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02/04/2026 Reference: Approved Certifiers of Design Scheme

Dear Approved Certifier of Design (Section 6 – Energy) scheme members

Important Notice regarding the BRE Global Approved Certifier of Design Schemes

Unfortunately, we must inform you that BRE Global will cease operating our Approved Certifier of Design (Section 6 – Energy) schemes later this year. This affects both the Domestic and Non-Domestic building schemes. They will remain in operation until 29 September 2026, after which they will close.

We are sorry that we've had to take this difficult decision which is driven by commercial considerations relating to scheme operations. We recognise that this decision will disrupt the services you provide and may cause inconvenience. Please be assured that we have been working with the Scottish Government's Building Standards Division , the Scottish Building Standards Hub and Local Authority Building Standards Scotland (LABSS) to discuss processes to help limit this impact.

Further guidance on membership, and on managing current or future certification projects, is provided in the FAQ section below.

We appreciate that you may have some additional questions. If so, please contact us at acd@bregroup.com and we will be happy to help.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your long-standing support of the BRE Global schemes and certification within the building standards system in Scotland.

The following notice, and FAQs below, will shortly be added to the scheme website.

Important notice: We are ceasing operation of our Approved Certifier of Design (Section 6 - Energy) certification schemes on the 29th September 2026, after which time they will close. We are not accepting new applications to the scheme and existing members will not be able to certify projects after this time. Please see here (https://www.bre.co.uk/filelibrary/Scotland/acod/FAQ-BRE-ACoD-scheme-close-down.pdf) for more information.

Regards,

The BRE ACoD team
e: acd@bregroup.com

FAQs

Can I still certify projects now, and up to the 29th September 2026?
Approved Bodies can continue to produce 'Certificates of Design' in the usual way up to the 29th September 2026. However, please see the guidance below regarding 'staged' certificates and certificates incorporating 'schedule 1' items.

Will my membership transfer to another company/ Scheme Provider?
No. We are closing our schemes and not entering into any agreements with another Scheme Provider.

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My membership is due for renewal before the 29th September. What options do I have?
You can either:

- Allow your membership to expire, or
- You can choose to apply to extend your membership in the usual way, however this will only enable continuing membership up to the 29th September, or
- Join a different certification scheme (see here for more information: https://www.sbsc.uk.net/)

My membership is due for renewal after the 29th September. What happens then?
Your membership will cease on the 29th September. If you want to offer section 6 energy certification services after this time, you will need to be a member of another scheme.

We are in the process of undergoing an audit. What do I need to know?
The audit process will continue and audits will need to be completed in the usual manner. This includes dealing with any issues raised in a suitable way to maintain ongoing membership.

What do I need to think about if I am considering joining another Section 6 scheme?
You should review the information relating to the alternative scheme including membership criteria and application process, as these may be different. The alternative scheme provider will assess applications in accordance with their procedures, and this may include asking BRE Global if there are any outstanding issues with applicants who have previously been members of the BRE Global schemes.

Staged certificates – do I need to give special consideration to projects that are likely to require additional 'stage' certificates after the 29th September 2026?
Yes. As our schemes will close on the 29th September, you will not be able to create any additional 'stage certificates' after this time. This means that you could end up with a project where, even though you may have certified earlier stages, it will not be possible to certify later stages and/ or the final/ full design. We therefore recommend that you consider alternative options for projects of this nature from the outset. For example:

- You may wish to consider using a non-certified route.
- You may wish to consider adopting a traditional/ single certificate route if you are confident that the project can be fully certified before the 29th September.
- If you need to progress a 'staged' project that will span this timeframe, you may wish to consider certifying the project via another scheme provider.

What happens if I end up having a live staged project (i.e. where a parent certificate and early 'stage' certificates have been generated within the BRE Global Scheme), that requires certification of further stages after the 29th of September?
It will not be possible to certify the further stages via the BRE Global scheme if this/ these steps needs to occur after the 29th September. This means that:

- Any discounted fee received for certifying the Section 6 element of the project will need to be repaid to the relevant Local Authority. In this instance, please note the Local Authority will not be able to issue a warrant (or stage) approval until such time as the repayment is processed, and
- Full details of the final Section 6 design information will have to be submitted to the relevant Local Authority verifier for checking/ verification. Designers, applicants and/or agents must ensure that designs comply with the mandatory requirements of Section 6 prior to submission to the verifier.

Alternatively, you may be able to certify the project, incorporating any further/ final stage(s) via another Scheme Provider. In this situation, Approved Bodies would have to adhere to the alternative scheme requirements. This would typically require the project, and all earlier 'stages' to be registered with the alternative scheme, which would incur fees in accordance with the scheme procedures. Also, as it is not possible to only certify the later/ final stage, Approved Bodies would have to satisfy themselves of the suitability of compliance of previous stages.

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Certificates of Design incorporating 'schedule 1' items - do I need to give special consideration to projects that include 'Schedule 1' items that extend beyond the 29th September?
Yes. If certification of a project depends on compliance of items that you have listed on a 'schedule 1' form, you should be aware of the following:

If the Schedule 1 items are all compliant with the required performance specification requirements, then a 'certificate of design' (produced prior to the 29th September) shall be considered valid. In this case, you should create a Form Q and submit this to the Local Authority verifier. You should also keep a record of the evidence that supports your assessment of compliance, and also provide a copy of the evidence to the verifier.

How long do I need to store information relating to my certification projects?
Project information, including Certificates of Design and all evidence that supported the assessment of compliance, needs to be held by you for at least 7 years.

Will I be able to access the 'members area' of the website after the 29th September 2026?
No. You will not be able to access the member's area of the website after the 29th September 2026. It is therefore important that you extract and save relevant information prior to this date, as it will not be possible for BRE to provide you with information after this time.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?
Please contact us via: acd@bregroup.com

Contact details for an alternative scheme are available at: https://www.sbsc.uk.net/

Reminder
We also take this opportunity to provide a general reminder that compliance with the building regulations is the responsibility of the building owner/ developer. The building warrant application form declaration outlines this and states: '*I / We apply for a building warrant and declare that the work will be carried out in accordance with building regulations, and in accordance with the details supplied above and any necessary accompanying information…..*'. It is essential that those submitting building warrants ensure that information accompanying any building warrant application clearly and fully demonstrates compliance with relevant mandatory standards.

End.

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