

Responsibility Matters

Increasingly, we are all looking to purchase products and use services which come from companies who do the right thing, who are responsible. This is true in our every day lives, as consumers and in business.

Never has there been more demand for corporate social responsibility. Companies should demonstrate their sustainability credentials; encompass social and economic dimensions along with supply chain management and product stewardship. This is particularly true within the flooring industry.

For many years now there has been certification for responsible sourcing, including Fair Trade; RFS (Responsible Fishing Scheme) and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). Whilst the FSC standard provides such assurance for products harvested from well managed forests - including wood flooring - there hasn't been to date a standard available for all flooring and construction products.

BES 6001 from BRE Global, now in its 3rd issue, is a framework standard for Responsible Sourcing, which sets out requirements under three main headings: Organisational Management; Supply Chain Management and Environmental and Social Responsibility Management. To meet the standard, organisations must satisfy certain compulsory elements.

Additionally there are higher levels of compliance that can result in a higher performance rating being awarded.

Depending on a company's performance against the criteria, ratings are awarded on a Pass; Good; Very Good and Excellent basis. At present, Polyflor continues to set the bar high and is the only flooring manufacturer to obtain this standard for its products, achieving a Very Good rating. By achieving this Polyflor has satisfied the compulsory sections and conforms to higher levels of compliance, which has been a massive undertaking for the company - involving production, all internal departments and supply chain. Certification is available on www.greenbooklive.com.

The UK Contractor's Group (representing over 30 leading construction companies who together account for a third of the UK construction industry turnover) state that:

'UKCG members support and give preference to procuring products which are able to demonstrate compliance with a recognised responsible sourcing scheme, certified by a third party.'

BES 6001 is just that. It will become an increasingly important standard and will be extremely valuable to customers looking to procure flooring with sound environmental credentials and traceability, from socially aware and ethical suppliers. Without doubt it will help customers make better informed decisions when selecting suppliers.

Furthermore, the use of Polyflor products with BES 6001 certification and individual BRE ratings can potentially contribute significantly to the available points in section MAT 03 of a BREEAM Assessment.



Where many companies typically contribute 1 point through an environmental management system such as ISO 14001, Polyflor can potentially provide an additional 3 points for its BES 6001 Very Good certification for products with individual BRE ratings. For more information on this, view or download the PDF 'Maximising BREEAM Credits with Polyflor' at www.polyflor.com.



GRACE'S PLACE
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



Polyflor's stunning flooring created a warm, homely feel in the newly opened Grace's Place, a children's hospice which provides a magical place to support children who need palliative and end-of-life care.

As part of ongoing CSR commitments and support in the local community, Polyflor donated flooring throughout the facility based in Bury. Flooring used is produced responsibly and has BES 6001 certification.

Pictured above: Radio & TV presenter, Sara Cox with Grace and her Mum on the official opening day.