

CASE STUDY

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING CERTIFICATION

Intertek Supports Clients with BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing Compliance

Company
Aspecta B.V.



Region
Europe

Intertek Solutions
Sustainability Certification

BES 6001 certification demonstrates Aspecta's commitment to responsible sourcing and ensures that a program is in place to provide oversight of its supply chain, giving its customers the peace of mind and confidence that its products are produced in a responsible way.

With the growing focus on responsible sourcing in the building and construction sector, one of the world's largest suppliers of vinyl flooring, Aspecta B.V., wanted to inform its customers that they source their materials responsibly, ethically, and sustainably. Aspecta demonstrates this commitment by obtaining and maintaining a certification for BES 6001, which gives them a distinct position in the marketplace.



Industry Trend

As companies pay more attention to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance—as well as financial considerations—they strengthen their ability to manage risk and resilience, operate effectively, and act responsibly.

The BES 6001 standard describes the organisational governance, supply chain management, and environmental and social aspects that must be addressed to ensure responsible sourcing of construction products.

An Overview

Aspecta B.V. (Aspecta), the global contract brand for Architects and designers under HMTX Industries, is leading the charge for transparency and sustainability in the flooring industry. Aspecta believes its customers have a right to know the composition, including the raw materials, of products being used to build their businesses and homes.

Aspecta works hard to have a strong understanding of their supply chain. As BES 6001 takes into consideration quality, social justice, and environmental impact in the supply chain, the program was a logical choice for them.

In December 2018, Aspecta attended an Intertek-led workshop where sustainability experts explained the BES 6001 certification scheme program and advised them of the information needed to obtain certification.

This is where the collaboration began. Intertek, with the support of Aspecta's Simon Xia, General Manager, China, worked to compile the required data from the suppliers.

Following collection, the data was checked and reviewed against the BES 6001 standard during two onsite visits to China factories in Aspecta's supply chain. Intertek then worked to identify data gaps, and Aspecta had the opportunity to collect the missing data.

The result: in September 2019, Aspecta received two BES 6001 certificates for two of its China factories.

"The award of BES 6001 for our Aspecta products further demonstrates HMTX's commitment to all aspects of sustainability. This accreditation confirms that our products are manufactured not only with product quality in mind, but also that the environmental and ethical aspects of all ingredients are fully considered too. It also proves that it's possible for Chinese manufacturing to deliver on product quality and transparency in social justice, product ingredients and help to reduce environmental impacts."

- Simon Xia

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Aspecta BES 6001 Certificates:



The Project Details

Intertek was asked by Aspecta to provide support in attaining the BES 6001 Framework Standard for Responsible Sourcing, which would complement their existing quality systems and sustainability activities. The project demonstrated that having a comprehensive review of a company's supply chain management and product stewardship, while involving an independent verification organization (i.e., Intertek Group plc) and identifying latent opportunities, can provide robust evidence of performance within supply chains.

During the assessment, Intertek was responsible for collating the evidence Aspecta needed to achieve a "Good" level certification (based on the number of BREEAM Material credits earned). This globally-recognized, independent certification would demonstrate Aspecta's industry leadership in ethical supply chain performance, and provide a robust mark of their commitment to sustainability strategies for clients and stakeholders.

Examples of Requirements and Credits Achieved

Quality and Operational Management of Responsible Sourcing Requirement.

This criterion aims to promote the application of the fundamentals of ISO 9001 and the procedures of responsible sourcing. Aspecta achieved 2 full credits for this requirement by being able to show a valid ISO 9001 certification for both their China sites.

Life-cycle Assessment (LCA) Requirement.

This criterion aims to promote a life-cycle approach to manufacturing processes. It determines any environmental impacts at each stage of a product's life-cycle. Aspecta achieved 3 full credits for this requirement by submitting a valid, independently verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for all their products under assessment. The EPD can be found on their company website: <https://en.aspecta flooring.com/sustainability/sustainability-document-downloads/>.

Transport Impacts Requirement.

