

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 recent 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, full details of the scheme including the relevant performance and testing requirements should be submitted to breeam@bre.co.uk for approval through the technical query process.

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

Product Type	Approved Alternative VOC Scheme
Paints and varnishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Indoor Advantage™ Gold – Building Materials (only for products certified for the European market)* – EU Ecolabel for paints and varnishes* – NF Environment 130* – Indoor Air Comfort® / Indoor Air Comfort Gold®*
Wood panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold ^ – Indoor Advantage™ Gold – Building Materials ^ – French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B ^ – AgBB ^ – M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials ^ – Indoor Air Comfort® / Indoor Air Comfort Gold® ^
Timber structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold – Indoor Advantage™ Gold – Building Materials – French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B – AgBB – M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials – Indoor Air Comfort® / Indoor Air Comfort Gold®
Wood flooring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold – FloorScore® – French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B – AgBB – M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials – Indoor Air Comfort® / Indoor Air Comfort Gold® – EU Ecolabel for wooden floor covering
Resilient, textile and laminated floor coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold – FloorScore® – French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B – AgBB – M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials – Green Label Plus™ – GUT – Indoor Air Comfort® / Indoor Air Comfort Gold®
Suspended ceiling tiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – GREENGUARD Certified/GREENGUARD Gold – Indoor Advantage™ Gold – Building Materials – French VOC Regulation – Class A+/Class A/Class B – AgBB – M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials – Indoor Air Comfort® / Indoor Air Comfort Gold®
Flooring adhesives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AgBB – M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials – EMICODE EC 1PLUS/EMICODE EC 1/EMICODE EC 2 – Indoor Air Comfort® / Indoor Air Comfort Gold®
Wall coverings	N/A

* 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