

PUBLICATION

Summary of changes – BREEAM New Construction V7.1

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Executive summary

The BREEAM New Construction V7.1 update is a targeted evolution of BREEAM New Construction V7. It combines a small number of substantive rewrites in key areas with a number of refinements. These changes reflect our strategic objectives to improve clarity, usability, and technical robustness while maintaining continuity and alignment across our BREEAM Version 7 schemes.

This minor update ensures the New Construction standard evolves meaningfully, and in alignment with other Version 7 schemes (i.e. Refurbishment and Fit Out), without introducing unnecessary complexity or change burden, supporting continuity for users while incrementally improving performance, clarity, and alignment with industry best practice.

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Introduction

BREEAM New Construction V7.1 is the latest BREEAM standard to assess the performance of new buildings.

A minor evolution to BREEAM New Construction V7, the V7.1 update continues the Version 7 principle to align our standards across our lifecycle products (ensuring alignment with Refurbishment and Fit Out V7), responds to feedback from our stakeholders and embeds continual learning in our standards.

This document describes the changes introduced in BREEAM New Construction Version 7.1.

Selective updates to strengthen intent and real-world outcomes

In a limited number of issues, criteria have been comprehensively rewritten. These address areas where performance outcome enhancements or further alignment with industry practice or other Version 7 schemes have been identified. These include:

- Man 01 Project brief and design
- Man 04 Commissioning and handover

These more significant updates intend to improve the integrity and impact of credits, ensuring they drive meaningful outcomes (i.e. better-performing buildings, improved collaboration, more robust commissioning etc.).

Minor updates to enhance clarity, consistency, and alignment

Across most issues, the update is characterised by minor changes. These smaller updates collectively aim to make the scheme easier to use and increase its impact, without changing its fundamental requirements.

Minor changes include:

- Rewording and clarifications
- Terminology standardisation
- Formatting and structural improvements
- Corrections and technical fixes
- Incorporation of stakeholder feedback and existing Knowledge Base (KBCN) guidance
- Alignment with other BREEAM scheme content (i.e. Refurbishment and Fit Out V7)

Summary of changes by issue

Management

Issue	Description of update
Man 01 Project brief and design	Changes to criteria Project planning: - Criteria have been comprehensively revised to align with Soft Landings principles, introducing a more structured and performance-led approach to project delivery. A key enhancement is the requirement for a 'Project delivery workshop' at Concept Design, with clearly defined discussion topics (set out in M1.1), including shared performance objectives, measurable success criteria, and ongoing tracking against a performance risk register. This is supported by intermediate evaluation workshops at key design stages to actively monitor and update performance objectives throughout the process. A structured final review is required at project completion, to assess project success and analyse lessons learned. Methodological changes - M1.2 has been updated to provide more detailed clarification on the requirements where a contractor is yet to be appointed. Changes to evidence - Evidence requirements are now explicitly outlined to support consistent and transparent documentation.
Man 02 Life cycle cost and service life planning	Changes to criteria Elemental LCC options appraisal: - Minor amendments to wording to clarify requirement for whole building LCC plan, analysis period and scope. Component level LCC options appraisal: - Minor amendments to clarify analysis period and scope of the options appraised. Methodological changes - M1 updated in line with KBCN0385. Changes to definitions - Competent person: The definition of a competent person has been updated to provide clearer guidance on the expected qualifications and experience necessary to fulfil this role, in line with KBCN1803.