This criterion aims to promote the effective transportation of materials, goods, and people within the organisation while lowering its environmental impacts. For this requirement, Aspecta achieved 3 full credits for having a Code of Conduct that clearly identifies "transport impacts reduction" as an important part of their Environmental Management System (EMS) and sustainability strategy. Aspecta's China factory sites use a "company vehicles management system" to ensure vehicle safety, improve vehicle efficiency, reduce vehicle energy consumption, and limit unnecessary vehicle expenditure. Further still, Aspecta uses electric forklifts for transportation in the workshop. The company also monitors all transport of constituent materials within a controlled document; monitors, reports, and regularly reviews all data; and follows a plan for continually reducing environmental impacts of production-related transport.

The Results

Aspecta B.V. received:

- BES 6001 Certifications
- An action plan for continuous improvement
- Benchmarking opportunities
- Reduced business risks with clear policies and objectives
- Potential financial benefits from increased shareholder trust, supply chain commitment, and increased management involvement
- Recognition of achieving EPDs and other achievements (JUST label, etc.)

...and, most importantly, a competitive edge—the ability to satisfy the environmental management requirements of their customers, while developing new products in a low-carbon-driven market.

Score Table Results for Aspecta Sites:

Appendix to Certificate Number: INTR500011

Score Table

Section	1	2	3	4	5	Additional Credit
3.2.1 Responsible Sourcing Policy	C					
3.2.2 Legal Compliance	C					
3.2.3 Quality Management System	C	*				
3.2.4 Supplier Management System	C					
3.3.1 Material Traceability Through the Supply Chain	C	*	*			
3.3.2 EMS in the Supply Chain	C	*	*	*		
3.3.3 H&S Management Systems in the Supply Chain	C	*	*	*		
3.4.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions	C					
3.4.2 Energy Management	*					
3.4.3 Resource Use	C					
3.4.4 Waste Prevention and Waste Management	C					
3.4.5 Water Usage and Abstraction	C					
3.4.6 Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)	C	*	*			
3.4.7 Ecotoxicity	*					
3.4.8 Transport Impacts	C	*	*			
3.4.9 Employment and Skills	C	*	*			
3.4.10 Local Communities	C	*	*			
3.4.11 Business Ethics	C					

Key: C Compulsory Points Scored
* Maximum score available per clause

Appendix to Certificate Number: INTR50012

Score Table

Section	1	2	3	4	5	Additional Credit
3.2.1 Responsible Sourcing Policy	C					
3.2.2 Legal Compliance	C					
3.2.3 Quality Management System	C	*				
3.2.4 Supplier Management System	C					
3.3.1 Material Traceability Through the Supply Chain	C	*	*			
3.3.2 EMS in the Supply Chain	C	*	*	*		
3.3.3 H&S Management Systems in the Supply Chain	C	*	*	*		
3.4.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions	C					
3.4.2 Energy Management	*					
3.4.3 Resource Use	C					
3.4.4 Waste Prevention and Waste Management	C					
3.4.5 Water Usage and Abstraction	C					
3.4.6 Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)	C	*	*			
3.4.7 Ecotoxicity	*					
3.4.8 Transport Impacts	C	*	*			
3.4.9 Employment and Skills	C	*	*			
3.4.10 Local Communities	C	*	*			
3.4.11 Business Ethics	C					

Key: C Compulsory Points Scored
* Maximum score available per clause



Employment and Skills Requirement.

This criterion aims to encourage a systematic, transparent, and regularly reviewed approach to the learning and development of employees. Aspecta achieved 3 credits by maintaining JUST label declaration and Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) compliance, demonstrate their training commitment. The company also entrusts their internal team to monitor and maintain ISO standard practices.

The Intertek Advantage

Unlike many other schemes, BES 6001 is not a sector-specific standard; any material, product, or product group can be certified against it. However, some specific construction product sectors have emulated the BES 6001 scheme and developed their own scheme, fully compliant and equivalent to BES 6001. One example is the Eco-Reinforcement scheme for steel reinforcement in concrete. Intertek has been designated as the preferred vendor for Eco-Reinforcement certification by the Eco-Reinforcement Scheme Council since 2018.

Intertek is an established certification body and has a proven track record of providing global assurance, auditing, certification, and testing solutions. Intertek's Eco-Reinforcement support offers:

- a comprehensive, clear, third-party-audited process and implementation plan;
- the ability to monitor key environmental and social performance metrics over time
- value to global organizations that wish to demonstrate performance and innovation in sustainability;
- product stewardship support throughout the value chain; and
- a trusted partnership for integrative, sustainable solutions that provide confidence and peace of mind.

Total Quality. Assured.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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