

# Mat03

## Responsible sourcing of construction products

### Objective:

“To facilitate the selection of products that involve lower levels of negative environmental, economic and social impact across their supply chain including extraction, processing and manufacture.”

### Actions:

- i. Ensure that 100% of timber and timber-based products used are ‘Legal’ and ‘Sustainable’.
- ii. Put a sustainable procurement policy in place for the site or the main contractor **before RIBA Stage 2**.
- iii. Plan, monitor and measure the extent of responsible sourcing for the project

### i. ‘Legal’ and ‘sustainable’ timber

A **prerequisite** for this issue is that all timber and timber-based products used on the project are ‘legal’ and ‘sustainable’ as per the UK Government’s Timber Procurement Policy (TPP) – documentation provided by BRE and UK Govt. can be found [here](#).

To ensure compliance, all timber on site must be **FSC** or **PEFC** certified. This does not only apply to construction materials, but **all timber at the site** (e.g. scaffold boards, site hoarding, site offices, etc.). This should be set out within the main contractor’s Sustainable Procurement Plan (see below).

### ii. Sustainable procurement

There must be a Sustainable Procurement Plan in place to guide the design team’s specification of materials and wider construction. The plan must:

- a. Be in place **before RIBA Stage 2**.
- b. Include **sustainability aims, objectives** and **strategic targets** to guide procurement activities. *Note: targets do not need to be achieved for the credit to be awarded but justification must be provided for targets that are not achieved.*
- c. There must be a policy to procure construction products **locally where possible**.
- d. Include details of procedures in place to **check and verify** the effective **implementation** of the sustainable procurement plan.

In addition, if the plan is applied to several sites or adopted at an organisational level it must:

- e. Identify the risks and opportunities of procurement against a broad range of social, environmental and economic issues following the process set out in BS ISO 20400:2017<sup>1</sup>.

---

Note: This document is intended as guidance only. Consult your BREEAM AP or Assessor to ensure compliance is achieved.

### iii. Responsible sourcing

The materials that are used on the project must be catalogued and the Responsible Sourcing Certifications Scheme (RSCS) certification obtained for each. Based on the elements assessed, points are awarded for each, based on the level of RSCS certification achieved. The number of credits awarded will depend on how many points are achieved from those available. These should be recorded and provided to the assessor as post-construction stage evidence. There is extensive BREEAM guidance on achieving these credits, but the simplest process is as follows.

1. Determine how many credits are targeted in this issue. The more credits targeted, the more materials and products must be catalogued.

Credits Achieved	Mat03 minimum scope level	% of available points to be achieved
1	Superstructure, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frame</li> <li>- Upper floors</li> <li>- Roof</li> <li>- Stairs and ramps</li> <li>- External walls</li> <li>- Windows and external doors</li> <li>- Internal walls and partitions</li> </ul>	≥ 10%
2	As above, plus	≥ 20%
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internal finishes</li> <li>- Substructure and hard landscaping</li> </ul>	≥ 30%
+1 exemplary performance credit	As above, plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- core building services including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heat source</li> <li>- Space heating and air-conditioning</li> <li>- Ventilation</li> <li>- Fuel installations and systems</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <i>(n/a to shell only assessments)</i>	≥ 50%

2. Record all materials and products use on the project within the *SRE BREEAM Mat03 Tracker* tool and save the corresponding certifications within the *SRE BREEAM Mat03 info* folder.
3. Aim for all materials and products used to have BES 6001 certification. Where this is not possible, only materials and products with ISO 14001 certification should be used. Avoid using any materials of significant coverage or volume which do not have these certifications as this will restrict the percentage of available points that the project can achieve.

Note: This document is intended as guidance only. Consult your BREEAM AP or Assessor to ensure compliance is achieved.