



BSI British Standards' Response to Ofgem's Consultation on Developing Guidelines for Green Supply

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General comments

BSI British Standards welcomes Ofgem's *Consultation on Developing Guidelines for Green Supply*.

BSI British Standards recommends that existing standards development processes are used to support the objectives Ofgem has outlined in the consultation. BSI British Standards is the UK's National Standards Body (NSB) and could assist Ofgem by facilitating the development of consensus-based standard(s) in this area.

BSI British Standards has the necessary structures already in place including professional secretariat services and established processes and procedures for stakeholder engagement and standards development. As the UK's NSB, BSI is also responsible for co-ordinating UK input to European and International standardization activities, ensuring that standardization activity in the UK supports and informs work elsewhere.

BSI British Standards facilitates the development of consensus-based standards according to a rigorous development process which ensures an independent, robust and practical output. Each standard is kept current through a process of maintenance and review whereby it is updated, revised or withdrawn as necessary.

Response to Question 2, Chapter 2

Should the guidelines be mandatory or voluntary?

Ideally, the scheme should be voluntary in nature. Building consensus on the content of the standards with stakeholder groups will ensure the scheme is practical and fit-for-purpose, thereby promoting participation.

Consensus-based formal standards have for many years been successfully used as the basis of voluntary certification schemes to assure consumers of the quality of products and services. Standards developed within this structure could add value to Ofgem's proposed voluntary scheme for green supply.