

EPBD: Buildings directive demands low energy buildings

The protection of our environment is becoming more and more important in times of climate change. The EU is taking pioneering action and drafting tighter directives for construction. This is because buildings account for around 40% of the European Union's energy consumption and 36% of its CO2 emissions. The European Commission is expecting to make a worthwhile contribution to climate protection by containing energy consumption.

Europe-wide directives for buildings and energy efficiency

The European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, EPBD, is making higher requirements on buildings and strengthening the regulations for energy certificates. The EPBD is binding for all EU states.

The aim of the directive is to achieve the EU's energy and climate protection goals. In concrete terms, this involves the reduction of the energy consumed by buildings, so as to strengthen the EU's energy supply security and to contribute to combating climate change.

Main objectives of the EPBD

Main objectives of the EPBD are the new building of low energy buildings, conversion of existing buildings as well as handling energy certificates for buildings.

Energy certificates:

- The energy performance indicator of a building must be published in commercial sales and rental advertisements and handed over when the sale/rental is concluded.
- The certificate must contain planned remedial measures for the whole building and individual components.
- Independent control systems are introduced for quality assurance. Energy certificates are issued by qualified experts.

Low energy buildings:

- All member states must ensure that all new buildings are low energy buildings by 31 December 2020 and all public buildings after 31 December 2018.

- Countries must draft plans to increase the number of low energy buildings and promote the conversion of existing buildings to low energy buildings.

The term low energy building is generally understood to mean a building with a very high energy performance. The required energy should come largely from renewable resources.

Germany as an example of EPBD: EnEV [German Energy Saving Regulation]

The EPBD is implemented in the valid national legislation of all EU member states via national ordinances. The Energy Saving Regulation [EnEV] provides the adaptation of the European directives in Germany and the RT2012 in France.

The German EnEV has required again an increased energy standard for new buildings since January 2016. This means it is important that the new standards are not only taken into account in building projects, but also implemented. The new features involve various areas, such as heating, hot water production, ventilation and cooling, but also the insulation of windows, façades and roofs.

Changes to the EnEV as from 2016

Reducing energy loss via the building shell by a 20% Lowering the primary energy requirement by 25% Reduction of heat loss via external components to 80%]

tremco illbruck and the EPBD

The development of ever more efficient technologies and products is indispensable in terms of achieving the target of energy balance optimisation. At tremco illbruck, we are not just starting to deal with this; we are ahead of our time and our competitors. Many years of experience and targeted research guarantee product solutions which fulfil the new requirements.

The tried and tested i3 system and a really wide range of airtight products for airtight construction meet the requirements of the stricter directive on building components.

All new buildings will have to be built in accordance with the European Directive as from 2020. We are already prepared for this now and supply high-quality products to architects, installers and builders, so that construction can be carried out entirely in line with the EPBD standards without any worries.