

Concrete Industry Sustainable Construction Forum – News Release – embargoed until 18.12.08 12noon

Concrete Industry responsible sourcing launch to support BRE BES 6001

The UK concrete industry manufacturers and trade associations have come together as 'The Concrete Industry Sustainable Construction Forum' (CISCF) to produce a sector wide guidance document to support the BRE Environmental & Sustainability Standard BES 6001 - Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products. The concrete sector and its upstream supply chain now becomes the first construction products sector to accept the new BRE standard and offer guidance to member companies. Ready-mix and precast product manufacturers are now able to arrange for their products to be certified against BES 6001.

The launch of the guidance document took place at a joint event with BRE on December 18th at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London.

Andy Spencer, UK Sustainability Director of CEMEX, the world's largest ready-mixed concrete producer, and Chairman of the CISCF said "I'm delighted to announce the launch of this guidance document which firmly places the UK concrete sector as a world leader in pioneering sustainability programmes".

Dr Peter Bonfield, Chief Executive of BRE welcomed the positive lead taken by the concrete sector. He said 'The new responsible sourcing standard BES6001 has been created for the construction industry so it can better manage the social, environmental and economic impacts of its products from cradle to grave. It's crucial that the industry embraces it as we strive to build in a less impactful way. I applaud the concrete sector for providing its members with this great framework which will enable them to achieve compliance with the new standard' .

Nigel McKay, Head of Supply Chain Management at Bovis Lend Lease was a key note speaker, offering Bovis' support for the guidance document and the approach taken by the concrete industry in tackling such a key issue. Mr McKay confirmed that Bovis would be incorporating the requirements of the document within their procurement procedures.

Responsible sourcing of materials provides a holistic approach to managing the social, environmental and economic impacts of a product from the sources of its raw materials, through its manufacture and delivery, and, ideally, through its use, re-use and recycling, until its final disposal as waste with no further value. Responsible sourcing of materials is demonstrated through an ethos of supply chain management and product stewardship and, importantly, includes a commitment to engage with stakeholders that may be affected by the impacts of a product.

The Concrete Industry Guidance Document provides an interpretation of how an organisation can meet the requirements of BES 6001. In addition it provides background and guidance to be used by assessors in the process of confirming third-party certification against BES 6001.

The Concrete Industry Guidance Document and BES 6001 are available in PDF format on the sector website www.sustainableconcrete.org.uk

Editors notes

1.Supporting quotes:

Dr Trevor Grounds of Tarmac who chaired the sector working group that produced the document said "BES 6001, supported by the new sector specific guidance, offers concrete a clear opportunity to demonstrate its sustainability and responsible sourcing credentials. Aspects of the guidance are

closely related to the CISCf forward programme of improvement, which also provides a vital link to a wide range of stakeholders”.

Martin Hardwick, Product Director of BRMCA, said “ready-mixed concrete companies are very supportive of the industry guidance document and BES 6001, and their active involvement in the development process serves to demonstrate the enthusiasm of the industry to deliver a sustainable and responsibly sourced product to clients”.

Martin Clarke, Chief Executive of British Precast, welcomed the guidance document. “It has been frustrating for some of my members that the Code for Sustainable Homes has points available for responsible sourcing, yet there has been no delivery mechanism. Now we have it. I expect one or two members to go for certification quickly”.

2.The Concrete Industry Sustainable Construction Forum

The Sustainable Construction Strategy for the UK Concrete Industries Declaration was signed in July by Aggregate Industries, CEMEX, Hanson, Lafarge Cement, Lafarge Aggregates, Tarmac, Brett Group, Marshalls plc, and Trent Concrete. Trade associations signing up to the strategy on behalf of their members were the British Cement Association, Quarry Products Association, British Precast, British Ready-mix Concrete Association, Cementitious Slag Makers Association, Concrete Admixtures Association, and UK Quality Ash Association. The market development organisation for the sector, The Concrete Centre, was also a signatory.

The Concrete Industry Sustainable Construction Forum is the steering group for sustainable construction across the concrete sector dedicated to implementing the Strategy and its four strategic objectives and eight concrete commitments which included; gathering of data on key issues, annual performance indicators, targets and benchmarks, addressing skills gaps and research; communications and demonstration projects.

3.Peer review statement by BRE Global



The Concrete Industry Sustainable Construction Forum (CISCf) has produced this document in conjunction with BRE Global to provide sector specific guidance on how the concrete industry can comply with the requirements of BES 6001.

BES 6001 is a framework standard for responsible sourcing of construction products and is the master Standard against which to demonstrate compliance. This sector guidance document provides an interpretation of the requirements of BES 6001 and how these can be effectively and consistently met throughout the concrete industry. BRE Global recognises that this document details industry best practice guidance as a means to demonstrate consistency and potentially compliance with BES 6001.

This sector guidance document should be read alongside BES 6001. Any subsequent amendments to this document will be undertaken in conjunction with BRE Global to ensure that all guidance provided is consistent with the requirements of the framework standard.

BRE Global would encourage ongoing stakeholder consultation and development of the UK Concrete Industries Sustainable Construction Strategy and Performance Indicators.

For further information please contact The Secretariat, CISCf, Riverside House, 4 Meadows Business Park, Station Approach, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 9AB

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