances it may be appropriate for a relevant and representative organisation (e.g. a Trade Association) to undertake consultation with stakeholders on behalf of the organisation seeking certification.

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### 3.2 Organisational Management Requirements

#### 3.2.1 Responsible sourcing policy

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<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 Sub-clause 4.1. The policy shall be approved by the organisation's senior management.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The responsible sourcing policy may be incorporated within other policies required for certification against this Standard. See Appendix A for an example of a stand-alone responsible sourcing policy which incorporates the principles outlined in Sub-clause 4.1.</p>	Compulsory

#### 3.2.2 Legal compliance

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a procedure(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o to identify and have access to all applicable legal requirements to which the organisation subscribes, and</li> <li>o to determine how these requirements apply to the implementation of its policy established in Sub-clause 3.2.1.</li> </ul> <p>The organisation shall ensure that these applicable legal requirements to which the organisation subscribes are taken into account in establishing, implementing and maintaining its management systems. This includes all legal requirements that apply to the organisation, regardless of whether they are directly related to the assessed product.</p>	Compulsory

#### 3.2.3 Quality management system

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The organisation shall have a quality management system to ISO 9001 or equivalent, certificated by an accredited organisation, to implement its quality and responsible sourcing procedures, and which includes in its scope the assessed product.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The requirement for responsible sourcing procedures can also be met if they are incorporated within other management systems certificated by an accredited organisation e.g. ISO14001.</p>	1 Compulsory

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### 3.2.4 Supplier management system

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<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 approval of its suppliers to implement the policy established in Sub-clause 3.2.1 of this Standard. This shall follow the principles of Sub-clause 7.4 of ISO 9001 and be integrated in the organisation's quality management system.</p> <p>The organisation shall maintain a list of the suppliers that provide constituent materials of the assessed product.</p> <p>Where supply chain organisation(s) source constituent materials outside of the 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 monitoring compliance with the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. For example, the following established schemes shall be considered appropriate mechanisms for demonstrating due diligence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Membership of the Ethical Trade Initiative</li> <li>○ Membership of the United Nations Global Compact</li> <li>○ Certification to the Social Accountability International SA8000 Standard</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Where an organisation seeking certification of its product(s) to this Standard is responsible for the constituent material(s) at the source, the organisation shall demonstrate traceability from the source of the constituent material(s) to the assessed product(s) through any subsequent processes of product realisation.</li> <li>○ For many processes, a large number of substances and materials are used in very small quantities and it is unrealistic to gather information on all of these. Therefore, if constituent materials are sourced from outside the EU/OECD, risk assessments and due diligence shall be provided for 98% of constituent materials (by mass and volume) e.g. if 60% of suppliers are within the EU/OECD, the organisation shall provide risk assessments to cover the remaining 38% of constituent materials which are sourced outside the EU/OECD.</li> </ul>	Compulsory

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### 3.3 Supply Chain Management Requirements

#### 3.3.1 Material traceability through the supply chain

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>60% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to the supply chain organisation(s) in the supply chain responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The extraction and acquisition of raw materials; or</li> <li>○ The recovery of recycled materials; or</li> <li>○ The production of by-products or production residues; or</li> <li>○ The processing of commodity traded chemicals</li> </ul> <p>As appropriate to the source of the constituent material(s).</p> <p>The following mechanisms shall be considered appropriate for demonstrating traceability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The organisation responsible for the constituent material(s) at each stage of the supply chain shall be certificated by an accredited organisation to ISO 9001; or</li> <li>○ Equivalent documented evidence of material traceability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An independently audited chain of custody scheme to the source of the constituent material(s) satisfies the requirement for traceability.</li> </ul>	Compulsory
b)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', 75% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable according to the criteria described in a) above.	1
c)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', 90% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable according to the criteria described in a) above.	2 (Compulsory for fabricators)

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### 3.3.2 Environmental management systems in the supply chain