Issue	Description of update
Man 03 Responsible construction	Changes to criteria Prerequisite – Legally harvested and traded site timber: - Criteria updated to exclude timber verified as being reused, recycled, or reclaimed. Responsible construction management: - Requirements for item 'p' of checklist updated to clarify intent for all plant and machinery on-site to be applicable, even where provided by subcontractors. Site monitoring: - Monitoring transport of construction materials and waste – clarified that this also relates to the removal of demolition waste added. - Requirement for targets to be achieved for utility consumption credits to be awarded has been removed. Methodological changes - M1 updated to also exempt site clearance or other enabling works that were completed prior to the developer or client taking ownership of the site from the scope of the Man 03 issue. - M3 revised with text clarifying the use of Considerate Constructors Scheme to meet the requirements and referencing GN54. Changes to evidence - Requirement for evidence to show when the appointment of the BREEAM AP and CCS registration took place to demonstrate this was prior to commencement on site. Changes to definitions - Formally agreed: Updated to include further examples of acceptable evidence. - Timber: Updated definition, including clarification that the prerequisite only applies to new timber and not timber that can be verified as being reused.

Man 04 Commissioning and handover	Changes to criteria Commissioning role: - Comprehensively rewritten to strengthen commissioning responsibilities across the project lifecycle. Updates include the requirement to hold a commissioning workshop during the initial design stages, the development of a comprehensive commissioning plan, the completion of commissionability reviews, and the inclusion of clear commissioning specifications and methodology requirements. The updates also reinforce the need for structured management of the commissioning process from design through to testing and handover. - Competency requirements for a specialist commissioning manager have been more clearly defined (relevant degree-level qualification and minimum three years' experience, or membership of CSA to CxM2 or ASHRAE to BxCP). Envelope testing: - Minor word changes to make explicit that both air tightness and thermography testing are required. - Definition requirements for suitably qualified professionals updated. Methodological changes - M1.2 (Envelope testing – Large complex buildings): Clarification that air testing must cover 100% of the building but may be compartmentalised into zones (no sample testing per ATTMA guidance TSL3). Clear requirements for thermography sampling on large buildings provided. - M1.4 (Envelope testing – Remediation work): Requirements clarified. For minor anomalies, contractors may document actions in a short report with photographic evidence. More significant anomalies require a further thermographic survey (may be a localised re-test). - M1.5 (Envelope testing – Appropriate standards): For UK, references to ATTMA technical standards guides for air tightness testing added. CIBSE TM23:2022 added to useful guidance. Reference to ASTM E779-19 testing standard added for USA projects. - M2 (Building or home user guides): Content list revised, including requirements for details on waste and recycling strategy and, for technical guide, energy and water metering/monitoring strategies. Changes to compliance notes - CN1: Clarification that the commissioning role credit requires appointment of a single commissioning manager to lead the process, with input from manufacturers or specialist subcontractors forming part of the commissioning team. - CN4: Optimum conditions for completing a thermographic survey updated.
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Issue	Description of update
Man 05 Aftercare	Changes to criteria In-use commissioning: - Competency requirements for a specialist commissioning manager have been more clearly defined (relevant degree-level qualification and minimum three years' experience, or membership of CSA to CxM2 or ASHRAE to BxCP). Methodological changes - M2.1 (Zero carbon transition plan – No fossil fuels onsite): Updated to exclude fossil fuels used for testing purposes within laboratory settings.

Health and wellbeing

Issue	Description of update
Hea 01 Natural light	Changes to criteria Daylight: - Exemplary level for EN 17037 changed from high to medium. - Removed the requirement for Option 1 daylight calculation to consider shading as set out in M3.2. Glare control and view out: - If there are no relevant building areas for glare control and/or view out, the respective criteria are not applicable, and the credit is filtered out.
Hea 02 Electric light	Changes to scope of assessment - Issue title changed from 'Artificial light' to 'Electric light'. Changes to criteria Flicker / lighting control: - Dimming and colour tuning flicker requirements moved from the prerequisite to the exemplary-level lighting control credit. Methodology updated to make flicker requirements clearer. Prerequisite: (UK only): Due to the above change, flicker requirements at full load are now met by default in the UK market therefore the prerequisite has been removed. (International only): The EU market will also comply, but the prerequisite remains in for countries outside of the European regulatory area.

