Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Common Assessment Standard?

- The Common Assessment Standard, developed by Build UK, is the industry-recognised standard for the pre-qualification of companies in the construction sector. It comprises a question set and corresponding assessment standards for two levels of certification – desktop and site-based – which can be used to ensure companies have the 'organisational capability' to fulfil their roles under the Building Safety Act.

- Companies only need to be certified once a year by a single Recognised Assessment Body as they can share their key pre-qualification data with the other Recognised Assessment Bodies to increase their visibility amongst Contractors and Clients.

Who is using the Common Assessment Standard?

- With over 26,000 companies across the supply chain certified to the Common Assessment Standard, there is a growing list of Contractors and Clients using it for their pre-qualification requirements. Any Contractors or Clients who would like further information about specifying the Common Assessment Standard for their supply chains should contact pre-qualification@BuildUK.org.

- In accordance with PPN 03/24 and the procurement specific questionnaire, central Government departments and wider public sector bodies should use the Common Assessment Standard to pre-qualify companies for construction works contracts.

- A number of Build UK Trade Association members are also accepting the Common Assessment Standard as part of their membership audit process, further reducing duplication across the industry.

How do companies obtain the Common Assessment Standard and what does it cost?

- Companies apply to a Recognised Assessment Body of their choice for certification to the Common Assessment Standard. Once they have completed the question set, the Recognised Assessment Body will audit the information provided and on successful completion of the audit they will receive a certificate valid for one year from date of issue.

- Each Recognised Assessment Body has its own fee structure, and details of what it costs to obtain the Common Assessment Standard are available directly from each one.

- Companies keen to see a reduction in the bureaucracy of pre-qualification should review the different certifications they hold to see if they have the Common Assessment Standard from more than one Recognised Assessment Body and whether that is required for any reason.

Do companies have to obtain two levels of certification – both the desktop and the site-based?

- No, companies can choose either the desktop **or** the site-based level of certification based on what is most appropriate for their business. This will depend on a range of factors including trade, size and the requirements of the main contractors/clients that they work for.

Is the Common Assessment Standard achievable for micro-businesses?

- Yes, the assessment standards for certain questions have been revised for use with companies that meet the criteria for a micro-entity.

- Having a single industry standard for pre-qualification is of huge benefit to smaller suppliers, who also often report that an external assessment of their business helps them keep up to date and improve.

How does data sharing work?

- The Recognised Assessment Bodies share verified data in relation to 36 key questions in the Common Assessment Standard. This information is updated in 'real time', and it will be shown where a company's certification has lapsed if they have not updated 'time critical' information such as insurances. No original documentation is shared.

- This enables Contractors and Clients to obtain key pre-qualification data from any Recognised Assessment Body, regardless of which one carried out the original audit, meaning they do not need an arrangement with every Recognised Assessment Body to access their supply chain's data.

- Further information can be found in our Data Sharing Overview and a company looking to share their data should follow the steps on the Build UK website.

How is the Common Assessment Standard kept up to date?

- The Common Assessment Standard is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it remains fit for purpose, relevant and up to date. Version 6 was published on 1 November 2026 and was updated with the latest legislation, guidance and client requirements and includes significant changes to the Building Safety section to reflect that scaffolding and temporary works are not in scope of the Building Regulations which regulate 'building work', unless they form part of the structure once complete.

- The process of reviewing the Common Assessment Standard is overseen by a dedicated group made up of representatives from across the industry, and any organisation or individual can suggest amendments by completing this form.

What should companies do where Contractors and Clients are unaware of the Common Assessment Standard?

- Companies can refer Contractors and Clients to the Build UK website which provides an overview of the Common Assessment Standard, a link to the question set, and details of which organisations are using it.

- Companies should reassure Contractors and Clients that the Common Assessment Standard means they have been audited by a Recognised Assessment Body and certified to the recognised industry standard for pre-qualification.

- Any Contractors or Clients that have questions or would like further information about the Common Assessment Standard should contact pre-qualification@BuildUK.org.