

What is PAS 91?

The Publicly Available Specification (PAS) has been published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BSI) in 2010 but it is not regarded as a British Standard. It is a construction pre qualification questionnaire (PPQ). It is the specification of content and questions applicable to pre qualification for construction tendering. PAS is a consultative document and it provides a set of questions to be asked by buyers of potential suppliers to enable prequalification for construction projects. PAS 91 helps to streamline the tendering process.

PAS 91 helps builders:

- understand what information is required from them at pre-qualification stage
- allow to develop the standard answers to main modules
- recognise exemptions for those businesses that hold industry recognised accreditations
- save time on tender preparations

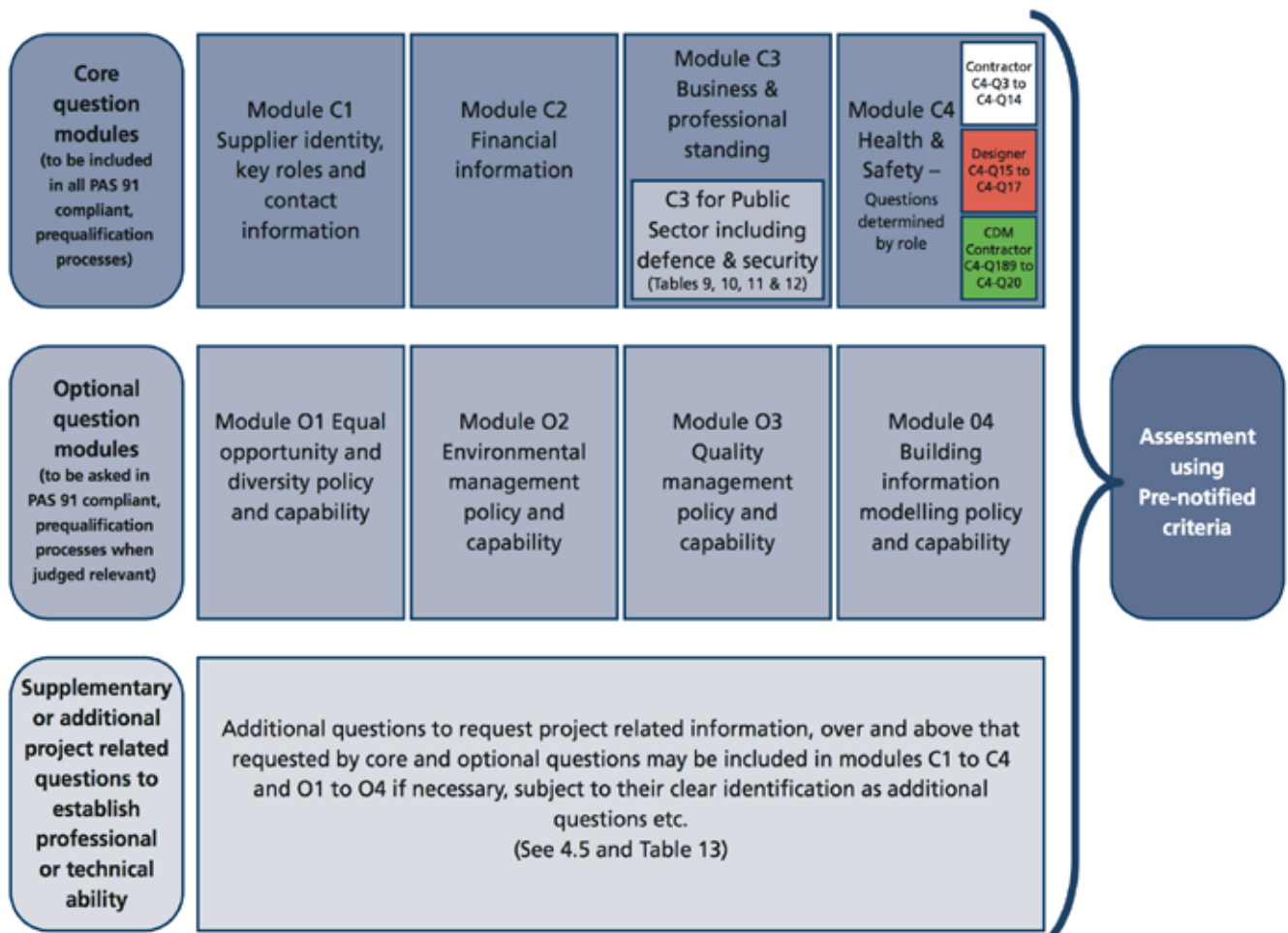
The aim of PAS 91, which was commissioned by Government and developed by the British Standards Institute, is to address one of the most consistent complaints from small and medium sized businesses: the need to complete a variety of different PPQs for different clients.

PAS 91 consists of the common questions used by buyers to assess the suitability of suppliers for projects like new builds, refurbishments, renovations, maintenance or demolition and conversions. The tender process is less time consuming for contractors and PAS 91 allows to create the standard answers. PAS 91 also benefits buyers as they can prove they follow the minimum standards in procure-

ment required by the Government.

PAS 91 is also used by procurement and supply chain management services such as Constructionline, which collects, assesses and monitors stand-



Figure 1 – PAS 91 compliant prequalification

Source: Passive House Institute

ard company information through a question set that is aligned to the standard. The responses can then be shared with other buyers, avoiding the need to repeatedly duplicate standard company information for every construction tender.

PAS 91 is structured in three modules with the mandatory questions to answer with regards to company structure, contact details, financial data, health & safety. All questions are designated specifically for contractor, designer or service provider. There is also module addressing issues such as company's policies on equal opportunities and diversity, and environmental and quality management. The last module is designed to assess the technical and professional ability of the contractor. PAS 91 provides the template for questions but it does not specify any criteria and assessments of the quality replay.

Updates to PAS 91 have been introduced in 2013 through consultation with professional bodies and trade associations such as the National Federation of Builders (NFB), Electrical Contractors' As-

sociation (ECA), Specialist Engineering Contractors' Group (SEC) and Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP). The most recent amendment to PAS 91 was at the end of 2017. These included changes to some questions and the addition of new ones covering mandatory reasons for exclusion and legislation

relating to the Immigration Act and the Minimum Wage Act.

PAS 91 can be download for free from BSI website: shop.bsigroup.com/en/Navigate-by/PAS/PAS-91-2013/