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The traceable constituent material(s) in the assessed product (60%, 75% or 90% as established in Sub-clause 3.3.1) shall be traceable to supply chain organisation(s) with a documented environmental management system (EMS) for all processes associated with raw material extraction and acquisition, energy and material production and manufacture in the supply chain. The EMS shall follow the relevant principles of ISO 14001.</p> <p>The mill or fabricator seeking certification of its product to the Eco-Reinforcement Standard shall have an environmental management system certificated by an accredited organisation to ISO 14001 or equivalent, or shall demonstrate that they are actively working towards certification.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constituent materials which are recycled materials or by-products or production residues (according to the criteria defined by WRAP<sup>3</sup>) are considered to satisfy this requirement without further verification.</li> </ul>	Compulsory
b)	<p>To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', 60% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to supply chain organisation(s) with an EMS certificated by an accredited organisation to ISO 14001 or EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or, for 'small companies', confirmation that the company EMS is structured in compliance with BS 8555 (or equivalent) and the EMS has completed phase audits one to four as outlined in BS 8555. This evidence can be found from company documentation demonstrating the process and typical outputs from phase four audits such as an EMS manual/paperwork and guidance to staff. Where independent certification exists to demonstrate these phases, it can be used as evidence.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> It is recommended that all supply chain organisations work towards certification to a recognised EMS scheme such as ISO14001, EMAS etc.</p>	1
c)	<p>To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', 75% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to supply chain organisation(s) with a certificated EMS, according to the criteria described in b) above.</p>	2
d)	<p>To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', for 90% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to supply chain organisation(s) with a certificated EMS, according to the criteria described in b) above.</p>	3

<sup>3</sup> Criteria defined within WRAP's 'Calculating and declaring recycled content in construction products' report. Available [http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/Rules\\_of\\_Thumb1.a334e997.4939.pdf](http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/Rules_of_Thumb1.a334e997.4939.pdf)

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### 3.3.3 Health and safety management systems in the supply chain

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The traceable constituent material(s) in the assessed product (as established in Sub-clause 3.3.1) shall be traceable to supply chain organisation(s) with a documented health and safety management system for all processes associated with raw material extraction and acquisition, energy and material production and manufacture in the supply chain.</p> <p>The health and safety management system shall be compliant with local legislation and incorporate the recording of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fatal incidents</li> <li>○ Near miss incidents</li> <li>○ Time loss incidents</li> </ul> <p>These requirements apply to the entire supply chain.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is recommended that the mill or fabricator seeking certification of its product to the Eco-Reinforcement Standard shall have a health and safety management system certificated by an accredited organisation to BS OHSAS 18001 or equivalent, or shall demonstrate that they are actively working towards certification.</li> <li>○ Constituent materials which are recycled materials or by-products or production residues (according to the criteria defined by WRAP<sup>4</sup>) are considered to satisfy this requirement without further verification.</li> </ul>	Compulsory
b)	<p>To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', 60% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to supply chain organisation(s) with a health and safety management system certificated by an accredited organisation to BS OHSAS 18001 (or equivalent).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> It is recommended that all supply chain organisations work towards certification to a recognised health and safety management system such as BS OHSAS 18001.</p>	1
c)	<p>To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', 75% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to supply chain organisation(s) with a certificated health and safety management system, according to the criteria described in b) above.</p>	2

<sup>4</sup> Criteria defined within WRAP's 'Calculating and declaring recycled content in construction products' report. Available [http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/Rules\\_of\\_Thumb1.a334e997.4939.pdf](http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/Rules_of_Thumb1.a334e997.4939.pdf)

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d)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', for 90% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to supply chain organisation(s) with a certificated health and safety management system, according to the criteria described in b) above.	3
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### **3.4 Environmental and Social Requirements**

#### **3.4.1 General**

To avoid repetition, the phrases 'establish a policy and metrics', 'have objectives and targets and review performance', 'report to its stakeholders' and 'external verification' shall be understood to require the following actions where used in the requirements of Sub-clause 3.4.

##### **Establish a policy and metrics**

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 must be verifiable in order to comply with the requirements of the Standard.

##### **Have objectives and targets and review performance**

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

##### **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. The standard requires the data to be publicly available and that the data is product, site and company related. Data that is aggregated and presented as an industry average is not acceptable as a 'report to its stakeholder' unless it is product, site and company specific. Data may be reported through a relevant representative organisation (e.g. a Trade Association or the Eco-Reinforcement Consortium) but it shall be product, site and company specific to satisfy the requirements in the relevant clauses of stakeholder engagement.

##### **External verification**

The organisation shall undertake or provide for external verification of the data and information that it communicates to stakeholders. This shall be undertaken by an independent third party with relevant experience and expertise in external verification, ensuring that all data is valid and consistent. Type III Declarations for assessed products can be used to demonstrate external verification of impacts included within the assessment.

