



The Certification Mark for Onsite  
Sustainable Energy Technologies

## Microgeneration Installation Standard: MCS 001

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*MCS Contractor certification Scheme requirements*

*Issue 3.0*

This standard has been approved by the Steering Group of the MCS.

### **REVISION OF MICROGENERATION INSTALLATION STANDARDS**

Microgeneration Installation Standards will be revised by issue of revised editions or amendments. Details will be posted on the website at [www.microgenerationcertification.org](http://www.microgenerationcertification.org)

Technical or other changes which affect the requirements for the approval or certification of the product or service will result in a new issue. Minor or administrative changes (e.g. corrections of spelling and typographical errors, changes to address and copyright details, the addition of notes for clarification etc.) may be made as amendments.

The issue number will be given in decimal format with the integer part giving the issue number and the fractional part giving the number of amendments (e.g. Issue 3.2 indicates that the document is at Issue 3 with 2 amendments).

Users of this Standard should ensure that they possess the latest issue and all amendments.

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## FOREWORD

The following document (MCS 001) contains provisions, which, through reference in this text, constitute normative or informative provisions of this document (MCS 001). At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All documents are subject to revision, and parties applying this document (MCS 001) shall investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the documents referenced.

The following document (MCS 001 issue 3.0) is a major update to MCS 001 issue 2.5. It is available for reference from the date of publication 16/12/2016. MCS Contractors of Microgeneration systems who wish to become certificated in accordance with MCS 001 may commence working in accordance with this standard from 16/12/2016. MCS Contractors who are certificated in accordance with MCS 001 must commence working in accordance with this update from the date of implementation (16/03/2017).

MCS Contractors who wish to operate under the Green Deal to install microgeneration measures must be authorised to do so in accordance with MCS 023.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This certification Scheme provides an ongoing, independent, third party assessment of MCS Contractors and technologies to ensure that the requirements of the appropriate standards are met and maintained. The certification process is detailed on page 11.

# 2. SCOPE

2.1 The scope of this Scheme covers the requirements for MCS Contractors undertaking the supply, design, installation, set to work, commissioning and handover of the following Microgeneration technologies:

- Solar domestic hot water
- Solar PV
- Micro Wind
- Biomass
- Heat Pumps
- Micro Cogeneration

*Note: Micro-Cogeneration includes heat-led and electricity-led systems.*

2.2 This Scheme is open to any MCS Contractors undertaking the supply, design, installation, set to work, commissioning and handover of Microgeneration systems and technologies.

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### 3. DEFINITIONS

Accredited Certification Body	A body that is accredited in accordance with ISO / IEC 17065 conformity assessment by UKAS or an equivalent (i.e. a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) and undertakes the assessment of MCS Contractors against the requirements of this Scheme.
MCS Contractor	An organisation that is responsible for all of the following activities: supply, design, installation, set to work, commissioning and handover of Microgeneration systems and technologies.
Customer	The end-user for whom the Microgeneration installation will be carried out. In consumer contracts this may be the householder or property owner (e.g. a social or private landlord).
Nominee	The Nominee as defined in MCS 025.
Nominated Technical Person	The Nominated Technical Person(s) (NTP) as defined in MCS 025.

### 4. APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE SCHEME

4.1 Applications should be made to an Accredited Certification Body operating this Scheme, who will provide the appropriate application form and details of the applicable fees.

Applicants may apply for more than one Microgeneration technology.

### 5. ASSESSMENT

#### 5.1 General

5.1.1 The MCS Contractor, Nominee and Nominated Technical Person (NTP) must be present or available throughout the assessment process.

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5.1.2 An assessment is an objective examination of an MCS Contractor and the Microgeneration work they have conducted, or intend to conduct, to determine compliance with the Scheme. Thus establishing the MCS Contractor has, or is likely to, carry out work in accordance with the relevant standards(s). Assessments are conducted using elements of questioning and observation techniques. Assessments start with an opening meeting to explain the purpose of the visit, the work that is to be assessed, the reporting method, the selection of the installation site(s) to be visited, and the approximate time, place and purpose of a closing meeting.

