

PEPA position related to Ofgem audits

Energy Assessors may, on occasion, be asked to submit energy assessment evidence for EPCs which have been used in support of a grant application such as ECO, RHI or similar.

Ofgem administers the scheme(s) on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and their duties include:

- allocating a proportion of targets to obligated suppliers
- monitoring supplier progress and deciding whether they have achieved their obligations
- reporting to the Secretary of State
- auditing, ensuring compliance and preventing and detecting fraud.

For ECO, Ofgem therefore have a responsibility for monitoring compliance, but PEPA do not consider that they have responsibility, or authority, for the oversight of energy performance certificates.

Interaction with Ofgem - the PEPA position is that:

- Ofgem have no authority to demand an energy assessor release audit evidence.
- Accreditation schemes may, on occasion, be requested by Ofgem to undertake audits which will only be actioned if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the EPC is incorrect. The complaint will be processed in accordance with Scheme Operating Rules Para 7. Possible outcomes:
 - If the energy assessor is no longer trading and an audit is not possible, then this will be reported back to the complainant.
 - If there is no evidence of malpractice, then the complainant will be advised.
 - If the complaint is upheld, then we will take whatever action is necessary (eg, mark it 'Not For Issue', requires replacement, suspend/revoke membership) and respond to the complainant with a summary of the action taken. PEPA would consider Ofgem to be an enforcement body and if fraud is detected then, in accordance with the scheme operating rules Level 2 1.2 (8), *"Accreditation Schemes shall take the appropriate action in line with their Fraud Identification Plan in the event of suspected fraud. This will include informing the appropriate authorities, for example, local trading standards bodies, as required, or if criminal activity is suspected, the police."*