Issue	Description of update
Hea 03 Non-visual effects of light	Methodological changes • CN1.6 added on flicker in dimmed states.
Hea 04 Indoor air quality	Changes to criteria Indoor air quality plan and post-construction measurement: • IAQ plan and post construction IAQ testing must now be carried out by a qualified IAQ professional, definition of 'suitable IAQ professional' added. • Post construction IAQ testing now permitted to be completed no later than two weeks after occupancy. Ventilation: • Removal of the 10m distance option from M1.2. Emission from construction products • VOC content for paints and coatings now align with Commission Decision (EU) 2025/2607. • MDF specific formaldehyde emission limit removed and now aligned with updated EU E1 limits. Prerequisite (International only): • Clarity added that the no-asbestos prerequisite applies only to countries where asbestos is not banned.
Hea 05 Thermal comfort	Methodological changes Thermal comfort – Current and future climate (International only): • EN 16798-1:2019 added as an approved standard for mechanically and naturally ventilated buildings. • Mechanically ventilated buildings may now select a 15-year lifespan option rather than the 50-year future weather file. Thermal comfort – Current and future climate (UK only): • CIBSE's 2025 weather files now required. • Selection process of future weather files updated to follow a risk-based approach. • CIBSE TM59 now updated to 2026 version.

Issue	Description of update
Hea 06 Acoustic performance	Methodological changes Remedial works (International only): - Clarification added that this applies to all criteria, not just Indoor ambient noise; added to M3. Filtering of criteria - Additional filtering of criteria outlined in building type specific notes.
Hea 07 Safe and accessible design	Changes to criteria Outside space (UK only): Additional filtering options added to M2.1 to clarify when the credit can be excluded.
Hea 10 Natural hazards	Changes to criteria - Credit was intended to be earned if risk assessment is done and either no risk is found or flooding is the only risk. Platform was not allowing that so CN3 and Platform corrected to reflect intention. - Minor fix for consistency – Current manual says, 'No risk', corrected to use 'No/low risk'.

Energy

Issue	Description of update
Ene 01 Energy and carbon performance for regulated energy uses	Methodological changes - EU Taxonomy reporting (M4): New platform questions added for EU Taxonomy KPIs: 'Has the asset been constructed in compliance with an nZEB prescribed by relevant regulation?' and 'Has the energy performance of the building been certified using an as-built Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)?'. An additional platform question added: 'Has the energy performance of the building been certified using an as-designed EPC?' - Northern Ireland (UK only): The Northern Ireland BRUKL calculator has been added in release 1.2. The NI scoring path is now included and the disclaimer about not assessing NI removed. Changes to compliance notes - KBCN1658 added to the compliance note table. Changes to minimum standards - Clarification that Shell Only is capped at Excellent and cannot achieve Outstanding. - Clarification that Shell Only can achieve Excellent by achieving two credits in Ene 04 (criterion 8). - Formatting updated for clarification.
Ene 02 Prediction of operational energy and carbon	Changes to criteria - The requirement to achieve the predictive energy modelling credits added as a prerequisite to the following exemplary credits: Disclosing an in-use energy performance target; Third-party validation of predictive energy modelling; Preparing for in-use measurement of energy consumption; and Commitment to measure energy consumption in-use. - Credit boundaries (Table 28 / Table 6.3): Rounding changed from rounding $OE_{Pnc} \times 7$ down to rounding up. This means one credit is achievable whenever $OE_{Pnc} > 0$ (i.e. anything above 2.5× the benchmark). Methodological changes - M1.2 (Predictive energy modelling): List of approved energy modelling software removed; assessors are now directed to GN53. - M6 (No fossil fuels on-site): New bullet point added: 'Testing purposes within laboratory settings' included as an exclusion. Changes to definitions - Added definition for 'Third party'.

