



Circular Letter No.: 2019.156

Issue Date: 3 May 2019

Application: BEAM Plus EB Version 2.0 Comprehensive Scheme and Selective Scheme
BEAM Plus ND Version 1.0 (with Corrigendum No. 1 incorporated)

Effective Date: 3 May 2019

MAN 2b ESG Reporting under BEAM Plus EB Version 2.0 Comprehensive Scheme
MAN 3b ESG Reporting under BEAM Plus EB Version 2.0 Selective Scheme
CA 8 Corporate Social Responsibility Reporting under BEAM Plus ND Version 1.0

The Circular Letter clarifies the assessment requirements on the following credits, which relates to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Reporting and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Reporting:

1. Technical Review Committee will accept ESG/CSR report prepared in accordance with the following standards:
 - a. GRI G4 Guideline in accordance to either “Core” or “Comprehensive” option; or
 - b. GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards in accordance to either “Core” or “Comprehensive” option; or
 - c. International Integrated Reporting Framework; or
 - d. Appendix 27 Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide of the HKEX Main Board Listing Rules.
2. The Applicant shall demonstrate that the ESG/CSR report was published in the past 12 months of the first assessment submission¹.
3. The Applicant shall provide an independent verification statement² to demonstrate that the ESG/CSR report fulfils to the corresponding standards listed in paragraph (1).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "KM So", is written above a horizontal line.

Mr KM So
Chairperson of Standards Sub-committee

¹ First assessment submission refers to the date when the initial assessment is formally accepted by BSL. For example, if the project has both PA and FA, then it would be the date when BSL formally accepts the project for PA submission. If the project has only FA, then it will be the date when BSL formally accepts the project for FA submission.

² Please refer to Appendix A for guidance on preparing an independent verification statement for ESG/CSR report.



Appendix A: Guidance Note on Preparing Independent Verification Statement for ESG/CSR Report³

Independent verification statement is a statement issued by professional assurance provider(s), whom has conducted a systematic assurance of the ESG/CSR report to enhance the report's integrity and credibility. In preparing the independent verification statement, the professional assurance provider(s) are expected to fulfil to the following standards:

1. Demonstrate that they are independent from the reporting organization.
2. Demonstrate that they are competent in both the subject matter and assurance practices of the reporting organization.
3. Apply quality control procedures to the assurance engagement of the report.
4. Demonstrate that it has conducted the assurance engagement in a manner that is systematic, documented, evidence-based and characterized by defined procedure.
5. Assess whether the report provides a reasonable and balanced presentation of performance.

Upon completing the assurance process, the professional assurance provider(s) shall issue an independent verification statement that is publicly available and addresses on the following issues.

1. Opinion or set of conclusions to the ESG/CSR report.
2. Description of the responsibilities of the ESG/CSR report.
3. Preparer and assurance provider(s).
4. Summary of work performed on the assurance of the ESG/CSR report.

³ The guidance note has made references to the external assurance requirement specified in the Consolidated Set of GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards 2018. The Consolidated Set of GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards 2018 is published by Global Reporting Initiative and could be retrieved from, <https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/gri-standards-download-center/>