



# Code for Sustainable Homes and Energy Performance of Buildings: Cumulative and Quarterly Data for England, Wales and Northern Ireland up to end of September 2013

- There were 132,815 post construction stage certificates and 200,608 design stage certificates issued up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- 25% of homes with post construction certificates and 39% of those with design stage certificates have been built for the private sector. 75% of homes with post construction certificates and 61% of those with design stage certificates have been built for the public sector..
- Between April 2007 and September 2013, 149,232 dwellings at the design stage received a three star rating and 46,557 dwellings received a four star rating.
- Between April 2007 and September 2013, 106,926 dwellings at post-construction stage received a three star rating and 22,696 dwellings received a four star rating.
- The majority of the certificates issued since April 2007 at design stage (75%) and at post construction stage (81%) have been awarded at three star rating.
- The average energy efficiency (SAP<sup>1</sup>) rating of new homes was 81.3 in England and 81.6 in Wales for the quarter July – September 2013. This is a increase of 1.0 points for England and an increase of 1.1 points for Wales on the same quarter in 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> SAP refers to the Government's 'Standard Assessment Procedure' for assessing the energy performance of dwellings.

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This is the fourteenth in the series of quarterly Statistical Releases dedicated to the publication of official statistics on the number of homes which meet the standards set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It covers the period up to the July – September quarter 2013, and the average energy efficiency (SAP) rating of new homes in England and Wales up to the July - September quarter 2013. There are no figures for Scotland because Code certificates are not issued in Scotland).

## Code for Sustainable Homes

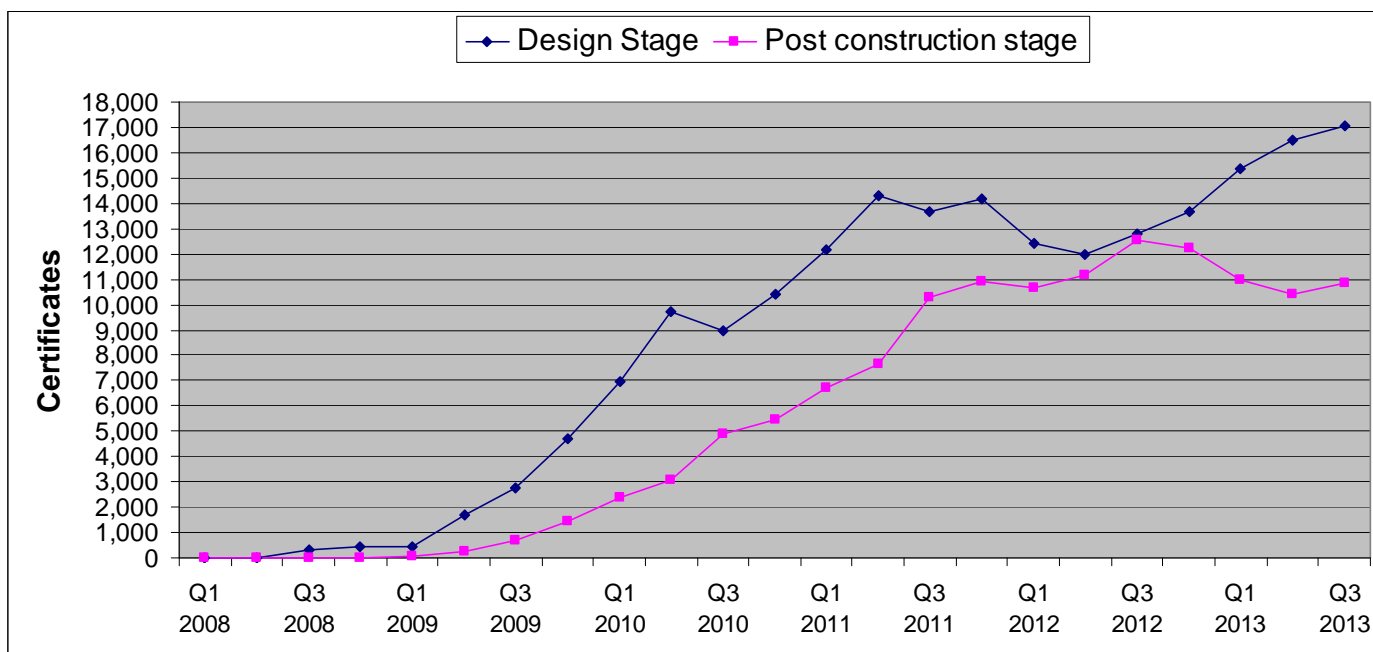
Statistics relating to the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) show the number of dwellings that have been certified to the standards set out in the Code Technical Guide, in which local authority area, at which Code level and whether the homes are registered as private or public sector homes. Code certificates are issued at two stages, the design stage (early in the design and build process) and post construction stage (when the home is completed or nearing completion).

