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Status	This circular provides information on the launch and adoption of the BREEAM rating system for Fire and Rescue Service Buildings		

Launch of BREEAM rating system for the Construction of Fire and Rescue Buildings

Issued by:

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Performance, Finance and Planning Division

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

**Treasurers
Directors of Finance**

Summary

This circular provides information on the launch and adoption of the BREEAM rating system for Fire and Rescue Service buildings.

For further information, contact:

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1.0 Background

BREEAM (the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) is the leading and most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings around the world, with over 110,000 buildings certified and over half a million registered. It sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design and has become the de-facto measure used to describe a building's environmental performance.

1.1 As there was no specific assessment tool for Fire and Rescue Service buildings, Communities and Local Government (CLG) asked BRE to develop one. In March 2009 we invited, in conjunction with BRE, a group of interested parties from fire authorities, the building industry, and advisors who have been involved in FRS building projects to provide input to BRE's proposals.

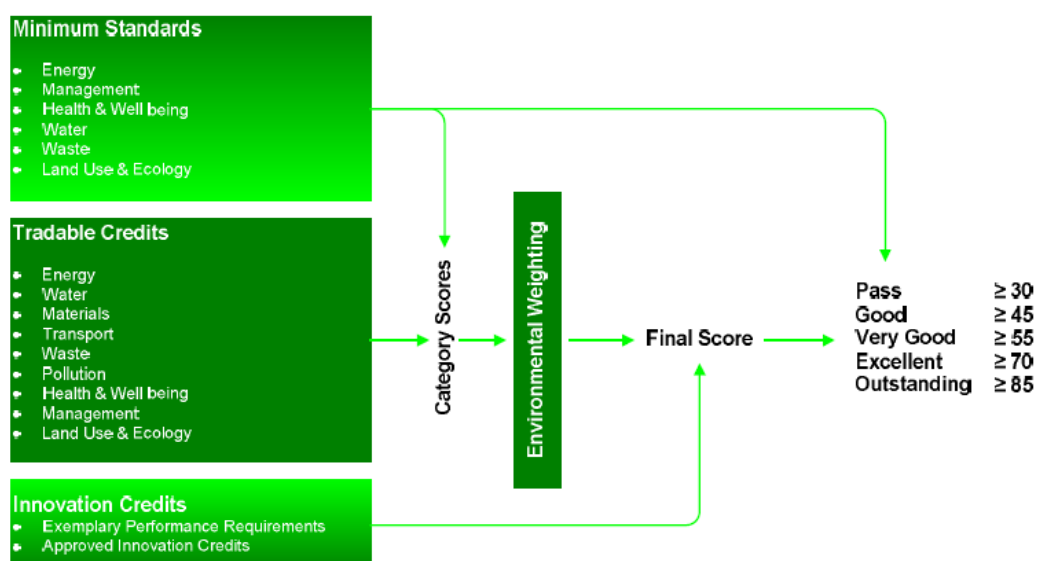
1.2 Following the analysis of information provided, the BREEAM Bespoke scheme for Fire Stations became available on 23rd July 2009.

2.0 Recent Success

2.1 CLG has invested in sponsoring the adoption of the BREEAM environmental rating tool for fire stations and other FRS buildings. All of the nine Regional Control Centres in England have now been assessed under BREEAM and each one has successfully achieved an 'Excellent' rating.

3.0 How it works

3.1 BREEAM can be applied to new, refurbished and existing buildings and assessments are carried out by independent, trained assessors. Credits are awarded under nine categories according to performance. These credits are then added together to produce a single overall score on a scale of Pass, Good, Very Good, Excellent and Outstanding (a recent addition to the ratings). The operation of BREEAM is overseen by an independent Sustainability Board, representing a wide cross-section of construction industry stakeholders. Information is available at www.breeam.org. The diagram below describes how BREEAM scores and rates an assessed building:



3.2 The BREEAM categories contain a number of environmental issues reflecting the options available when designing, procuring and constructing a building. Minimum Standards - some environmental issues have a minimum number of credits that must be achieved. Tradable Credits - each environmental issue has a set number of 'credits' available and these credits are awarded where the building demonstrates compliance. Innovation Credits - these provide additional recognition for a building that innovates in the field of sustainable performance, above and beyond the level currently recognised as the standard.

3.3 BREEAM is designed to:

- Reduce operational costs
- Provide a route to compliance with environmental legislation and standards, such as energy labelling and ISO 14001
- Give greater engagement with staff in implementing sustainable business practices
- Provide opportunities to improve staff satisfaction with the working environment, with the potential for significant improvements in productivity
- Demonstrate commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
- Improve organisational effectiveness
- Provide a genuine badge of proven sustainability

4.0 Further information

4.1 If you have any questions or you would like further information please contact Yetunde Abdul, BREEAM Government Sector Manager on 01923 664462 or email AbdulY@bre.co.uk or Robert Flynn on 020 7944 4183 or e-mail Robert.flynn@communities.gsi.gov.uk

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