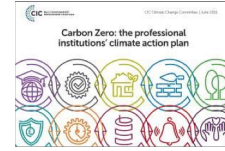


Built environment - Core criteria for sustainability in competence frameworks

Code of practice - Proposed Scope & Contents



Introduction

A *Core criteria for sustainability in competence frameworks code of practice* document dealing with the built environment* is envisaged to help the construction and property sectors to urgently and effectively meet environmental and social obligations set out by national and international agreements as well as to follow best-practice guidance. It is considered that, initially at least, a BSI Flex would provide the appropriate degree of flexibility and speed. As a useful model for the envisaged standard already exists in the form of *BSI Flex 8670: Built environment – Core criteria for building safety in competence frameworks - Code of practice*, this will significantly help to expedite the process of developing much needed and cross-industry skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours (SKEB) necessary for dealing with the pressing climate and biodiversity emergencies.

Objectives

The proposed Flex will provide a framework for sustainability competence with the following overarching objectives, to:

- a) set core criteria for achieving sustainability, including on carbon emissions, pollutants, biodiversity levels, social outcomes, wellbeing and resilience, for all individuals working on the built environment, to achieve defined outcomes throughout their lifecycle;
- b) facilitate consistent and objective development, evaluation or use of sector-specific competence frameworks by certification, licensing, accrediting, qualifying, and validating bodies, regulators, clients and employers; and
- c) support progressive development of a more consistent approach in the development and use of competence frameworks across the built environment.

It is also intended to meet the following specific objectives:

- d) support development of a robust oversight, monitoring and feedback process for sector-specific competence frameworks;
- e) support development of competence frameworks for key roles in delivering a sustainable built environment and equitable and just transitions;
- f) identify core sustainability criteria that are likely to be common to all sector-specific competence frameworks;
- g) support commonality and consistency in sustainability competence across sector-specific frameworks; and
- h) support individuals and organizations working in the built environment to move towards progressively adopting an approach based on validation and periodic revalidation.

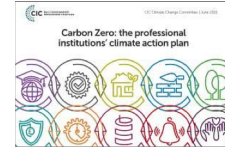
Scope

The BSI Flex will provide recommendations and a structure for core criteria for sustainability in the built environment to promote high standards of performance and low levels of harmful environmental impact in and around the built environment and throughout built assets' lifecycles. It will be applicable to persons working on developments of all types and scales and is intended to have wide application and relevance in design, construction, facilities management and property markets throughout the UK and beyond as well to relevant educational programmes.

* Note that the phrase 'built environment' covers (as defined in *PAS 2080:2023 Carbon management in buildings and infrastructure*) the 'collection of human-made or induced physical objects located in a particular area or region' and, when 'treated as a whole, typically is taken to include buildings, external works (landscaped areas), infrastructure, and the products of construction works within the area under consideration'.

Built environment - Core criteria for sustainability in competence frameworks

Code of practice - Proposed Scope & Contents



The proposed Flex is intended for use by those with responsibility for the development, maintenance or application of sector-specific competence frameworks for roles, functions, activities or tasks undertaken by individuals where these are critical to and directly influence sustainability in and around buildings. This will include everyone from clients to trade contractors who are members of a standard setting organization or are subject to environmental regulations.

The Flex will not cover organizational and team competence.

The Flex will support existing standards and guidance, including several competency frameworks already in place in the industry.

The Flex is not intended to cover all sectors of work involving the natural environment, e.g. forestry, farming and fishing and there are also likely to be technical roles in infrastructure provision which are better served by separate, bespoke standards regimes. It is nonetheless very wide-ranging.

This BSI Flex will be relevant to roles within the construction and property industries such as:

• Commissioning clients	• Contractors
• ESG & sustainability professionals	• Trade contractors
• Client design advisers	• Retrofit coordinators
• Principal Designers	• Professional & trade bodies
• Principal Contractors	• Educators and trainers
• Designers	• Building control professionals
• Planners & development control officers	• Facility Managers

Structure

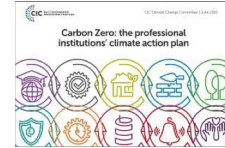
The Flex will set out the structure and potential content areas for sector- and discipline-specific frameworks with individual frameworks being required to define:

1. Their scope and any specific exclusions
2. Settings and types of organizations within which they are likely to be subject to the provisions of the framework
3. The types of activity and/or tasks in scope.
4. The levels of expertise, qualification and/or certification relating to and promoted by the sector or discipline under various formal titles
5. The categories and degrees of knowledge, skills and experience to be acquired and made available at different levels of expertise, qualification and/or certification
6. The behaviours expected to be enacted in different settings and for the different levels of expertise, qualification and/or certification
7. How the levels and standards of competence have been developed and their relation to relevant recognized qualification standards
8. Requirements for continued training and experience necessary for the maintenance and development of competence
9. Procedural arrangements and criteria for competence assessment
10. Remedial and sanction procedures should assessment reveal inadequacies or failure
11. Revalidation procedures for regaining qualifications or registration after sanction
12. Arrangements for maintaining information on assessments and details on how to make the information accessible to regulators, responsible persons and the general public

Mapping

Built environment - Core criteria for sustainability in competence frameworks

Code of practice - Proposed Scope & Contents



The Flex will describe how compliance with its provisions can be achieved by mapping new or existing sector specific frameworks against the core competence criteria and scope and explaining any divergence arising from the context within which the framework will be used. The mapping process can also be used to help achieve alignment with the recommendations of the Flex through:

1. clearly identifying the scope of sector specific frameworks, including the roles, functions, activities, tasks, sector and context;
2. creating a mapping template;
3. reviewing the sector-specific framework to verify conformity, record evidence of conformity or, following analysis, amend or justify any areas where the sector specific framework does not address the core criteria of the Flex.

ANNEX 1:

Proposed Skills, Knowledge, Experience and Behaviours (SKEB) categories

The Flex will provide a broad set of categories for Competence in Sustainability for the Built Environment. These categories, which will include identified core and sector/level specific elements, will be consulted on, but potentially are:

A. Potential

1. Natural systems
2. Resources
3. Energy and carbon
4. Social value
5. Harms and solutions

B. People

6. Education, training and literacy
7. Behaviours
8. Teamworking

C. Process

9. Finance and risk
10. Practice
11. Tools and technologies

D. Projects

12. Land use and planning
13. External spaces
14. Infrastructure and accessibility
15. Buildings

E. Performance

16. Project monitoring, information & feedback
17. Resilience and adaptation
18. Emergency response