The Code takes a whole house approach and measures the sustainability of a dwelling against nine different categories: energy/carbon; water; waste; materials; surface water run-off; and health and well being, which have mandatory performance standards; and pollution; ecology; and management. To achieve the levels of the Code, a number of points must be accumulated across all categories and the mandatory requirements must be met. Depending on the number of points gathered, a star rating is then awarded (one star being the lowest achievable level and six stars incorporating zero carbon). If a dwelling does not achieve the mandatory standards set out in the Technical Guide and/or does not reach the minimum score for a one star rating, it will receive a certificate with no stars. The assessment and certification of Code homes is undertaken by the 1355 assessors who are licensed by BRE Global Ltd, Stroma Accreditation Ltd and RDL Ltd.

### The key points

- The Code came into operation in April 2007. It can take, on average, 18 months to two years to design and build a Code home. As a result the first homes built to the Code standard were not awarded a certificate until 2008. Figure 1 (overleaf) shows the general quarterly trend in the number of certificates issued since then.
- Between April 2007 and the end of September 2013, 149,232 dwellings have received a three star rating at the design stage and 46,557 dwellings have received a four star rating.
- Between April 2007 and the end of September 2013, 106,296 dwellings have received a three star rating at post-construction stage and 22,696 dwellings have received a four star rating.
- A total of 75% of the certificates at design stage and 81% of those at post-construction stage have been awarded at Code level 3 since April 2007.

**Figure 1: Number of design stage and post construction stage certificates issued each quarter in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, up to and including the July - September Quarter 2013**



## Trends

This publication updates the September 2013 release by incorporating data for July, August, and September 2013. Information included is:

- the number of certificates issued in each local authority area;
- the proportion of certificates issued for developments registered by the Code assessor as private sector or public sector.

## Breakdown by local authority

The statistics show that Code certificates have been issued in the majority of local authority areas across England as well as in most authorities in Wales and Northern Ireland. The largest total number of design and post construction Code certificates (combined) in the last quarter were issued in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, followed by the London Borough of Greenwich.

There were 1092 design stage and 885 post construction certificates where the Code assessor did not register the local authority or region when completing the assessment. These are listed as 'unknown'.

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## Breakdown between public and private sector certificates

The total number of certificates issued at Design Stage up to the end of September 2013 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland was 200,608, of which 78,176 (39%) were registered as private sector homes and 122,432 (61%) were public sector homes. At Post Construction Stage, there were 132,815 certificates issued, of which 33,558 (25%) homes were registered as private sector and the remainder, 99,257 (75%) were registered as public sector.

Of the total number of Code level 3 homes at Design Stage up to the end of September 2013, 37% were built for the private sector and 63% for the public sector. At Code 3, Post Construction Stage, 25% were built for the private sector and 75% for the public sector.

Of the total number of Code level 4 homes at Design Stage, up to the end of September 2013, 44% were built by the private sector and 56% for the public sector. At Post Construction Stage, 26% were built by the private sector and 74% for the public sector.

## Housing Standards Review

The Government has recently consulted on [review of building regulations and housing standards](#), (please see the link below). The consultation made various proposals which, if carried forward, will affect the future of the Code. The consultation period closed on 22 October 2013, and the Government is currently analysing the results.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/housing-standards-review-consultation>

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## Average energy efficiency (SAP) rating of new homes

SAP refers to the Government's 'Standard Assessment Procedure' for assessing the energy performance of dwellings. The SAP rating is based on the energy costs associated with space heating, water heating, ventilation and lighting, less cost savings from energy generation technologies. It is adjusted for floor area so that it is essentially independent of dwelling size for a given built form. The SAP rating is expressed on a scale of 1 to 100 - the higher the number, the lower the running costs. This release covers quarterly data for the regions of England and Wales for July – September 2013.

