



## CEEQUAL Version 5 Launch Development & Features

### *CEEQUAL Background and Methodology:*

Before I get into the detail about Version 5 I would like to briefly talk to you about 'What is CEEQUAL?' and our journey to benefit those who are new to the scheme.

Concept started in 1999 at the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) when the Environment and Sustainability Board of the ICE started to discuss how to demonstrate the environmental performance of civil engineering projects and whether we should have a civil engineering equivalent for BREEAM. Now, here we are twelve years later talking about Version 5 of the Methodology!

CEEQUAL is the Awards Scheme for improving sustainability in civil engineering, infrastructure, landscaping and public realm. CEEQUAL for UK & Ireland Projects are only half of the civil engineering projects in the UK. With this in mind CEEQUAL started to work on developing a form to aid those working in maintenance in 2007. CEEQUAL for Term Contracts was launched in January 2011. We also have CEEQUAL for International Projects, which was also launched in 2011. With these developments we are now able to say that CEEQUAL can be used to assess any civil engineering anywhere in the world.

Overall, CEEQUAL is a tool and rating system for project and contract teams to use, to assess how well they have dealt with the environmental and social issues they face. We are pushing those boundaries further within the scheme.

The rigour of the scheme is the mechanism for having assessments externally and independently verified. Another key element of CEEQUAL is that you have to demonstrate with documentary evidence what you have done against each the topics. The question set is used by project and contract teams to influence the development, design and management of the works. CEEQUAL is not only a scheme that recognises actual performance, but can be used as a methodology to influence the design and construction of projects. The concept of CEEQUAL is that project teams use the Manual and run with it throughout the life of the project to help influence the performance of the project.

There is a range of options on how you use the scheme on your project:

- **Whole Project Award**
  - o The primary award.
  - o Applied for on behalf of the whole team – client, designers and constructors.
  - o Must be used where a client requires a CEEQUAL Assessment.
- **Design only Award**
- **Construction only Award**
- **Design and Construct Award**
- **Client and Design Award**
  - o For team members to seek reward for their individual effort.
- **Whole Project with Interim Client & Design Award**
  - o This is primarily used on long duration projects who like to receive a benchmark on how they are progressing in the CEEQUAL Award.



**Ian Nicholson, CEEQUAL  
Technical Manager**



## CEEQUAL Version 5 Launch Development & Features continued...

### Version 5 Upgrade

The fundamental Methodology and process of a CEEQUAL Assessment has not changed. The primary changes are:

- Improved Coverage
  - o I will later go through the key extensions of scope.
  - o Raises the bar by evolving the questions and topics covered by CEEQUAL.
- Streamline the Sections
  - o Major area of the upgrade.
  - o We have consolidated the 12 Version 4 sections into 8 and have added a new section 'Project Strategy' which Roger will talk to you about later.
- Improve consistency between the Sections
  - o We have tried to pull questions of a similar theme together; this has sometimes resulted in questions being consolidated.
- Raise the bar in some areas.

With the creation of the 'Project Strategy' section there are now two types of CEEQUAL Award available: a sustainable project award (for project teams who include the 'Project Strategy' section in their assessment) and a sustainability performance award (for project teams who do not include the 'Project Strategy' section).

### Improved Coverage

We have always looked at and assessed community relations by questioning a team on how well have the team talked to parties affected by the project and project stakeholders. The questions have been broadened to focus on health and welfare. We have expanded the nuisance issues to cover more user groups, not just neighbours and the construction workforce. We are not assessing health & safety (slips, trips and falls) but we are asking about the broader health and welfare related issues.

CEEQUAL has formally extended the scope of the Methodology to cover marine and offshore projects. Project teams were able to use Version 4 on these types of projects but some interpretation of the questions and scope out rules was needed. We have formally embedded some of this interpretation and applicability of certain questions to marine and offshore projects into the question set.

Overtime we envisage CEEQUAL for International Projects will strengthen and evolve by addressing issues only relevant outside the UK. This will lead to the creation of bespoke CEEQUAL question sets for bespoke regions of the world.

### Streamlining questions

With the streamlining of overlapping and very similar questions there are a lot more multipart questions and scoring scales in the Version 5 Manual.

One of the major objectives set by the CEEQUAL TAG (Technical and Advisory Group) was to reduce the number of questions. Version 4 featured 208 questions has been reduced to 188 questions. We think through the final editing process this number will reduce further. We have an unofficial target to reduce the question-set to 180 questions (the number of questions in CEEQUAL's first Version).



