



## **BRE Global Accreditation Scheme Details**

### **What is an accreditation Scheme?**

#### **Ensuring standards for Energy Assessors**

Energy Performance certificates (EPCs) will come into force on the 1 August 2007 (in England and Wales) as part of the Home Information pack (HIP). They are required to meet the European Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD) and HIPs and revised regulations were laid before parliament on the 11 June 2007 and came into force on the 2 July 2007.

Under these regulations it is required that Domestic Energy Assessors are members of an approved accreditation scheme, the scheme will provide an assurance about their qualifications, insurance and that they are 'fit and proper' people to carry out energy performance certificates, the scheme will also undertake quality check checks on the assessors work.

The Accreditation Scheme is responsible for ensuring that all EPCs produced by Domestic Energy Assessors are stored on an electronic register that will be kept by or on behalf of the Government in accordance with the regulations. Access to registered EPCs is controlled by the regulations.

It is essential that consumers and others who rely on energy performance certificates and have confidence both in the EPCs as well as in the people that prepare them. This protects the interests of consumers, buyers and mortgage lenders, these are some of the main aims and purpose of an Accreditation Scheme. The Regulations therefore provide for the Secretary of State to require that energy performance certificates are prepared by a qualified Domestic Energy Assessor who is a member of an Accreditation Scheme.

#### **Checking and Quality Assurance**

Auditing the quality of members' work is a key function and responsibility of the Accreditation Scheme for Energy Assessors. A high standard of quality assurance is needed to protect the interests of all parties that are entitled to rely on the Energy Performance Certificate. However, it is also essential that the cost and resource demands imposed by the auditing scheme are commensurate with the benefits that will be delivered. Visit the "members area" page for the Procedures. . The results of the audits will be reviewed by the Scheme Manager and will be used to inform decisions about disciplinary or other actions which might be taken against the assessor

## **Insurance**

Members of the BRE Global Accreditation Scheme are automatically provided with Professional Indemnity (PI) and Public Liability Insurance (PL) for undertaking Energy Performance Certificate that are lodged with the Scheme. The cover exceeds the CLG requirements and provides for PI to a limit of £250,000 in any one claim and PL of £3m in any one occurrence. In both cases there is an excess of £500 for each and every claim which must be paid by the Domestic Energy Assessor concerned.

The cover is provided by AON through AG Dore and others at Lloyds. Full details are available on the "members area" page.

## **Life Long Learning**

The Accreditation Scheme will ensure that all Energy Assessors undertake programmes of lifelong learning to maintain the knowledge and understanding required by the National Occupational Standards, as a continuing condition of Scheme membership.

The members will keep records of their lifelong learning programmes and submit to the scheme on request. The scheme will recommend an appropriate amount and type of lifelong learning to be measured against the lifelong learning obligations of the National Occupational Standards. Lifelong learning records will be reviewed and Energy Assessors who do not comply with the requirements, or do not reach the continuing competence levels, will be referred to the disciplinary process which may result in suspension or withdrawal of membership.