

BPS 7014: Growing the UK Offsite Sector

The Advanced Manufacturing of Homes, Building & Infrastructure (AMHBI) project is working to accelerate housing delivery in the UK by helping the supply chain to produce more and better quality offsite homes. This major collaborative project is funded by the government's Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI), aiming to improve the global competitiveness of UK advanced manufacturing supply chains across industry.

The project will help grow the UK's offsite construction sector by:

- Bringing clients, the supply chain and other stakeholders together
- Helping the supply chain to meet demand for more and better quality homes
- Developing a standard and a linked certification scheme.

BPS 7014 – from standard to certification scheme

Building science centre, BRE Group is establishing the standard, BPS 7014, providing the basis for a certification scheme for offsite construction systems and components. BPS 7014 complements existing sector standards and initiatives, such as the Build Offsite Property Assurance Scheme (BOPAS).

The linked certification scheme will be suitable for both new build and refurbishment housing. It will give a quality assurance mark to offsite products, providing reassurance to clients of quality and performance.

It will also take on board Building Information Modelling (BIM) with its potential to log housing projects through design, delivery and operation. The scheme will allow details of systems or components used in a project to be registered, and such factors as the comfort of occupants in the home to be considered.

The approach gives an accessible, long term record that will:

- Drive more effective maintenance
- Aid refurbishment decision making at the end of the product life cycle
- Inform responses to any problems that may occur in a building.

The overall scheme creates a national platform to help grow the UK's offsite construction sector. It benefits both the new build and refurbishment housing sectors, helping to accelerate delivery in the former, and supporting coordinated action in the latter.

The industry's voice

The BPS 7014 standard and certification scheme will be owned and operated by BRE Group, guided by commentary and input from an industry forum. This forum will play an important role in fostering dialogue and ensuring the certification scheme meets market needs.

The forum is set to be hosted by industry body Build Offsite, and comprised key stakeholders in the offsite construction sector, as well as client bodies.

The forum's activities will include:

- Providing market feedback and guidance
- Scrutinising the detail of BPS 7014 and delivery of the certification scheme
- Advising on the content of marketing material.

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The standard and certification scheme will be constitutionally separate from the forum. Plans for the forum's constitution and governance are still in development, but are likely to include:

- **Members:**
Will include key customers and users
- **AMHBI link:**
Members of the AMHBI project group will be represented, but most forum members will be independent of it. The forum chair will be independent
- **Term of office:**
Members will be appointed for an initial term of two years, while the chairman will serve an initial term of three years.

Join the BPS 7014 Industry Forum

Membership of the forum is open to a diverse range of offsite sectoral interests, including at least:

- **Client and investment organisations**, with an interest in the delivery of high quality, cost effective offsite housing, such as local authorities, housing associations and build-to-rent investors. Client and investment groups can provide valuable input to BPS 7014 so that the standard meets their needs, and will gain insight into the sector's capabilities
- **Architects, designers and consultants** using offsite systems or components in new build or refurbishment schemes. The forum will give an opportunity to learn about current and emerging offsite construction products and share design driven feedback on improving their effectiveness
- **Finance & insurance sector** responsible for sourcing finance, mortgages and long term insurance cover of offsite construction new build and refurbishment projects
- **Suppliers and manufacturers** of offsite construction products of all types. Membership will help drive improvement in product and delivery, and enhance industry links
- **Installing and commissioning contractors** who are responsible for delivering systems and products on-site, and so for the final quality of installed products. Participation will allow contractors to share their experience, drive improvement in product and delivery, and engage with industry
- **Resident groups**, to give their feedback on the performance, behavior and suitability of offsite buildings and components.

The development of BPS 7014 and the certification scheme will likely impact built environment policy, building regulations and other regulations and standards. When this happens, the forum will look to work with the relevant departmental policy teams to develop a coordinated approach.