



Latest Updates from the BCS

- **Certification Code Visual Guidance**
- **Overcoming sample collection and courier issues**
- **Certification Body Tender Process**

Certification Code Visual Guidance

In response to feedback from scheme participants and Approved Laboratories, the BCS has published a Visual Guide to Certificates, featuring updated certificate examples from all Certification Bodies which highlight the placement of your certification code and BCS number within the document. New versions of certificates now include explicit labelling of the certification code as "certification code". Consistency in the naming of these codes across all certificates will help reduce confusion when completing documentation and communicating with laboratories and Certification Bodies

It's important to understand that certification codes are output-specific, not process-specific. This means that when a single BCS process produces multiple outputs (such as separated fibre, whole digestate, and separated liquor), there will be multiple certification codes. Each output type receives its own unique certification code in the format XXX-XXX-XX, where the final two letters indicate the specific output type (SF, WD, or SL).

Consistency in the naming of these codes across all certificates will help reduce confusion when completing documentation and communicating with laboratories and Certification Bodies.

Accurate use of certification codes is particularly crucial when completing the PAS 110 Analysis Request Form, as incorrect or inconsistent codes can cause delays in test result reporting. We strongly encourage all participants to review the updated guide and verify your certification codes before submitting analysis requests to the laboratories.

The full guide is available [here](#).

Overcoming sample collection and courier issues

BCS has released a new guidance document to support scheme participants with sample dispatch. The document offers practical advice for those who have experienced challenges with courier collections and introduces an alternative option: dropping off samples at courier depots (where available).

This approach has already helped some participants reduce delays and gain more control over when samples leave site.

The option is currently available via FedEx and must be arranged in advance with your Approved Laboratory.

The full guidance document can be read [here](#).

For any questions, please contact oliver@realschemes.org.uk or speak directly with your Approved Laboratory.

Certification Body Tender Process

The BCS has commenced a tender process for Certification Body services, with Tender Invitation Documents (TIDs) made available to interested parties. This comprehensive procurement exercise will determine the certification service providers for the scheme from 2026 onwards.

The tender process follows a structured timeline, with submission deadlines clearly outlined in the TID documentation. All interested Certification Bodies are encouraged to review the requirements thoroughly and submit their proposals by the specified deadline.

The tender process is scheduled to conclude in winter 2025, with new certification service contracts taking effect from the start of 2026. This timeline ensures a smooth transition for all scheme participants and maintains continuity of certification services. Any changes will be communicated well in advance to allow scheme participants sufficient time to make any necessary adjustments.

More information and access to the full TID documentation can be found [here](#).

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