

GN22: BREEAM Recognised Schemes for VOC Emissions from Building Products

Introduction

Within the Health and Wellbeing category of some BREEAM schemes, credits are awarded for compliance with criteria for 'volatile organic compound (VOC) emission levels (products)'. This involves meeting VOC emission level performance requirements in accordance with compliant performance and testing standards. The BREEAM compliant performance and testing standards are based on current European (EN) and International (ISO) standards.

The purpose of this Guidance Note is to publish a list of alternative standards/schemes that show equivalent or better performance than the current BREEAM criteria, and therefore can be used to demonstrate compliance with the criteria. This note should be read in conjunction with the relevant assessment issue guidance provided in the appropriate BREEAM scheme technical manual.

Scope

The BREEAM recognised schemes for VOC emissions from building products documented in this Guidance Note are applicable to the following BREEAM schemes and assessment issues, and can also be retrospectively applied to previous versions that include similar VOC criteria:

- SD5075 BREEAM International New Construction 2013 (Hea 02)
- SD5076 BREEAM UK New Construction 2014 (Hea 02)
- SD5077 BREEAM UK Domestic Refurbishment 2014 (Hea 03)
- SD216 BREEAM UK Non-Domestic Refurbishment and Fit-out 2014 (Hea 02)
- SD225 BREEAM International Non-Domestic Refurbishment and Fit-out 2015 (Hea 02)

BREEAM recognised schemes

Table 1 provides a list of BREEAM recognised schemes for VOC emissions from building products that are applicable for BREEAM compliance purposes.

This Guidance Note will be re-issued as necessary from time to time to include any other schemes that demonstrate equivalent or better performance than the current BREEAM criteria and/or to take account of any changes to the currently recognised schemes.

Please note that the list of schemes is based on those that had been the subject of BREEAM technical queries. As such, there will be other operational schemes that could potentially be recognised in BREEAM. If assessors, clients or scheme operators would like to seek recognition of other schemes not currently listed, the scheme operator must complete an application form (BF1648) giving full details of the scheme, and submit it to BRE Global for technical approval. A flat rate charge is payable to cover the costs of administering and reviewing the application. GN22 will be updated following approval of any schemes as part of this process. The BF1648 application form, which provides full details of the application process, is available from the BREEAM office (breeam@bre.co.uk).

Table 1: BREEAM recognised schemes for VOC emissions from building products

Product Type	Approved Alternative VOC Scheme	General level – One credit	Exemplary level – One credit [#]	Exemplary level – Two credits [#]
Paints and varnishes*	– Indoor Advantage™ Gold – Building Materials (only for products certified for the European market)	Yes	N/A	N/A
	– EU Ecolabel for paints and varnishes	Yes	N/A	N/A
	– NF Environnement 130	Yes	N/A	N/A
	– Indoor Air Comfort®/Indoor Air Comfort Gold®	Yes/Yes	N/A	N/A
Wood panels^	– GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
	– Indoor Advantage™ Gold – Building Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/No	Yes/No/No
	– AgBB	Yes	No	No
	– M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– Indoor Air Comfort®/Indoor Air Comfort Gold®	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
– eco INSTITUT Label	Yes	Yes	No	
Timber structures	– GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
	– Indoor Advantage™ Gold – Building Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/No	Yes/No/No
	– AgBB	Yes	No	No
	– M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– Indoor Air Comfort®/Indoor Air Comfort Gold®	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
– eco INSTITUT Label	Yes	Yes	No	
Wood flooring	– GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
	– FloorScore®	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/No	Yes/No/No
	– AgBB	Yes	No	No
	– M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– Indoor Air Comfort®/Indoor Air Comfort Gold®	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
	– EU Ecolabel for wooden floor coverings	Yes	Yes	No
	– Belgian VOC Regulation [†]	Yes	No	No
– eco INSTITUT Label	Yes	Yes	No	
Resilient, textile and laminated floor coverings	– GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
	– FloorScore®	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/No	Yes/No/No
	– AgBB	Yes	No	No
	– M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– Green Label Plus™	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– GUT	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– Indoor Air Comfort®/Indoor Air Comfort Gold®	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
	– Belgian VOC Regulation [†]	Yes	No	No
– eco INSTITUT Label	Yes	Yes	No	

Product Type	Approved Alternative VOC Scheme	General level – One credit	Exemplary level – One credit [#]	Exemplary level – Two credits [#]
Suspended ceiling tiles	– GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
	– Indoor Advantage™ Gold – Building Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/No	Yes/No/No
	– AgBB	Yes	No	No
	– M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes
	– Indoor Air Comfort®/Indoor Air Comfort Gold®	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes
	– eco INSTITUT Label	Yes	Yes	No
Flooring adhesives	– AgBB	Yes	N/A	N/A
	– M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials	Yes	N/A	N/A
	– EMICODE EC 1PLUS/EMICODE EC 1/EMICODE EC 2	Yes/Yes/Yes	N/A	N/A
	– Indoor Air Comfort®/Indoor Air Comfort Gold®	Yes/Yes	N/A	N/A
	– Belgian VOC Regulation [†]	Yes	N/A	N/A
	– eco INSTITUT Label	Yes	N/A	N/A
Wall coverings		N/A	N/A	N/A

Exemplary level credits do not apply to the BREEAM UK Domestic Refurbishment scheme

* Manufacturer must also confirm that the product is fungal and algal resistant in wet areas (e.g. bathrooms, kitchens, utility rooms)

^ Manufacturer must also confirm the absence of prohibited wood preservatives/biocides from the product

† There is no labelling/certification scheme associated with the regulation. However, manufacturers are required to prepare a Product Emission File (PEF) to demonstrate compliance. Therefore, assessors may use a manufacturer's PEF and/or written declaration of conformity with the regulation as evidence to demonstrate compliance with the BREEAM criteria.