

## ***UK's BRE Global joins SERA initiative***

Toronto and London, June 6, 2011 – BRE Global (a leading UK-based independent and impartial, research-based consultancy, testing and training organisation), has just signed an agreement with SERA to support the ongoing development of their responsible sourcing standard for aggregates. BRE Global will be bringing to bear in this work its wide expertise in developing and applying responsible sourcing standardisation in the UK construction sector.

In the UK BRE Global has developed, in partnership with a wide range of industry and NGO stakeholders, the ground-breaking BES 6001 *Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products*. BES 6001 was developed in response to a joint UK Government /Industry report *Strategy for Sustainable Construction* and is the first scheme designed to provide, through a single standard, third-party certification for a wide range of construction materials and products.

BES 6001 is fully integrated into the BRE Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM), the world's foremost environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings. BREEAM, which is celebrating its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in 2011, sets the standard for best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation and has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building's environmental performance. There are currently over 200,000 buildings with certified BREEAM assessment ratings and over a million registered for assessment since it was first launched in 1990.

Many of the UK's major aggregate producers have had their operations certified by third-party organisations against BES 6001 demonstrating that their extraction activities conform to the strict sustainable and ethical requirements of BES 6001. These companies include:

- Aggregate Industries UK Ltd
- Cemex UK Materials Ltd
- Hanson Quarry Products Europe Ltd
- Lafarge Aggregates Ltd, and
- Tarmac Ltd

In addition, BES 6001 has been used to certify other important construction materials and products including ready mixed concrete, cement, bricks, blocks, reinforcing and structural steel, and concrete substructures.

Derek Hughes, Responsible Sourcing Scheme Manager at BRE Global, said 'BRE Global is delighted and honoured to be working with Holcim (Canada) Inc. Environmental Defence and other key stakeholders to support the development of the SERA responsible sourcing scheme covering the extraction of aggregates. There is a significant and increasing world-wide interest in responsible sourcing initiatives covering a wide range of environmentally sensitive sectors (such as food, timber, paper and fisheries) as well as a clear appetite within society to expand its understanding and management of sustainable and ethical issues within the supply chain all the way down to the extraction of valuable and sensitive materials.'

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***Background Editor's Note:***

**About SERA**

Socially and Environmentally Responsible Aggregates (SERA) is a not-for-profit organization that aims to create, administer and promote widespread support for certification of responsibly sourced construction materials. Its initial focus is on establishing a voluntary certification system to promote responsibly sourced aggregate materials in Ontario, offering operators an innovative way to demonstrate their efforts to recognize the social and environmental expectations of the local community.

**About BRE Global**

BRE Global, based in the UK, is an independent and impartial, research-based consultancy, testing and training organisation, offering expertise in every aspect of the built environment and associated industries. BRE Global is part of the BRE Group. The Group helps its clients create better, safer and more sustainable products, buildings, communities and businesses and supports the innovation needed to achieve this.

For more on BES 6001 please see [www.greenbooklive.com/search/scheme.jsp?id=153](http://www.greenbooklive.com/search/scheme.jsp?id=153)

For more on SERA please see [www.seracanada.ca](http://www.seracanada.ca)

For more on BREEAM please see [www.breem.org](http://www.breem.org)

For more on BRE please see [www.bre.co.uk](http://www.bre.co.uk).