

31 March 2022

Common Assessment Standard Updated to Address Key Industry Trends

The latest version of the Common Assessment Standard – the industry-agreed question set that forms a core part of the pre-qualification (PQ) system being rolled out by Build UK – is released today following extensive consultation with industry.

Version 3 of the Common Assessment Standard includes new questions on sustainability, diversity and cyber security, as well as a revised section on Information Management to reflect the recently updated Infrastructure Projects Authority (IPA) mandate. Designed to raise the bar in assessing the competence of the construction supply chain, the Common Assessment Standard is reviewed every year to reflect the latest legislation, industry requirements and good practice, ensuring they are integrated into how the sector operates.

The Common Assessment Standard has two levels of certification – desktop and site-based – and companies can apply to any one of the four Recognised Assessment Bodies for the appropriate level which will depend on their trade, size and requirements of their clients.

A growing number of organisations are using the Common Assessment Standard and it has been recommended for use in the public sector as part of the recent independent review of frameworks undertaken by Professor David Mosey.

Paul Reeve, who chairs the group overseeing the review of the Common Assessment Standard, said:

“These latest revisions to the Common Assessment Standard reflect important industry developments such as the need for enhanced cyber security, the drive towards greater sustainability and improving diversity in construction. Version 3 will provide contractors and clients with the essential PQ assurance they need from their supply chain, whilst ensuring it remains suitable and proportionate to small and micro-suppliers.”

~ Ends ~

Further Information

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Notes to Editors

1. [Build UK](#) is the leading representative organisation for the UK construction industry. Bringing together Clients, Contractors, Trade Associations representing a wide range of Specialist Contractors, and other organisations committed to industry collaboration, Build UK represents in excess of 40% of UK construction.
2. Further information on the PQ system, including the Common Assessment Standard – Version 3 question set, is available on the [Build UK website](#).
3. There are four Recognised Assessment Bodies which can certify companies to the Common Assessment Standard:
 - a. [Achilles](#)
 - b. [CHAS](#)
 - c. [Constructionline](#)
 - d. [CQMS](#)
4. The Common Assessment Standard Review Group is responsible for maintaining the Common Assessment Standard so that it remains fit for purpose, relevant and up to date. It is chaired by Paul Reeve, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA), who is also Vice Chair of the PQ Interim Cross Industry Body.
5. [Transforming Infrastructure Performance: Roadmap to 2030](#), which contains the updated Information Management Mandate at Annex B, was published in October 2021.
6. [Constructing the Gold Standard](#), the independent review of public sector construction frameworks undertaken by Professor David Mosey, was published in December 2021.