



RESPONSE STATEMENT

24 October 2006

SAVA HOME INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION SCHEME

SAVA has accredited residential surveyors and valuers since 2000. It is currently the market leader in the training and assessment of Home Inspectors, and provides services for Home Inspectors, software for Home Condition Reports and Home Information Pack services.

SAVA is part of National Energy Services (NES). NES is a trading subsidiary of the National Energy Foundation, an independent charity set up in 1988 to promote energy conservation and provide help to improve energy efficiency in residential buildings. Among its other interests, NES runs the National Home Energy Rating scheme – the first energy rating scheme for homes, introduced in 1990. NES has a long heritage of managing training, qualification and quality monitoring schemes for professionals in housing and domestic energy efficiency.

On 14 June 2006, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published its standards for organisations that wish to apply to run a certification scheme for home inspectors. These are available on the web at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500727>

SAVA submitted its application in accordance with DCLG procedures, and confirmation of DCLG's intention to approve SAVA as the UK's first home inspector certification scheme was issued in a DCLG Press Notice on 21 September 2006.

DCLG officials also confirmed that the application had been successful in a presentation to delegates at the SAVA annual conference on 12-13 October 2006.

In line with Government requirements, each home inspector will go through a range of background checks, including Police, DVLA, financial, identity and qualification checks, before then being accepted as a member of the certification scheme and coming under its strict quality monitoring regime looking at the standards of service and accuracy and reliability of the reports being produced.

Brian Scannell, Managing Director of SAVA, says:

"We are fully in favour of a competitive market and welcome the future approval of other certification schemes, because this will be in the best interests of home inspectors and their customers. It will give home inspectors more choice and will encourage schemes to deliver value for money. Home inspectors will choose the certification scheme that reflects best on them as professionals and that can guarantee strong industry and public confidence."

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