

Standards & Accreditations

BREEAM®

BREEAM - Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) was established in 1990. This is the assessment method for buildings used by BRE. Specific products can be BREEAM assessed or building specifications/ actual buildings can be BREEAM rated. A BREEAM rating is based on a 60 year life of the building. Products that are deemed by the manufacturer to last less than 60 years have multiple points calculated based on their estimated product life. Generic ratings for products can be viewed on the Green Guide website www.bre.co.uk/greenguide where products are rated generically across 13 weighted environmental issues. Buildings and products are rated A+ to E where A+ is the best performing and E the worst performing. These ratings can only be used to assess products from the same category; for example an A+ rating in soft flooring is not necessarily higher than a B rating in hard flooring. Currently BRE ratings are only available for floor tiles. There is no category within BRE to cover wall tiles.

BRE 'A'

BRE 'A' Rating - The generic rating for porcelain tiles for use on Commercial Floors is B, Porcelain with at least 40% recycled content or slim porcelain products (4mm thick) are rated generically as A. In Health environments Porcelain with at least 40% recycled content and slim porcelain are classed as A+. More specific usage information can be found on the Green Guide website.



The recycle logo - The recycle logo has various forms and is an identification to indicate ranges that contain recycled content either from the producer's own production process or utilising waste from other local producers. The recycle logo indicates products which incorporate a percentage (by volume) of re-cycled or re-processed ceramic waste. This percentage can change from production batch to production batch due to numerous factors (including amount of recycled material available) but the minimum recycled content is noted on the relevant range pages.



LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) began in 1998 and is an internationally recognized green building certification system. It provides third party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all areas of responsible construction. Developed by the US Green Council it is now widely used across continental Europe. Points are awarded for various stages in a buildings life (building, use, maintenance and demolition) and a LEED rating is calculated on the life of the building.



Ecolabel - Ecolabel is a labelling system for consumer products (not foods or medicines) that are made without detrimental effects to the environment. Ecolabel is a totally voluntary scheme. The EU Ecolabel was established in 1992. Ecolabel products are assessed on their environmental impact from raw materials, production, packaging, use by consumer and disposal (cradle to grave). The label is only awarded to products that meet these environmental and performance standards.



EMAS

EMAS - Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a voluntary initiative designed to improve the environmental performance of organisations. It is completely compatible with ISO 14001 but is perceived to go further. As ISO 14001 EMAS is awarded for voluntary environmental management, internal efficiency, transparency and employee involvement. It is a way to show commitment to improving environmental performance.



ANSI - The ANSI (American National Standards Institute)- ASQ (American Society for Quality) National Accreditation Board (ANAB) was established in 2005. This is a quality and environmental management accreditation similar to ISO9001 and ISO 14001 combined.