Issue	Description of update
Ene 03 Energy monitoring	Changes to criteria - Updated criterion 6 to read “or” instead of “and”. Methodological changes - M2.1 (Combining end use categories for sub-metering): Point 3 updated to read: ‘space heating and space cooling may be combined when both services are provided by a single piece of equipment or plant (e.g. a reversible heat pump or district heating).’ This addresses district heating and incorporates guidance from KBCN0329. Changes to definitions - Updated definition for ‘Pulse output meters’ to include a longer, non-exhaustive list of alternatives.
Ene 04 Low carbon design	Changes to criteria Fabric performance has been optimised: - Requirement added that criterion 3 must be achieved as a prerequisite for ‘Two credits – Fabric performance has been optimised’. Methodological changes - M2.3 (Optimised fabric performance): Added ‘or no further improvement’ to the sentence in M2.3. Changes to compliance notes - KBCN1658 added to the compliance note table.
Ene 05 Energy efficient equipment	Methodological changes - M1 (Scope of unregulated energy using equipment): Added exclusion for “equipment is a bespoke (unique) item that has been made specifically for the project and cannot be compared to standard equipment.” - M3 (Determining the number of credits available): Added ‘available’ to the sentence beneath the equation, which now reads: ‘This is used to determine the number of available credits according to Table 6.5 on the previous page.’ - M5 (Determining the number of credits achieved): Sentence added: ‘Partial credits are rounded to the nearest whole number.’

Issue	Description of update
Ene 06 Energy efficient systems	Changes to criteria - Table 32 (International) / Table 6.7 (UK) (Credits available table): Formatting corrected to match Ene 05 (e.g. $\geq 10\%$ and $< 20\%$). Methodological changes - M4.2.3.2 (Deemed to comply requirements for lifts and escalators): Added 'comply' to the first sentence for clarity. - M4.2.4 (Swimming pools): Added 'comply' to the first sentence for clarity. - M5 (Determining the number of credits achieved): Sentence added: 'Partial credits are rounded to the nearest whole number.' Changes to compliance notes - KBCN1589, KBCN1671, KBCN1507 (International only), KBCN1048, and KBCN0906 added to the compliance note table.
Ene 07 Flexible demand response	Changes to aim - First sentence corrected to read: 'This issue recognises installed battery storage and rewards electrical building systems which have the capability to automatically modify their electricity consumption patterns in response to signals from the electricity supplier.' Methodological changes - M1 (Flexible demand response): Battery storage split out from the 'Other systems' row in the flexible demand side response points table; points available and awarded corrected accordingly. Platform scoring, battery storage questions, and points updated to reflect this change. Changes to definitions - Definitions for 'one-way control' and 'two-way control' added. Changes to additional information - Detailed worked example added.

Issue	Description of update
Ene 08 Installed controls	Changes to criteria - Table 43 (International) / Table 6.18 (UK) – Heat generator output, heat pump: First option corrected to ‘Multi-stage control (e.g., several on/off compressors)’; second option (2 points) corrected to ‘Variable control (e.g., hot gas bypass, inverter frequency control)’. Previously, both options were identical. Second option wording updated to: ‘Heating output is controlled at the room/zone level with communication between the room controllers and the building control system; for occupied areas this may be achieved via occupancy detection.’ Changes to definitions - Changed title of ‘Total Interlock’ definition to ‘Full Interlock’ (definition text unchanged).

Transport

Issue	Description of update
Tra 01 Transport assessment and travel plan	Changes to definitions The definition of a publicly available postal facility has been refined to clarify that its purpose is to enable the public to “send” postal items, rather than also requiring the ability to receive or forward them.