5.1.3 At the end of an assessment or a surveillance visit, a closing meeting is held to discuss any non-conformity or observation reports raised and the Assessor's recommendation.

5.1.4 If the assessment demonstrates compliance that is limited to a specific product type(s), the Assessor may recommend certification that is limited in its scope.

5.1.5 Where non-conformity reports are raised, they must be completed and returned to the Accredited Certification Body with completed corrective and preventative actions within 8 weeks of an assessment or surveillance visit.

5.1.6 Where certification cannot be recommended at an initial assessment visit, a full or partial re-assessment will be considered and may be required at additional cost. The assessment is, therefore, conducted in two parts.

## 5.2 Office assessment

5.2.1 This is an assessment of the policies and procedures that the MCS Contractor has in place to meet the appropriate MCS Scheme requirements and, where the MCS Contractor wishes to be authorised as a Green Deal Contractor, the requirements of MCS 023. The Assessor shall also check the following:

- That the details on the application form or certificate(s) are correct
- The status of the MCS Contractor's quality management system documents

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- That corrective and preventive actions associated with any previous non-conformities have been taken and have been satisfactorily completed and implemented
- The records of internal reviews, corrective and preventive actions (Appendix A, Clauses 3 and 4)
- That no changes have occurred that should have been notified to the Accredited Certification Body (see Clause 10)
- The correct use of certification marks (see Clause 8)

5.2.2 This includes the contract review, design, installation, set to work, commissioning and handover of the appropriate Microgeneration system and technology.

5.2.3 Design is defined as the formulation of a written plan including a specific list of products and fixings to form a completed system for a defined Microgeneration technology. It includes extensions and alterations to existing Microgeneration systems.

5.2.4 All systems must be designed in accordance with the requirements set out in the appropriate Microgeneration Standards.

5.2.5 Where MCS Contractors do not engage in the design of Microgeneration systems, but work solely for a client who has already formally agreed a system design; then the MCS Contractor must be competent to review and verify that the design would meet the design requirements set out in the appropriate Microgeneration Standards and this should be recorded.

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### 5.3 On site assessment

5.3.1 This is an assessment of an installation to review the work that has been undertaken against the system design and the procedures for the installation, set to work, commissioning and handover of the system / technology.

5.3.2 Where requested, the MCS Contractor shall provide details of recent or current installations as required by the Accredited Certification Body. The MCS Contractor shall arrange access to installations selected by the Assessor.

5.2.3 An Accredited Certification Body may use an installation that is not fully within the scope of the Scheme for the on site assessment, if that installation provides objective assessment evidence against specific requirements of the relevant Microgeneration Installation Standards.

### 5.4 Surveillance visits

5.4.1 Certification is maintained through at least one annual visit which is similar in format to Assessment. Surveillance ensures that the MCS Contractor is continuing to comply with the requirements of the Scheme and is working within the scope of its certification. If a surveillance programme is via the minimum annual visit, this should take place during a time period that is between 2 months prior to and 4 months beyond the anniversary of the certificate issue date.

5.4.2 If the MCS Contractor has not carried out installation work for a particular technology during the year, the surveillance may proceed on the basis of a desktop review of capability at the MCS Contractor's office, subject to the MCS Contractor agreeing to inform the Accredited Certification Body the next time they accept a contract to carry out an installation of the type concerned. When such an installation goes ahead, an additional site assessment shall be required.

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5.4.3 Additional surveillance visits may be required;

- If substantiated complaints against the MCS Contractor are received;
- As a result of a significant number of non-conformities being raised during a visit (in this circumstance an additional visit may be required within 12 weeks of the original visit date); or
- Where a change occurs within the organisation as specified in Clause 10.

5.4.4 Where non-conformities cannot be resolved within 12 weeks of the original visit date, the MCS Contractor is suspended or the certificate withdrawn.