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### 3.4.2 Greenhouse gas emissions

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy and metrics for the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, as defined within BS ISO 14064-1, related to the manufacture or fabrication of the assessed product.</p> <p><b>Recommended metrics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Kg fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per tonne production output of assessed product(s)</i></li> </ul> <p>Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions includes CO<sub>2</sub> from all fuels, inputs and process emissions with the exception of biomass fuels.<sup>5</sup> Reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme fulfils the requirements for this metric.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Kg non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions per tonne production output</i></li> </ul> <p>Non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions include methane, nitrous oxide, CFCs, HFCs, sulfur hexafluoride and PFCs.</p> <p>Greenhouse gas emissions are measured by recording annual fuel usage for all processes related to the manufacture/fabrication of the assessed product (with the exception of transport which is addressed in section 3.4.7). The relative quantities of different gaseous emissions depend on the mix of fuel used. Greenhouse gas emissions as proportion of production output can be calculated as follows:</p> $\frac{\text{Annual greenhouse gas emission (kg)}}{\text{Total annual production output (tonnes)}}$	Compulsory 1
b)	The organisation shall have objectives and targets for the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and review its performance.	Compulsory 3
c)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall report to its stakeholders on the emissions of greenhouse gases associated with processes of extraction and acquisition of raw materials, and energy and material production, and manufacture of its assessed product.	Recommended 5
d)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall have external verification of the information and data reported above.	7

<sup>5</sup> This definition of fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is taken from the EU Emissions Trading Scheme guidelines, available at [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l\\_229/l\\_22920070831en00010085.pdf?lang=\\_e](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_229/l_22920070831en00010085.pdf?lang=_e) (accessed 22/04/09).

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### 3.4.3 Resource use

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy and metrics in line with industry aspirations for the efficient use of constituent materials, to address the following issues, as appropriate to reinforcing steel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of renewable materials over non-renewable materials</li> <li>• Resource efficiency – using fewer materials</li> <li>• Re-use of materials</li> <li>• Use of recycled materials/production residues<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Use of recyclable materials</li> </ul> <p>The policy should include a requirement for demonstration of environmental stewardship at the source of all constituent materials.</p> <p><b>Recommended metrics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>% recycled or renewable material as proportion of total constituent material</i></li> </ul> <p>Resource use can be measured by recording the annual quantities of each recycled/renewable input material used in manufacture of the product as delivered to the customer. The input material can then be calculated as a percentage of the total production output by using the following methodology:</p> $\frac{\text{(Amount of material used per annum (tonnes) x 100)}}{\text{Total annual production output (tonnes)}}$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>% recyclable output</i></li> </ul> <p>Reinforcing steel is often present within a construction for many years, which makes product waste stewardship (i.e. ensuring that the product is recycled/reused further) problematic for the industry. Therefore the amount of recyclable output is an appropriate indicator for this sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Mass of saleable production output as percentage of raw material input</i></li> </ul> <p>Comparison of raw material input against saleable production output can provide a useful measure of resource efficiency within the production process:</p> $\frac{\text{(Mass of annual saleable output (tonnes) x 100)}}{\text{Mass of annual constituent material input (tonnes)}}$	<p>Compulsory 1</p>

<sup>6</sup> As defined within WRAP's 'Calculating and declaring recycled content in construction products' report. Available [http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/Rules\\_of\\_Thumb1.a334e997.4939.pdf](http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/Rules_of_Thumb1.a334e997.4939.pdf)

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b)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', 60% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to a source that provides verification of environmental stewardship at source.  <b>Note:</b> Constituent materials which are recycled materials, by-products or production residues are considered to satisfy this requirement without further verification.	3
c)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', 75% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to a source that provides verification of environmental stewardship at source.	5
d)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', 90% by mass of the constituent material(s) in the assessed product shall be traceable to a source that provides verification of environmental stewardship at source.	7

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#### 3.4.4 Waste management

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy and metrics for the diversion of waste from landfill or incineration without energy recovery in accordance with the waste hierarchy.</p> <p><b>Recommended metrics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Total waste resulting from production of assessed product(s) as proportion of total production output of assessed product(s)</i></li> </ul> <p>Waste production is measured by weighing all waste leaving the site, either by the organisation or a waste contractor. The total amount of waste produced can be calculated as follows:</p> $\frac{\text{(Amount of waste produced per annum (tonnes) x 100)}}{\text{Total annual production output (tonnes)}}$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Total waste resulting from production of assessed product(s) sent to landfill or incineration without energy recovery as proportion of total waste production resulting from production of assessed product.</i></li> </ul> <p>In order to measure proportions of waste sent to different disposal routes, the waste destinations should be identified and output of waste to each destination weighed. The proportion of waste sent to landfill/incineration without energy recovery can be calculated as:</p> $\frac{\text{(Tonnes waste sent to landfill/incineration w/o waste recovery x 100)}}{\text{Total annual waste production (tonnes)}}$	Compulsory 1
b)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall have objectives and targets for waste management and review its performance.	Compulsory 2
c)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall report to its stakeholders on waste management.	3
d)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall have external verification of the information and data reported above.	4

