

## BRE Trust Case Studies<sup>1</sup>

### Third Party Certification:

BRE Group are experts in third party certification, with a broad range of standards, assessment schemes and scientific research related to the topic. Group certification schemes are reinforced and supported by Trust-funded research and training development to provide further rigour to the standards and certifications.

The [RedBook](#) and [GreenBook](#) are two examples of listings that provide certification from a range of BRE products. Certification is a tool that allows customers to know that products and services reliably and effectively do the jobs that they are intended to do, to a quality defined against scientifically backed baselines. The provision of third party assurance, through impartial experts, ensures that products and services are created and carried out at a level that meets international safety, quality, and performance standards. Generating standards and certification methods and pushing them into related sectors allows for the opening up of markets and assurance for both producers and consumers that what they are doing is at a level of quality they can Trust. Introducing these standards to industry provides users with the capacity to improve and promote their products while also potentially raising the benchmark for product quality among consumers.

The standards and certification schemes that are linked to BRE reach across a broad spectrum of sectors within the industry, including the security, sustainability, resilience, and quality of assets, products, and practices within the built environment. These standards have an impact on all types of buildings including and not limited to:

- Offices
- Educational buildings
- Healthcare buildings
- Residential buildings
- Mixed use buildings
- Data centres
- Industrial buildings
- Retail buildings

The quality of the stock within the built environment is a crucial factor that can influence the success of sustainability efforts and social empowerment schemes. Without significant, collaborative, and coordinated efforts across the sector, the success of such movements can be turbulent and patchy. Standard setting along with the widespread acceptance and implementation of said standards is a powerful tool in raising the benchmarks within an industry and improving the quality of work within, across the board. By using standards, the baseline of sustainability efforts is raised in an industry and can lead to innovation within as stakeholders go beyond the baselines in order to promote their particular work and products.

This improvement can have a wide range of impacts on the SDGs, depending on which sector is being looked at. Using the degree of influence and direct and indirect impact thought processes, correlations between improved standards and benchmarks can be seen across a number of goals. For example, raising the benchmark for energy efficiency in homes can reach across social and environmental benefits through the reduction in carbon emissions and the lowering of billing costs for occupiers. Certification is a useful tool, but multiple standards can create confusion and competition. However, multiple standards, assessing topics to varying degrees of detail can be useful, particularly when comparisons to broader schemes can be drawn. The Trust has funded equivalency mapping between BREEAM International New Construction 2016 and BREEAM International In-Use 2015 to two standards in China and USA: Chinese Assessment Standard for Green Building (Three Star) and the WELL Building Standard respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> Links for materials mentioned in relation to certification:

SDG Targets and indicators:

[https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202020%20review\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202020%20review_Eng.pdf)

SABRE: <https://www.bregroup.com/sabre/>

## Third Party Certification

The Trust funded mapping between BREEAM and China Three Star aimed to show the areas within the two schemes that could be used as equivalents to one another. This provision of research can help to identify gaps in either scheme, areas for improvement and areas for increased correlation between the two to help promote both the schemes, and the technical improvements in buildings.

Further work is needed to better understand where technical equivalents can and cannot be drawn but this type of work helps to increase the standard for certification schemes, through knowledge sharing and collaboration.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The WELL mapping showed fewer areas where cross compliance could be shown due to the method of measurement within the schemes being different.

However, due to WELL's focus on occupant health and wellbeing it has shown correlations between BREEAM's criteria and WELL's and provided confirmation of how both schemes can impact the health of those that interact with buildings accredited with a rating from either of the schemes.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## SABRE

SABRE is security risk management standard for new and existing buildings, infrastructure assets and managed space. SABRE provides industry and industry stakeholders with the capacity to communicate their ability to manage security risks.

This is the result of fundamental research that was funded by the BRE Trust. Moving from individual product certification to a holistic security assessment scheme across a variety of sectors.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Individual connections can be drawn to a number of the SDGs, depending on the themes within each individual product analysed related to certification. From BREEAM and CEEQUAL through to Responsible Sourcing, ethical labour sourcing and other BRE Group delivered certifications and standards, many of the key themes within the SDGs are impacted through the support of the wider industry to perform at a certain level.

Certification can be linked directly to specific targets and indicators within Goal 11, e.g. target 11.3 and 11.B. While these are two good examples of where certification can fit, the effects of increased quality across the industry is wide reaching and would have influence across the SDGs. Different certification schemes and standards will influence different goals depending on the core elements of the schemes and standards themselves.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