## CEEQUAL Version 5 Launch Development & Features continued...

### *The Nine Sections of CEEQUAL*

The nine sections of CEEQUAL are as follows:

- 1. Project Strategy** – brand new section Roger will speak about later
- 2. Project Management** – remains very similar in scope to Version 4
  - a. Key highlights of extended scope: CEEQUAL has created questions on communicating best practice. How do you communicating what you have learnt on a project to the community at large so they can benefit from your learning?
- 3. People and Communities** – is a combination of Version 4's 'Effect on Neighbours' and 'Relations with the Local Community and Other Stakeholders'.
  - a. There is a fundamental restructuring in this section to consider all nuisance issues during: during brief & design, consultation & planning, and Implementation & monitoring.
  - b. CEEQUAL has strengthened the community engagement questions.
- 4. Land Use and Landscape** – a combination of the 'Land Use' and 'Landscape' sections of Version 4.
  - a. Amended the questions to include the consideration of the seabed.
- 5. The Historic Environment** – remains very similar in scope to Version 4
  - a. Fundamentally the same to Version 4. The points are slightly harder to achieve than in the previous version.
- 6. Ecology and Biodiversity** – remains very similar in scope to Version 4
  - a. Fundamentally the same to Version 4. The points are slightly harder to achieve than in the previous version.
- 7. Water Environment** – This section is almost the same as the 'Water Resources and the Water Environment' section in Version 4. Questions about water as a resource have been moved into section 8.
  - a. CEEQUAL has expanded the scope of the section to include the marine environment.
- 8. Physical Resources** – This covers material, energy & carbon, water use and waste management.
  - a. A lengthy section.
  - b. Benefits of pulling all the resources together: removes the overlap of questions
  - c. Key improvements: the inclusion of embodied impacts. Some project teams will find questions relating to this stretching. CEEQUAL asks questions on life-cycle assessments rather than carbon footprinting and energy assessments. Although undertaking carbon footprinting and energy assessments will gain a project team some points on the sliding scale. This is recognising where the civil engineering industry is going as a whole and the work coming from the European Standards Arena.
  - d. Much strengthened subsection on design for resource efficiency. I must thank WRAP for their assistance on this. You will be pleased to know that WRAP and CEEQUAL has worked together, so the WRAP guidance should help project teams with their CEEQUAL Assessment and vice versa.
- 9. Transport** – remains very similar in scope to Version 4.
  - a. The scope is essentially the same.
  - b. The questions in the 'Operational Transport' subsection in Version 4 were extremely generic. The subject experts have worked hard on making more focused questions which will help apply them to a wide range of projects.

more overleaf...



## CEEQUAL Version 5 Launch Development & Features continued...

### Manual layout

We have made a fundamental change to the layout of the CEEQUAL Manual, which we hope will make the manual easier to read, and pick out information faster.

Every question will be tabular where the question, scope out guidance, question guidance, and evidence guidance are clearly separated. The 'None Scope Out' (NSO) terminology has been replaced by 'Mandatory' (M). On the right hand side, maximum total number of points available for the question is clearly stated; this will allow users to view this information quickly.

### Upgrade process

As CEEQUAL does with all their upgrades, it undertook an industry survey to gauge industry views and perspectives on the relative importance of different topics found in the CEEQUAL Scheme.

Our panel of Section Experts have worked hard over the past six months revising the questions set, ranking questions on their relative importance (in order to score them), and undertaking a final review of the final manual. Thank you to all the subject experts for their time and expertise in making Version 5, without them we wouldn't have the robust scheme we have.

The CEEQUAL Technical and Advisory Group set the guidance on the improvements Version 5 should have. They also have reviewed and signed off the Version 5 Manual which will be made publicly available from 1st May, 2012.

### Online Tool

It will look the same from an assessment prospective but there are four major upgrades:

- **New 'read only' user access**
  - o For clients and/or other interested parties that wish to see how an Assessment is progressing, but cannot enter scores or comments.
- **New Central document location**
  - o Assessors will be able to upload evidence documents relevant to a number of different questions once and then cross-reference them. Therefore, the same document will not have to be uploaded multiple times
- **New Assessment Report**
  - o When required, a pdf document containing the question scoring and commentary can be downloaded, especially useful on completion of the Assessment for reporting the result to the project team.
- **A new discussion forum**
  - o Knowledge sharing between Assessors and Verifiers.

### Assessors

CEEQUAL Assessors will have to undergo a free upgrade course before they are able to carry out their first CEEQUAL Version 5 Award. These courses will be in the form of physical attendance training courses and webinars. For further information about dates and locations please visit our website.