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### 3.4.5 Water extraction

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy and metrics for the reduction of water extraction from the mains and/or source.</p> <p><b>Recommended metrics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>m<sup>3</sup> mains water used per tonne production output of assessed product</i></li> <li>○ <i>m<sup>3</sup> other controlled water used per tonne production output of assessed product</i></li> </ul> <p>‘Other controlled water’ can include surface water and groundwater. Amounts of mains water used can be calculated from meter readings. Other controlled water should be subject to abstraction license monitoring conditions. Water use per tonne production output can be calculated as follows:</p> $\frac{\text{m}^3 \text{ mains/other controlled water used per annum}}{\text{Total annual production output (tonnes)}}$	1 (Compulsory for mills)
b)	To achieve a higher ‘Performance Rating’, the organisation shall have objectives and targets for the reduction of water extraction and review its performance.	2
c)	To achieve a higher ‘Performance Rating’, the organisation shall report to its stakeholders on water extraction associated with processes of extraction and acquisition of raw materials, and energy and material production, and manufacture of its assessed product.	3
d)	To achieve a higher ‘Performance Rating’, the organisation shall have external verification of the information and data reported above.	4

### 3.4.6 Lifecycle assessment (LCA)

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	The organisation shall have a Type I or Type II Environmental Declaration of its assessed product.	2
b)	To achieve a higher ‘Performance Rating’, the organisation shall have an independent, peer-reviewed Type III Environmental Declaration of its assessed product.	4
c)	To achieve a higher ‘Performance Rating’, the organisation shall report to its stakeholders on the lifecycle environmental impacts and Type III Environmental Declaration of its assessed product.	5

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### 3.4.7 Transport

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy and metrics for reducing the adverse social and environmental impacts of transport associated with the delivery of its assessed product to its customers  <b>AND</b>  The organisation shall have in place a documented system to record the supply of traceable constituent material(s) in the assessed product (according to the criteria described in Sub-clause 3.3.1), the distances and types of transport used to deliver the constituent material(s) from the source, and the distances transported to deliver the assessed product to its customers and types of transport/fuel used.</p> <p><b>Recommended metrics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Average distance travelled (km) per tonne of constituent material from supplier to mill by a) road, b) ocean-going vessel, c) inland barge, d) rail.</i></li> </ul> <p>This can be measured by recording details at the point of delivery such as weight of load, type of transport and distance travelled from supplier. Over a given time period, the amounts and distances delivered for each transport type can be totalled and averaged per tonne product:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Total distance of all constituent material deliveries by road p.a.</u>  Total tonnage constituent material delivered by road p.a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Average distance travelled (km) per tonne reinforcing steel product from mill to fabricator by a) road, b) ocean-going vessel, c) inland barge, d) rail.</i></li> </ul> <p>This can be calculated by recording distances from mill to fabricator, weight of load and type of transport (as above).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Average distance travelled (km) per tonne finished product from fabricator to customer by a) road, b) ocean going vessel, c) inland barge, d) rail.</i></li> </ul> <p>This can be calculated by recording distances from fabricator to customer, weight of loads and type of transport (as above).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Annual greenhouse gas emissions associated with transport of assessed product</i></li> </ul>	Recommended 1

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	Volumes of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transport processes can be calculated by recording annual fuel usage for all transport processes related to the assessed product. The relative quantities of different gaseous emissions depend on the mix of fuel used.	
b)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall have objectives and targets for reducing the adverse social and environmental impacts of transport associated with the supply of constituent materials and delivery of its assessed product to its customers and review its performance.	2
c)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall report to its stakeholders on the transport impacts of its assessed product, including the distances and types of transport used to deliver the constituent material(s) from the source, and the distances transported to deliver the assessed product to its customers and types of transport used.	3
d)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall have external verification of the information and data reported above.	4

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### 3.4.8 Employment and skills