5.4.5 The certificate holder may be expected to bear the costs of investigating complaints and additional surveillance visits.

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## 6. CERTIFICATION AND LISTING

6.1 Certificates are awarded to Contractors when all assessment activities have been satisfactorily completed, the Assessor has recommended that certification is granted, any non-conformities raised during assessment are cleared and the Accredited Certification Body has formally reached a certification decision in accordance with its procedures.

6.2 Certificates contain the name and address of the MCS Contractor, the Microgeneration technology(s) that have been assessed, any limitations on the scope of the certification, a unique certificate reference number and the issue number and date.

6.3 Certificates are maintained and held in force subject to satisfactory completion of the requirements for maintenance of certification (see Clause 7), but remain the property of the Accredited Certification Body.

6.4 Details of the successful MCS Contractor are listed on the website at:

[www.microgenerationcertification.org](http://www.microgenerationcertification.org)

## 7. MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

7.1 An MCS Contractor shall be eligible to remain certificated provided it continues to be engaged in Microgeneration installation work for the scope indicated on the certificate and continues to comply with the MCS standards. Certificates are valid from the date of issue and are maintained and held in force subject to satisfactory surveillance assessments but remain the property of the Accredited Certification Body.

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## 8. CERTIFICATION MARK

8.1 The Supplier shall use the Certification Mark(s) only in accordance with the Accredited Certification Bodies' instructions.

8.2 An example of the Certification Mark that can be used for this Scheme is as follows:



## 9. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

9.1 An assessed MCS Contractor may appeal against any decision of the Accredited Certification Body in respect of its certification.

9.2 The appeal shall be made in writing, setting out clearly the grounds for such an appeal. Such an appeal shall be served on the Accredited Certification Body within twenty-one days of the date of notification of the decision being questioned. Any such appeal will be dealt with under the procedures published by the Accredited Certification Body, which shall be made available to the assessed MCS Contractor.

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## 10. CHANGE OF DETAILS

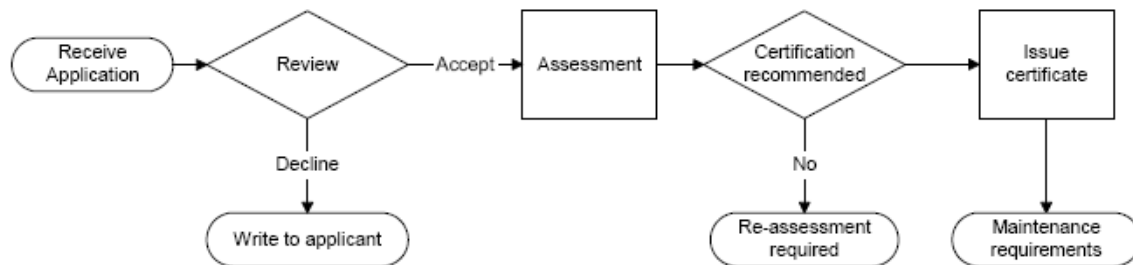
10.1 The MCS Contractor shall give notice in writing to the Accredited Certification Body of any change to any significant particulars. These include but are not limited to:

- legal constitution;
- director(s);
- trading status, title or address;
- Nominee; and
- Nominated Technical Person(s).

Such notice shall be given to the Accredited Certification Body within 30 days of any change becoming effective.

10.2 Where the changes are such that the conditions under which certification was granted are significantly affected, the MCS Contractor will be advised of the actions, and any associated fees, that will be required to be completed to maintain certification.

## 11. THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS



## 12. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

12.1 Please note that all details of applicants and certificate holders may be shared with the operator(s) of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) 'code of conduct' for the purposes of complaints handling and for compiling statistics on this Scheme.

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## APPENDIX A

This Appendix contains the requirements for a quality management system which are assessed as part of the certification process, ensuring that the MCS Contractor meets and continue to meet the appropriate standards and Scheme requirements. As a minimum, the Accredited Certification Body shall ensure that the MCS Contractor has addressed the requirements as detailed in the following table through documented procedures and systems.

