



NEWS RELEASE

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Major updates from the UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard as it moves closer to launch this winter

UK NZCBS announce preferred bidder for verification administrator, and introduce plans for new 'On Track' check at Practical Completion

UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard is delighted to announce Bureau Veritas as the preferred bidder for the role of the Standard's Verification Administrator.

As preferred bidder in the second stage of the tender for the role, Bureau Veritas is working in partnership with the Standard to develop the verification framework and methodology, with the intent to formalise the arrangement and appoint BV into the role for a two-year exclusivity period upon launch of the Standard's Version 1.

Following the launch of Version 1, the verification administrator will run and maintain the Standard's verification process, including developing a verifier training and accreditation scheme that will open up verification services to the wider industry. The verification administrator will carry out the initial verifications "in-house", up until the training scheme is available. A key part of the current development work is to define the competencies a verifier will need, including around whole life carbon assessment.

Katie Clemence-Jackson, CEO, UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard

"Bureau Veritas is a great fit for the role of Verification Administrator due to their deep understanding of operational energy and embodied carbon, and world-leading experience as a verification body. Together, we are delivering a verification framework that will bring much-needed robustness and credibility to our industry's Net Zero Carbon claims, and act as a catalyst for the Net Zero transformation we need."

Niki Hutson, Sustainability Solutions Market Leader, Bureau Veritas said:

"The UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard will fundamentally shift how the industry approaches decarbonisation. Our verification process ensures that 'net zero' becomes more than a marketing term - it becomes a measurable, accountable commitment. This

credibility will unlock green financing, prevent greenwashing, and create a competitive advantage for buildings that genuinely deliver on climate performance. We're essentially future-proofing the built environment."

Upon appointment, to coincide with the launch of Version 1, Bureau Veritas will be the sole Verification Administrator for a two-year exclusivity period. After this period the arrangement will be reviewed, with other organisations potentially also taking on the role.

Verifying your buildings as Net Zero Carbon Aligned

The UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard sets out limits and targets that need to be met in order for a building to be Net Zero Carbon Aligned, as well as the technical evidence needed to demonstrate this, and how it should be reported.

Verification will be launched alongside Version 1 of the Standard, due this winter. Ahead of its release, building owners can start measuring and reporting building performance against the Standard's requirements, available in the Pilot Version, putting them in a good position to verify once the Standard has been launched.

Sam Wallis, Verification Lead for the Standard said

"We are working to make verification against the Standard the cornerstone of credible net zero carbon claims in the built environment. Third party verification ensures that every claim is backed by robust evidence, and can be benchmarked against real-world performance."

"With Bureau Veritas, we are working to deliver a verification framework built around credibility, rigour, usability and accessibility. The data collected will strengthen the evidence base to inform future versions of the Standard, and drive market transformation - shifting the focus from prediction to proven, measurable, low-carbon outcomes."

Verification takes place after a 'reporting period', during which operational energy and upfront embodied carbon data is collected. Verifiers must be independent third parties, with no involvement in the development or operation of the building being verified. They must also be skilled and knowledgeable in the technical subject areas within which they are verifying. They will review evidence and check that it is robust, following the Standard's methodology, which is currently being developed with Bureau Veritas.

Buildings will be expected to measure and report data annually to keep their Net Zero Carbon Aligned status.

Steve Highwood, Director (UK Building & Infrastructure CAPEX), Bureau Veritas, said:

“As the verification partner, we view the UK Net Zero Building Standard as essential for driving consistency, credibility, and transparency in the construction industry's decarbonisation journey. This trusted benchmark enables us to verify genuine net zero performance, empowering developers, designers, and investors to demonstrate authentic climate leadership while building confidence in our low-carbon future.”

Verification will start to transform the industry, with buildings being able to evidence that they are truly Net Zero Carbon Aligned in line with climate goals.

The Standard's metrics are published in the Pilot version, with building owners already starting to measure and report against them in preparation to pursue verification when it becomes available.