### The key points

From July to the end of September 2013:

- The average energy efficiency (SAP rating) of new homes was 81.3 in England and 81.6 in Wales for the quarter July – September 2013. This is a increase of 1.0 points for England and an increase of 1.1 points for Wales on the same quarter in 2012.
- By dwelling type, in England, the average energy efficiency (SAP rating) ranged from 82.0 for houses to 78.4 for bungalows.
- By dwelling type, in Wales, the average energy efficiency (SAP rating) ranged from 82.1 for houses to 74.1 for maisonettes.

### Data collection

#### **Code for Sustainable homes:**

Data for each dwelling assessed under the Code are collected by one of three Code Service Providers of the scheme (BRE Global Ltd, Stroma Accreditation Ltd and RDL Ltd). Assessment is a two stage process - design and post construction stage and is carried out by licensed Code assessors. Assessors submit their reports to the Code Service Provider and after quality assurance checks have been made certificates are issued by the Code Service Provider.

Information regarding each certified dwelling is taken from the Code Service Provider's databases and collated for the Department for Communities and Local Government by BRE Global Ltd on a monthly basis.

#### **SAP ratings:**

Figures for the Average Energy Efficiency of New Homes (SAP ratings) are held on the National Energy Performance Certificate Register, managed by Landmark Information Group. This

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database is subject to ad-hoc reporting, and as such, all figures at publication should be viewed as provisional. The figures may change in subsequent publications as revisions are made and previously incomplete entries are added to the database by Landmark.

## Strengths and weaknesses of the data

### **Code for Sustainable homes:**

The three current Code Service Providers operate schemes to train and license assessors through UKAS accredited procedures.

The data collected by Code Service Providers are based on the certificates issued, which are then reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government on a monthly basis. This process is audited by UKAS under certification standards EN 45011 and/or ISO 17024.

### **SAP ratings:**

Average energy efficiency ratings, on a quarterly basis, are volatile due to a number of factors including the small number of new homes being assessed (in particular, maisonettes and bungalows), the mix of dwelling types, the mix of heating systems used in new developments and the location of those developments.

## Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy.<sup>2</sup> There are two types of revisions that the policy covers.

### **Non-Scheduled Revisions**

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

### **Scheduled Revisions**

The next quarterly release will cover SAP ratings for the October – December quarter 2013.

## Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release:

### **Tables:**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statisticalnoticerevisionspolicy>

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- 1a.** Code for Sustainable Homes statistics: Number of Code certificates issued in month by stage of construction in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from March 2008
  - 1b.** Code for Sustainable Homes statistics: Number of Code certificates issued by sector to date in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from March 2008
  - 1c.** Code for Sustainable Homes statistics: Number of Code certificates issued by Local Authority to date in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from March 2008
  - 2.** Energy Performance of Buildings statistics: Average energy efficiency (SAP rating) of new homes in England & Wales by dwelling type (quarterly)

## Notes to the tables

The following conventions have been used in the tables:

- .. Not available;
- <sup>p</sup> Figure provisional and subject to revision;
- <sup>r</sup> Revised from previous release.

## Background notes

1. The statistics reported in this publication shows the number of dwellings that have been certified in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from March 2008 (quarterly) to the standards set out in the Code Technical Guide, in which local authority area, at which Code level and whether the homes are registered as private or public sector homes.
2. Figures in the accompanying tables are exact number of certificates issued.
3. Sources are shown at the foot of individual accompanying tables.
4. Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.
5. The tables and charts accompanying this release are shown above in the 'Accompanying tables' section and are provided in Microsoft Excel format.
6. Details of Ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to the Communities and Local Government quarterly Code for Sustainable Homes release up to 24 hours before release can be found at:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/nationalstatistics/>

## User consultation

Users' comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "statistical enquiries" contact given in

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the "Enquiries" section below.

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