Clause	Activity	Requirements
1.	Quality Management System	<p>The MCS Contractor must have in place a maintained documented quality management system in accordance with this table. The status of the documented system must be clear in terms of issue level and/or date.</p> <p>The MCS Contractor shall be a member of and, when dealing with domestic customers, shall have agreed to comply with a code of practice (Consumer Code) which is relevant to the scope of business in the microgeneration sector and which is approved by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI). Where appropriate, the documented management system shall address the requirements of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) Approved Consumer Code.</p>
2.	MCS Contractor Personnel	<p>The MCS Contractor shall specify both a named individual "Nominee" and a named individual "Nominated Technical Person (NTP)". This can be the same individual if the Nominee is technically competent.</p> <p>The responsibilities of the Nominee and the Nominated Technical Person(s) are set out in MCS 025.</p> <p>The MCS Contractor may name an administrative contact person for the Accredited Certification Body to communicate with who is not the Nominee and whose responsibility would be coordination and communication.</p>

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		The MCS Contractor shall document who is responsible for each activity and their deputy, where appropriate.
3.	Internal Review	<p>The Nominee shall conduct regular (at least quarterly) reviews involving relevant staff members to review the effect of each of the procedures and deal with any problems in the system. Records of these reviews and corrective/preventive actions shall be kept by the MCS Contractor.</p> <p>The reviews should consider, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from members of staff, customers and suppliers</li> <li>• Complaints</li> <li>• Products</li> <li>• External audits or assessments</li> <li>• A review of controlled documents held (currency and availability)</li> <li>• Performance of suppliers and subcontractors</li> <li>• Changes to MCS Contractor documents</li> <li>• Changes to MCS Contractor structure or activity</li> <li>• Issues arising from inspections</li> <li>• Any other issues with an impact on the quality management system</li> </ul>
4.	Corrective / Preventive action	<p>The MCS Contractor shall have procedures in place for corrective and preventive actions for problems and issues raised via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal review</li> <li>• External audits or assessments</li> <li>• Inspection and measurements</li> <li>• Complaints</li> <li>• Health and safety incidents</li> <li>• Product recall or rectification notices</li> <li>• Changes to standards or regulations</li> </ul>

5.	Document Control	<p>Documents produced by the MCS Contractor to meet the requirements of the Scheme shall be listed and controlled. Control shall include: a unique identity, status (issue number and/or issue date), appropriate page numbering, and approval.</p> <p>Such documents shall be available at all locations where they are to be used. Superseded/obsolete documents shall be marked as such or removed from use and archived.</p> <p>Where documents are made available in an electronic form, accessibility and control must be appropriate to their use.</p> <p>The MCS Contractor shall have a system for backup and retrieval of documentation whether in hard copy or electronic formats.</p>
6.	External Documents	<p>The MCS Contractor shall maintain copies of relevant external documents (including those MCS Scheme and installation documents, and other standards and guides relevant to the scope of approval). The MCS Contractor shall have a documented method/mechanism for ensuring they have access to the latest editions including any amendments.</p> <p>The MCS Contractor shall have access to the most up to date copies of Building Regulations, Planning Regulations and Health and Safety Regulations.</p>
7.	Software Control	<p>Where software is used for calculation or verification, a control process must be in place to ensure the correct version of software is being used. The MCS Contractor shall demonstrate how any software used, in accordance with the relevant MIS, is appropriate for the intended application.</p>



