

17 JULY 2023

TO: PROCUREMENT ENTITIES AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FIRMS

Dear Sir/Madam,

CIRCULAR ON REVISION TO SINGAPORE GREEN BUILDING SERVICES (SGBS) CERTIFICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ES) SERVICES, ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING (EPC) AND GREEN FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (FM)

Objective

This circular informs the industry of revisions to certification criteria and award ratings under the Singapore Green Building Council's (SGBC) Singapore Green Building Services (SGBS) certification scheme. The revisions cover the following:

- i. Restructuring of Environmental Sustainability (ES) category with enhanced criteria
- ii. Realignment of award ratings for Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) and Green Facility Management (FM) categories

Environmental Sustainability (ES) Services Certification

The existing Environmental Sustainability Design (ESD) category of the SGBS certification scheme has been renamed to Environmental Sustainability (ES) to better reflect the diverse services that such firms offer to building developers and owners. In addition to design capabilities, such as in energy modelling and Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) for natural ventilation studies, ES firms are also able to conduct energy audits and develop chiller plant optimisation and decarbonisation strategies. The engagement of ES services supports the attainment of Super Low Energy (SLE), Zero Energy and Zero Carbon targets for building development and retrofit projects.

The revised ES category features a tiered structure with four (4) certification levels, with Level 1 being the highest tier and Level 4 being the base tier. The ratings are determined from a range of certification criteria, including:

- Green Mark achievement record
- Green Building capabilities and expertise
- Employee qualifications and environmental accreditations

SGBS-certified ES services are intended to support the needs of project owners/ teams seeking professional services to meet sustainability goals. The tiering of ES firms generally corresponds to industry project needs as shown in Table 1:

Environmental Sustainability Services	
L1	Building projects with international stakeholders that seek to attain ambitious Green Mark ratings and certifications to other international or sectoral programmes.
L2	Building projects that seek to attain ambitious Green Mark ratings and other sustainability objectives/ outcomes.
L3	Building projects that seek to meet statutory requirements or modest Green Mark ratings.
L4	Simple building works or interior fit-out projects with aspirational targets, where project owners may be corporations from beyond the built environment industry.

Table 1 — Environmental Sustainability Services Tiering

Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) and Green Facilities Management (FM) Certification

The certification ratings for Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) and Green Facilities Management (FM) certification categories have been reversed and realigned so that it is similar to that of ES category. Level 1 is now the highest tier, with Level 4 as the base tier of qualification. This revision also provides better rationalisation of the SGBS certification schemes against other national professional accreditation programmes, such as the Public Sector Panels of Consultants (PSPC).

	Chiller Plant Retrofit	
	Financial Annual Net Worth of EPC firm	Aggregated Value of EPC Projects Undertaken in Past 3 Years
L1	> \$1 Million	> \$5 Million
L2	\$0.5 Million – \$1 Million	> \$3 Million
L3	\$50,000 – \$0.5 million	> \$1 Million
L4	< \$50,000	Not applicable but must have experienced personnel.

Table 2 — Example for Chiller Plant Retrofit

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Implementation Timeline

Revisions to SGBS certification criteria have been implemented on 1 July 2023. Existing SGBS-certified ESD firms are in the process of transition and reassessment to qualify for the new tier-based certification ratings. The process of reassessment will be completed with all current ESD firms receiving their rating tier by 15 November 2023.

EPC and Green FM certificates have fully transited and certified firms have received revised certificates reflecting the new rating tier since 1 July 2023.

Clarifications

Revisions to the above certification schemes were announced during the recent International Green Building Conference 2023 on 26 June 2023. For any queries on the contents of this circular, please contact the SGBC Certification team at certification@sgbc.sg.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Ang Seng".

Mr. Lee Ang Seng
President
Singapore Green Building Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tan Yoong Heng".

Mr. Tan Yoong Heng
Board Technical Lead
Singapore Green Building Council