Issue	Description of update
Tra 02 Sustainable transport measures	Changes to criteria • “EV charging stations” changed to “EV charging points” throughout criteria and methodology to make it clearer it is talking about the plug-in point. • Minor grammatical and editorial refinements to improve overall document clarity. Methodological changes • M1.3 (Extensions): Updated guidance for calculating EV infrastructure for extensions to include a specific proportional allocation formula based on either GIA or occupancy. • M2 (Cycle storage): Updated the unit of measure for healthcare building types to provide clearer, more specific calculations (e.g., using beds or consulting rooms). • M2.3 (High PTAI): Sliding scale of compliance can now be combined with sites with high PTAI to reduce cycle storage requirement. • M2.6 (Public bicycle sharing): Updated Public bicycle sharing systems guidance, now applicable to staff and visitors for all assets. • M4.2 (Amenities): Changed the term “New or enhanced amenities” to “New additional amenities”. Clarified that a new amenity counts as “additional” only if it results in a net increase in the number of compliant amenities. Changes to compliance notes • CN11 (Site-wide considerations): CN added to specify that for sites with multiple buildings, if less than 80% of buildings are within 1000 m of the main entrance, calculations must use the assessed building’s main entrance, basing results on the “worst-case scenario” (the entrance furthest from the node or amenity). Changes to definitions • The definition of a publicly available postal facility has been refined to clarify that its purpose is to enable the public to “send” postal items, rather than also requiring the ability to receive or forward them. • Dedicated transport service: It is now explicitly stated that, for primary and secondary schools, a dedicated service available only to students can be considered compliant. • Added definition of ‘Safe pedestrian route’.

Water

Issue	Description of update
Wat 01 Water consumption	Methodological changes • M2.2 (Calculating flow rates): Section retitled 'M2.2: Calculating flow rates for different water-consuming components'. The following new sub-sections added incorporating existing KBCN guidance: ○ M2.2.1 – Calculating flow rates for push and automatic shut-off taps (from KBCN guidance). ○ M2.2.2 – Flow rate for a mixture of taps: where there is a mixture of taps, the higher of the 'average flow rate' or the 'proportionate flow rate' should be used (KBCN0173). ○ M2.2.3 – Flow rate for a shower with multiple heads: if all heads can be turned on simultaneously, flow rates are added; if only one can be used at a time, the highest flow rate applies (KBCN0855). ○ M2.2.4 – Calculation of litres/bowl/hour for urinals: a flushing frequency of two flushes per hour is used (KBCN1010). ○ M2.2.5 – Calculating flow rates for showers and taps where use is physically time-limited: where a timer physically limits use to a set period, this can be used as the basis for calculating a reduced flow rate (KBCN1690). • M1 (In-scope water-consuming components): Added new section 'Out of scope water-consuming components' (M1.2) incorporating guidance from KBCN0228, KBCN0418, and KBCN1624. • M3 (Calculating water performance credits): Sentence added: 'Where water-consuming components have a worse performance than the baseline level, the baseline as specified in Table 69 should be entered into the BREEAM Platform.' • Table 67 (International) / Table 8.2 (UK): Added 'integrated' to the data requirements column for rows 3, 4, and 5 (flow restrictors clarification). • Table 67 (International) / Table 8.2 (UK): Fix to data requirements for urinals, clarifying the requirements for urinals with timed flush and urinals with automatic flush. Changes to evidence • Added 'or measurement data' to the fourth paragraph in the interim design column. Changes to compliance notes • KBCN0699 added to the compliance note table.

Issue	Description of update
Wat 02 Water monitoring	Changes to aim - Removed 'and leak detection' from the issue aim. Changes to compliance notes - KBCN1017 added to the compliance note table.
Wat 03 Water leak detection and prevention	Methodological changes - M1 (Leak detection system): Sentence added: 'The leak detection requirements apply to all relevant water systems, regardless of the water source.' (KBCN0680). Guidance from KBCN1566 added at the end of M1, recognising alternative water leak detection technologies (including smart leak detection systems) that can meet or exceed standard requirements. - M2 (Flow control devices): Guidance from KBCN00057 added: criteria apply to the cold-water supply only (cold taps, WCs and urinals); any solution must effectively mitigate the risk of hot-water scalding in showers in the event that the cold-water supply is shut off. Changes to compliance notes - CN3: Added 'leak detection' to the first paragraph to clarify which credit the guidance applies to. - KBCN0433 and KBCN0439 added to the compliance note table.
Wat 04 Water efficient equipment and systems	Changes to criteria - Credit bound formatting corrected to match Ene 05/06 and RFO V7. Methodological changes - M5 (Determining the number of credits achieved): Sentence added: 'Partial credits are rounded to the nearest whole number.' Changes to compliance notes - KBCN00094 added to the compliance note table.