8.	Contracts and customer requirements	<p>A contract for the sale and installation of a system shall be entered into only between an MCS Contractor which is certified for the technology type(s) in the contract, and a Customer; and this MCS Contractor shall register the system on the MCS Installation Database under their MCS Contractor user account.</p> <p>An MCS Contractor may carry out work under subcontract to another MCS Contractor in which case Clause 10 must be satisfied.</p> <p>Where the contract is for a Green Deal installation, the contract requirements in MCS 023 take precedent.</p> <p>If the MCS Contractor obtains sales leads from any third party, the MCS Contractor must require that the third party complies with all the relevant requirements of the MCS standards and Chartered Trading Standards Institute Approved Consumer Code. The MCS Contractor will be responsible for any non-compliance.</p> <p>The MCS Contractor shall have procedures in place to handle enquiries, produce quotes and accept orders/contracts. Where relevant, these must also comply with the Chartered Trading Standards Institute Approved Consumer Code of which the MCS Contractor is a member.</p> <p>Customers must be provided with system performance estimates in line with the relevant Microgeneration Installation Standard prior to the award of a contract.</p> <p>The MCS Contractor shall review orders, contracts or tenders to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The requirements are adequately defined for each installation.</li> <li>• The MCS Contractor has the resource and capability to meet the order/contract requirements. Where the time scales cannot be met, the MCS Contractor shall detail when the order/contract will be fulfilled.</li> <li>• Responsibility for planning and building control compliance is clearly identified.</li> </ul> <p>Records of this activity shall be maintained for all orders/contracts and tenders.</p>
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		A process shall also exist for managing amendments to contracts/ orders.
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9.	Purchasing	<p>The MCS Contractor shall identify their suppliers of designs, products, services and materials required for installation works.</p> <p>A master list of suppliers shall be established to identify their address, contact details and the service or products/materials supplied. The method for adding or removing suppliers and products/materials from the master list shall be established e.g. previous dealings/past history, product approval. Ad hoc suppliers should be added as required e.g. emergency sourcing of parts.</p> <p>Purchase orders, Confirmation of Order, Delivery Note or Invoice shall clearly identify the product, service or materials to be supplied (e.g. part numbers, grade, product standard etc).</p>
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10.	Subcontracting	<p>In installations for private customers, any work within the scope of the Scheme not undertaken by employees of the MCS Contractor shall be managed through a formal subcontract agreement between the two parties in accordance with the policies and procedures employed by the MCS Contractor. These procedures shall ensure that the subcontractor undertakes the work in accordance with the requirements of the relevant installation standard.</p> <p>In other situations, (for example new builds, or for commercial customers), it is permissible for the physical installation, setting to work and commissioning to be undertaken by others (i.e. not subcontracted to the MCS Contractor) provided that:</p> <p>(a) A contract between the MCS Contractor and the commercial client details obligations on the client to include that evidence of skills and training of those employed by the client to do elements of work not undertaken by the MCS Contractor, are to be made available to the MCS Contractor to ensure that the requirements of this standard are complied with and that access to the site for training and supervision, in accordance with the following sections is agreed in advance.</p>
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		<p>(b) The MCS Contractor provides additional product-specific training for those undertaking the work not undertaken by the MCS Contractor.</p> <p>(c) The MCS Contractor assesses a sample number of installations under the contract which is not less than the square root of the number of installations rounded up to the nearest whole number (e.g. a new build site of 50 installations then a minimum of 8 are assessed).</p> <p>(d) The MCS Contractor assumes responsibility at handover that the installation is in full compliance with the relevant standards.</p>
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11.	Inspection of goods received	All products and materials are checked to ensure that the correct product/material has been supplied and the quantities are correct. Any critical measurements should be identified and records should indicate acceptance or rejection of products/materials. Where products or materials are rejected, the basis for this shall be recorded and steps shall be taken to prevent their unintended use. The MCS Contractor shall take action to arrange replacement or other suitable steps to address the identified problem.
12.	Control of work in progress	During the installation process, inspections shall take place to ensure that the requirements of the standards or specifications are met.  Commissioning and handover shall be completed in accordance with the relevant installation standard. In completing the handover, the MCS Contractor shall confirm that all notifiable work under the Building Regulations has been conducted as agreed in the contract (see Clause 8).
13.	Test and Measurement Equipment	The MCS Contractor shall ensure that suitable equipment exists for the testing and measurement of the installations and that it is calibrated and labelled to indicate its calibration status. A record shall be kept of all such equipment, which is used by the MCS Contractor. The record shall include the serial number or number allocated by the MCS Contractor, scale and frequency of checking/calibration along with suitable objective evidence to demonstrate that the equipment is capable of the accuracy which is required for the specified measurements.
14.	Storage, handling, packaging and transportation	The MCS Contractor shall ensure that, where storage, handling, packaging, and transportation of products takes place, it is done in a manner that protects the product from potential damage or minimises deterioration.