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy and metrics for the learning and development of its employees. The policy shall include an objective to clearly outline the organisation's vision for sustainable development in its recruitment and induction programmes, and in all relevant professional and functional training.</p> <p><b>Recommended metrics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Percentage of new staff formally inducted to company's sustainable development and responsible sourcing policies and vision upon recruitment</i></li> <li>○ <i>Percentage of staff receiving annual professional development reviews</i></li> <li>○ <i>Number of training days provided per direct employee per year</i></li> <li>○ <i>Percentage of employees with NVQ (or higher) qualifications per year</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Certified 'Investor In People' status satisfies the requirements of this section.</li> </ul>	Compulsory 1
b)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall have objectives and targets for the learning and development of its employees and review its performance.	2
c)	To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall report to its stakeholders on the learning and development of its employees.	3
d)	<p>To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall have external verification of the information and data reported above.</p> <p>Certification against the Investors in People Standard or equivalent satisfies the requirement for external verification.</p>	4

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### 3.4.9 Local communities

	Description	Performance Rating
a)	<p>The organisation shall establish a policy and metrics to identify and consult with local community stakeholders affected by the production or fabrication of reinforcing steel <i>and</i> The organisation shall have written procedures to record all complaints from local community stakeholders and any subsequent prosecutions and associated corrective actions.</p> <p><b>Recommended metrics for local community consultation include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Number of prosecutions resulting from local community complaints per annum</i></li> <li>○ <i>Average response period for closing complaints</i></li> <li>○ <i>% identified stakeholders communicated with regarding the organisation's activities/performance</i></li> <li>○ <i>% identified stakeholders invited to engage in consultation activities</i></li> <li>○ <i>% annual turnover used for community investment</i></li> </ul>	Compulsory 1
b)	<p>To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall have objectives and targets for local community liaison activities and complaint incidents and review its performance.</p> <p>Consultation activities which involve stakeholders could include workshops, correspondence based consultation processes, etc.</p>	2
c)	<p>To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall report to its stakeholders on its local community liaison activities and complaint incidents.</p>	3
d)	<p>To achieve a higher 'Performance Rating', the organisation shall have external verification of the information and data reported above.</p>	4

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## **4 ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENTATION**

### **4.1 Principles of responsible sourcing (informative)**

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.

#### **Ethics**

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

#### **Legal compliance**

Comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

#### **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.

#### **Supply chain management**

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

#### **Stakeholder engagement**

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

#### **Complaints and prosecutions**

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

#### **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

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discrimination.

#### **Health and safety**

Operate in a responsible manner to protect employees, contractors, visitors and all those who may be affected by the organisation's activities.

#### **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.

#### **Resource use**

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

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Transport impacts**

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

#### **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.

#### **Local communities**

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

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

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

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## **4.2 Scoring Methodology (normative)**

### **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.

### **Methodology**

Assessment against the Standard is divided into three sections:

- 3.2 Organisational Management Requirements
- 3.3 Supply Chain Management Requirements
- 3.4 Environmental and Social Requirements

Each section consists of a number of requirements.

Each requirement may have a number of elements.

Each element is either voluntary or compulsory (in some cases it is assigned a 'point').

A summary of available points is shown in Table 1:

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**Table 1 Performance Ratings**

**3.2 Organisational Management Requirements**

Section	Requirement	Element				
		( a )	( b )	( c )	( d )	
3.2.1	Responsible sourcing policy	(Compulsory) 0				<b>Performance rating</b>
3.2.2	Legal compliance	(Compulsory) 0				
3.2.3	Quality management system	(Compulsory) 1				
3.2.4	Supplier management system	(Compulsory) 0				

**3.3 Supply Chain Management Requirements**

Section	Requirement	Element				
		( a )	( b )	( c )	( d )	
3.3.1	Material traceability through the supply chain	(Compulsory) 0	1	(Compulsory - fabricator) 2		<b>Performance rating</b>
3.3.2	Environmental management systems in the supply chain	(Compulsory) 0	1	2	3	
3.3.3	Health and safety management systems in the supply chain	(Compulsory) 0	1	2	3	

