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SCAPE Adopts the Common Assessment Standard

SCAPE has become the first public sector body following publication of Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 03/23 to adopt the Common Assessment Standard for its pre-qualification requirements, joining a growing list of major contractors and clients specifying the standard for their supply chains.

PPN 03/23, which was issued by the Cabinet Office in response to calls from Build UK and its members, updates the pre-qualification requirement for central Government departments and wider public sector bodies, meaning they can now use the Common Assessment Standard to pre-qualify suppliers for construction works contracts, rather than PAS 91.

The Common Assessment Standard was developed by Build UK to raise the bar in assessing the competence of the construction supply chain. It has two levels – desktop and site-based – allowing companies to apply for the appropriate level dependent upon their trade, size and the requirements of their public and private sector clients.

Currently available from any one of the Recognised Assessment Bodies, the Common Assessment Standard delivers on the commitment in the Construction Sector Deal for a standardised pre-qualification process and was recommended for use in the public sector by Professor David Mosey as part of his independent review of frameworks to “*reduce waste and duplication [and] creat[e] efficiency savings for clients and industry*”.

The Common Assessment Standard will help to streamline public sector procurement as suppliers that hold certification from a Recognised Assessment Body will have already been assessed for stage 1 pre-qualification, meaning contracting authorities can focus on project specific requirements.

SCAPE Group Procurement Director John Simons said:

“Being able to use the Common Assessment Standard is a significant step forward in the simplification of the selection process for the public sector. Its use will not only de-risk elements of the process, but also enable public sector organisations to focus on project specific requirements for those firms who have already met the standard. The Common Assessment Standard will effectively standardise the selection process for the construction supply chain as only one annual assessment will be required in order to gain access to valuable opportunities.”

Build UK Deputy Chief Executive Jo Fautley said:

“We are delighted that SCAPE has joined organisations across the industry using the Common Assessment Standard. With pre-qualification costing the industry up to £1 billion each year, the

efficiency savings offered by the Common Assessment Standard are more important than ever in the current market, and PPN 03/23 means that projects and programmes across the public sector can also now benefit from a reduction in duplication of time, effort and resources.”

~ 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. [SCAPE](#) is one of the UK's leading public sector procurement authorities, dedicated to creating spaces, places and experiences that leave a sustainable legacy for communities. Since 2006, SCAPE, which is a Client member of Build UK, has accelerated over 12,000 projects across the UK with its direct award frameworks, property services and innovative design solutions.
3. [PPN 03/23: Standard Selection Questionnaire \(SQ\)](#), which states that “*contracting authorities should use the Common Assessment Standard or PAS91 in place of the standard SQ template in pre-qualification of bidders*” for works contracts, was published in March 2023.
4. Further information about the Common Assessment Standard, including the organisations using it, is available on the [Build UK website](#).
5. There are five Recognised Assessment Bodies which can certify companies to the Common Assessment Standard:
 - a. [Achilles](#)
 - b. [CHAS](#)
 - c. [Constructionline](#)
 - d. [CQMS](#)
 - e. [SCCS](#).
6. [PAS 91 - Construction pre-qualification questionnaires](#) has been withdrawn by the BSI and will no longer be updated.

7. The [Construction Sector Deal](#), which called for the sector to “*remove bureaucracy from the procurement process by developing a standardised cross-industry pre-qualification process and Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) that can be adopted across the public and private sectors*”, was published in July 2018.
8. [Constructing the Gold Standard](#), the independent review of public sector construction frameworks undertaken by Professor David Mosey, was published in December 2021.