Materials

Issue	Description of update
Mat 01 Building life cycle assessment	Changes to criteria • Criterion 7: Reviewed and amended to fully align with RFO V7 (minor wording edits). • Embodied carbon benchmark values updated in line with UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard (UKNZCBS, 10% uplift). Methodological changes • M2 (Embodied carbon reporting): Wording updated to state that Module D is required unless EN 15804:2019+A2 EPD data is not available for used products. Criteria rewritten to make clear that the different LCAs refer to plans at different design stages and can be completed after a given design stage. • M3 (Third-party verification), Table 9.2 (UK only): Study period (row 9) corrected to '60 years' for UK (was incorrectly showing 50 years). Changes to evidence • Clarification added that LCAs representing different design stages do not need to be submitted during those design stages. Changes to compliance notes • KBCN added for Stage 3 submissions (aligned with the 'Submitting an assessment at Stage 3' Knowledge Base article).
Mat 04 Durability and resilience	Changes to aim • International aim aligned, using the shorter version consistent with the UK/Platform wording.
Mat 05 Material efficiency	Changes to aim • International aim aligned, using the shorter version consistent with the UK/Platform wording. Changes to criteria • Criteria rewritten to align with RFO V7 wording, with minor wording changes to improve clarity.

Waste

Issue	Description of update
Wst 01 Construction waste management	Changes to aim - UK aim aligned, using the shorter version consistent with the International/Platform wording. Changes to criteria (International) Corrected typo in Table 82 (diversion from landfill) Changes to definitions - Moved 'Best practice construction waste management plan' from Definitions to Additional information. (International) Updated M3 ('appropriate targets') to align with RFO V7. - Key waste groups table: Projects required to identify and record the main waste groups generated, selecting relevant groups from Table 83/88; segregation at the highest practicable level encouraged; at least five key waste groups to be tracked and reported.
Wst 02 Recycled aggregates	Changes to aim - UK aim aligned, using the shorter version consistent with the International/Platform wording. Changes to definitions (International) Definition of 'low grade aggregate uses' removed.
Wst 03 Operational waste	Changes to aim - International aim aligned, using the shorter version consistent with the UK/Platform wording. Methodological changes (UK) 'Home composting facilities' moved from M4 to Definitions, in line with International. Changes to definitions - Building type-specific notes (2.1): 'flagship or anchor tenants' replaced with the full term consistently throughout the text. - Flagship or anchor tenant: Updated definition to remove 'typically' and provide a clearer, more precise definition.

Issue	Description of update
Wst 04 Speculative finishes	Changes to aim - UK aim aligned, using the shorter version consistent with the International/Platform wording. Changes to definitions - Two new definitions added: 'Speculative finishes' (a standard, move-in-ready level of interior fit-out applied before a tenant is secured) and 'Speculative project' (a building developed without a pre-existing tenant or buyer, designed to meet future market demand).
Wst 05 Adapting to climate change	Changes to criteria M1.3 (Hazard assessment): Text relating to projects shorter than 10 years removed.

Land use and ecology

Issue	Description of update
Lue 01 Site selection	Changes to criteria - Contaminated land credit: Credit is no longer filterable within the issue. Changes to compliance notes - Repeated section removed from CN2.1 (content was duplicated from CN2).
Lue 02 Ecological risks and opportunities	Changes to criteria (UK) Missing criterion 3d added. - New platform question added: 'Does the SQE's survey include sites located in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas?' Methodological changes - M2.2: Content reformatted into a table for improved clarity. - M3 (Comprehensive route): New section on surveying techniques added. Changes to definitions - Definitions added for surveying techniques listed in the methodology, and for field sampling techniques.