**3.4 Environmental and Social Requirements**

Section	Requirement	Element				
		( a )	( b )	( c )	( d )	
3.4.2	Greenhouse gas emissions	(Compulsory) 1	(Compulsory) 3	(Recommended) 5	7	<b>Performance rating</b>
3.4.3	Resource use	(Compulsory) 1	3	5	7	
3.4.4	Waste management	(Compulsory) 1	(Compulsory) 2	3	4	
3.4.5	Water extraction	(Compulsory - mills) 1	2	3	4	
3.4.6	Lifecycle assessment (LCA)	2	4	5		
3.4.7	Transport impacts	(Recommended) 1	2	3	4	
3.4.8	Employment and skills	(Compulsory) 1	2	3	4	
3.4.9	Local communities	(Compulsory) 1	2	3	4	

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The Overall Assessment Score depends on:

- The total score achieved in the requirements of sections 3.2 and 3.3 combined; and
- The total score achieved in section 3.4

and is given by the lowest score achieved in either the combined sections 3.2 & 3.3, or 3.4 as shown in Table 2 (e.g. if an organisation achieves a 'Very Good' in 3.2 & 3.3 but only achieves a 'Good' in 3.4, then it will receive an Overall Assessment Score of 'Good').

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

**a) Mills**

Section	Overall Assessment Score			
	Excellent ****	Very Good ***	Good **	Pass *
Total score in 3.2 & 3.3	Meet compulsory requirements (1) + 7	Meet compulsory requirements (1) + 4	Meet compulsory requirements (1) + 2	Meet compulsory requirements (1)
3.4	Meet compulsory requirements (9) + 27	Meet compulsory requirements (9) + 17	Meet compulsory requirements (9) + 7	Meet compulsory requirements (9)

**b) Fabricators**

Section	Overall Assessment Score			
	Excellent ****	Very Good ***	Good **	Pass *
Total score in 3.2 & 3.3	Meet compulsory requirements (3) + 5	Meet compulsory requirements (3) + 2	Meet compulsory requirements (3)	Meet compulsory requirements (3)
3.4	Meet compulsory requirements (8) + 28	Meet compulsory requirements (8) + 18	Meet compulsory requirements (8) + 8	Meet compulsory requirements (8)

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## 5 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).

### 5.1 Normative references

BS EN ISO 9001:2000	Quality Management Systems – Requirements
BS 8555:2003	Environmental management systems – Guide to the phased implementation of an environmental management system including the use of environmental performance evaluation
BS EN ISO 14001:2004	Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use
BS OHSAS 18001:2007	Occupational Health and safety management Systems – Requirements
BS EN ISO 14021:2001	Environmental labels and declarations – Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)
BS EN ISO 14024:2001	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 ISO 14064-1:2006	Greenhouse gases — Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals
BS ISO 21930:2007	Sustainability in building construction – Environmental declaration of building products
BS 8900:2006	Guidance for managing sustainable development
BS 4449: 2005	Steel for the reinforcement of concrete — Weldable reinforcing steel — Bar, coil and decoiled product — Specification
SAI SA8000:2001	Social Accountability International Social Accountability 8000 Standard
	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

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## **5.2 Informative references**

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines version 3.0

For undated references please refer to the latest published issue.

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**Amendments Issued Since Publication**

DOCUMENT NO.	AMENDMENT DETAILS	SIGNATURE	DATE
2.0	Amended according to update of BES 6001 framework standard.		

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### **Appendix A - Example Responsible Sourcing policy (for information only)**

Our aim is to ensure that the constituent materials used within our products and the supply chains that provide them are sourced responsibly, in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Eco-Reinforcement Standard. The organisation commits to undertake the following to demonstrate this:

- Development of an ethical policy which will apply ethical standards according to the specific activities of the company
- Implementation of procedures to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation
- Implementation of suitable supply chain, quality, environmental and health and safety management systems
- Demonstration of environmental stewardship at all sites, in order to prevent pollution and protect/enhance national heritage, ecological value and biodiversity throughout the life of the site.
- Identify and engage with all relevant stakeholders affected by the activities of the organisation, with particular emphasis on engagement with local communities.
- Development of a full and transparent complaints and prosecutions record.
- Operate within international norms concerning human rights and labour practices
- Utilise energy efficiently, and work towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from production and transport processes.
- Use resources in a sustainable manner to ensure that renewable resources are favoured over non-renewable resources where appropriate.
- Utilise water efficiently to minimise potable water extraction, and take appropriate measures to mitigate against water pollution.
- Manage waste streams effectively according to the hierarchy of waste.
- Implement fair operating practices with regards to employment and economic activities. This should include development of a skilled and competent workforce.
- Aim to develop innovative and effective products that improve the quality and sustainability of the built environment.
- Continually seek to improve the environmental, social and economic performance of the organisation.