15.	Records	<p>The MCS Contractor shall retain all key records for a minimum of six years.</p> <p>Records for each installation shall include the following, where relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey documents</li> <li>• Quotations</li> <li>• Orders/Contracts</li> <li>• Commissioning checks</li> <li>• Relevant certification</li> <li>• Notifications under relevant local building regulations</li> <li>• Copies of MCS Certificates generated through the MCS Installation Database (MID)</li> <li>• Subcontract arrangements as defined in MCS 025</li> <li>• Records identifying the individuals involved with the installation as defined in MCS 025</li> <li>• Records demonstrating how the design and installation requirements for each MIS have been met.</li> </ul> <p>Records relating to the quality management system shall include at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal review records</li> <li>• Formal evidence of Competence</li> <li>• Subcontract arrangements</li> <li>• Equipment calibration</li> <li>• Complaint records</li> </ul>
16.	Complaints	<p>The MCS Contractor shall have a written procedure for managing complaints and shall keep a record of any complaints received (justified or otherwise) and the corrective and preventative actions taken to satisfy the complaint. All complaints shall be dealt with in a timely and effective manner taking in to account the MCS Complaint Guidelines and the Chartered Trading Standards Institute Approved Consumer Code.</p>

17.	Training and Competence	<p>All staff employed in design, installation, set to work and/or commissioning activities must have received adequate training, and be able to demonstrate competence in, each of the areas/operations in which they are involved.</p> <p>The MCS Contractor must have a record for each individual which details how competence related to MCS activities is demonstrated against the competence criteria.</p> <p>The technical competencies required for MCS Contractors are outlined in Appendix A of each installation standard. Further guidance on the various roles can be found in MCS 025.</p>
18	Health and Safety	<p>The MCS Contractor must have health and safety policies and procedures in place, including risk assessment, to ensure all installations are conducted safely.</p>

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DOCUMENT NO.	AMENDMENT DETAILS	DATE
1.1	'UK' removed from Scheme name; 'Department of Trade and Industry' MCS mark replaced by 'BERR' MCS mark	11/01/2008
1.2	Revision details added; website address updated from ukmicrogeneration.org to microgenerationcertification.eu; BRE Certification Limited mark replaced by BRE Global mark	25/02/2008
1.3	Gemserv details added as Licensee. Document reformatted to reflect brand update. References to BERR updated to DECC, MCS logo updated accordingly. Website and email addresses updated to reflect new name.	01/12/2008
1.4	Quality review.	10/01/2009
1.5	MCS Mark updated	25/02/2009
2.0	Standard re-ordered to aid understanding; Enhanced requirements around contracting and sales activities	01/12/2011
2.1	Update clause 5.2 referencing MCS 023	28/01/2013

2.2	Update to Clause 12 and Clause 1 in Appendix A both referencing Trading Standards Institute in place of the OFT	01/04/2013
2.3	Updates to Clause 8: Contracts and Customer Requirements	20/11/2013
2.4	Updates to Clause 8: Contracts and Customer Requirements	21/11/2014
2.5	Update to definitions	01/05/2015
3.0	Updates to Clauses 2.1, 2.2, 3.0, 10 sections 2: MCS Contractor Responsibilities, 7: Software Control, 10: Subcontracting, 12: Control of work in progress; 15: Records, 16: Complaints, 17: Training and Competence.	16/12/2016