Issue	Description of update
Lue 03 Managing impacts on ecology	Changes to criteria - New platform question added: 'Has the design stage SQE confirmed that an Ecological Clerk of Works is unnecessary due to the low ecological value of the site?' - Container dependency: Containers for 'Implementation of measures on-site' and 'No Net Loss' updated to appear only when the prerequisite is met. Changes to definitions (UK) Added definition for 'Ecological clerk of works'.
Lue 04 Ecological change and enhancement	Changes to criteria (International) European Biodiversity Metric: Added as a tool option for quantifying change in ecological value. Methodological changes - M2.1: Updated list of enhancement measures. (International) Change to numbering of methodology section headings (M3.7 is now M4, M3.8 is now M5). (International) M3.8/M5 (UGF methodology): Added guidance on how inclined surfaces are measured.
Lue 05 Long-term ecological management	Changes to criteria (UK) Requirement that the LEMP must be developed in accordance with BS 42020:2013 removed; must still cover the points listed.

Pollution

Issue	Description of update
Pol 01 Impact of refrigerants	Methodological changes - Updated the list of refrigerants with an ozone depletion potential (ODP) of zero. Refrigerants that are no longer commercially recognised were removed. Changes to evidence - Added a new evidence requirement for the prerequisite, requiring confirmation of compliance to be provided by the relevant members of the project team for designing and/or installing the refrigerant system.

Issue	Description of update
Pol 03 Flood and surface water management	Changes to criteria - Changed 'flood zone' to 'areas' in criteria text, now reading: 'development is in an area that is defined as having...' to reduce confusion. Changes to definitions (UK) Table 12.3: Title changed from 'Definition of flood zones by country' to 'Definition of flood risk by country'. Footnote updated to correct the sources of flooding measured by public sources (previously incorrectly limited to 'rivers and sea').
Pol 04 Reduction of nighttime light pollution	Methodological changes - M2: Updated the guidance note reference for ILP to the latest version, <i>GN01/26 The Avoidance of Obstructive Light</i>, replacing GN01/21. - M5: Nocturnal wildlife requires assessments to demonstrate how potential impacts of both external and internal lighting have been considered more broadly, including in areas where lighting may increase the risk of bird collisions. This is linked to further measures in Lue 03. Changes to definitions - Bird collision: A new definition has been added to describe the impact of a bird with a building structure, noting that collisions often occur when birds are disoriented by artificial lighting or cannot perceive transparent/reflective glass surfaces. - Nocturnal wildlife habitats: A new definition has been added to describe these as areas that provide living, breeding, or foraging space, explicitly including "areas of lower ecological quality where nocturnal wildlife is active and should be considered".
Pol 05 Reduction of noise pollution	Changes to criteria - The term "Noise-sensitive areas" has been updated to "Noise-sensitive receptors" throughout the criteria, methodology, and definitions. - Clarification that "noise level" refers to the rating level as defined in ISO 1996 and BS 4142:2014. Changes to compliance notes Standard not appropriate or not applicable (UK only): - CN included clarifying that the SQA's assessment of the likelihood of noise complaints is acceptable where ISO 1996:2007 is not appropriate for the project. Changes to additional information UK only: - Removed the additional information referencing BS 8233:2014 and added references to BS 4142:2014 and ISO 1996:2017.

Other

Section	Description of update
Scope	- Updated section on 'Mixed-use developments and building types' (KBCN1820). - Updated section on 'Part new-build, part refurbishment projects' (KBCN1903). - Updated structure of sections and sub-sections and removed duplicate content.
Scoring and rating / Minimum standards	- Added section on 'Shell only projects' to clarify that shell only projects cannot achieve above an 'Excellent' rating in NC V7 - Updated display of minimum standards table, including display of entries for Ene 01 / Ene 02. - Corrected criterion reference in entry for Man 04, 'Technical and non-technical building user guide written'.
Evidence requirements	Updated to include KBCN1807 ("Acceptance of alternative forms of evidence"). Moved list of common evidence types to 'Evidence types' section.
Appendix B	Updated text to align with changes introduced in RFO V7.