The robustness and credibility provided by third party verification will support the financing and development of Net Zero Carbon buildings. Conforming to the Standard will be a badge of honour for buildings to show they are playing their part in the path towards a Net Zero Carbon UK. The data we gather from this process will contribute to industry learning, and the future evolution of the Standard.

Introduction of an “On Track” Check at Practical Completion

Feedback from the industry has highlighted a strong desire for a way to check that buildings are on track to meet the Standard at Practical Completion. We have consistently heard this feedback throughout engagement on the Standard, from early technical consultations that informed the Pilot Version, through ongoing Stakeholder engagement workshops, and again through the Pilot Feedback. We have heard that introducing some form of validation at this stage would reduce barriers to uptake, particularly in certain sectors, providing confidence to a range of stakeholders and ultimately supporting the funding and specification of Net Zero Carbon buildings.

In response to this feedback we will be introducing an “on track” validity check at Practical Completion. Securing validation will provide evidence that a building could feasibly achieve the Standard in use. Given that the Standard has been developed with a focus on in-use measurement and rigour, the “on track” check comes with some stipulations to ensure it supports uptake, while aligning with the Standard's principles.

The check will involve reporting progress against each of the Standard's mandatory requirements. The evidence will be subject to third party verification, with known metrics being verified, and a plausibility check carried out for metrics based on in-use performance. There will be specific rules about how “on track” validation can be communicated. Notably, it does not indicate that a building has achieved the Standard, which is only possible for buildings with in use measured data.

The methodology for “on track” validation at Practical Completion is being developed through a dedicated Working Group, with a new Annex to be launched alongside Version 1 this winter.

What's next

On 10 November, our first Pre-Launch Update will be published, providing more information on the updates above. Subsequently, in December we will be sharing the findings from the Pilot Testing Programme, including what we heard and how this is being addressed in Version 1.

The launch of Version 1 is set for winter 2025/26.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. For further press information please contact communications@NZCbuildings.co.uk.
2. Image available to [download from this link](#) (photos due on Friday by COP)
 - UK Net Zero Carbon Building Standard and Bureau Veritas:
L-R Steve Highwood, Niki Hutson, Katie Clemence-Jackson, David Partridge
3. Follow us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/uk-nzc-buildings-standard>
4. Organisations involved in the Standard include:

Better Buildings Partnership (BBP)
Building Research Establishment (BRE)
The Carbon Trust Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)
Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE)
LETI
Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
UK Green Building Council (UKGBC)

About UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard

The Standard is a cross-industry initiative to develop the UK's first Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard. Leading industry organisations BBP, BRE, the Carbon Trust, CIBSE, IStructE, LETI, RIBA, RICS, and UKGBC have joined forces to champion this initiative.

Whilst significant progress has been made in defining what ‘net zero’ means for buildings in the UK, a process of market analysis showed a clear demand for a single, agreed methodology. The UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard will enable industry to robustly prove their built assets are net zero carbon and in line with our nation’s climate targets.

Who is the UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard for?

The Standard will be for developers, contractors, asset owners and managers, occupiers, investors, financiers and funders, consultants, building industry professionals, building managers and product/material manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors. It is for anyone who wants to either fund, procure, design, or specify a net zero carbon building and anyone wanting to demonstrate that their building is 'net zero' aligned with an industry-agreed Standard.

Download the Pilot version of UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard and find out more:
<https://www.nzcbuildings.co.uk/>

About Bureau Veritas

Bureau Veritas has the experience, know-how and professional expertise to improve your productivity and performance; helping you to reduce your risks and build a responsible, safe and sustainable business.

As a global leader in Testing, Inspection, Certification and Consultancy services across all sectors, Bureau Veritas is recognised worldwide for excellence and innovation. We serve more than 400,000 companies, delivering a wide range of solutions that go beyond compliance to enable growth.

<https://www.bureauveritas.co.uk/sustainability-consultancy/carbon/net-zero-consultancy>