



NEW PART L 2013 UPDATE

THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED THE REVISED PART L APPROVED DOCUMENTS FOR NEW BUILDINGS IN NOVEMBER 2013 TO COME INTO FORCE FROM APRIL 2014 WE SUMMARISE THE MAIN CHANGES.

New Domestic Buildings

Notional dwelling target emission rates are reduced by 6% in relation to the previous 2010 standards. An additional compliance test has been introduced for new domestic buildings: Fabric Energy Efficiency ($\text{kWh/m}^2\cdot\text{year}$). SAP 2012 will now calculate the Dwelling Fabric Energy Efficiency (DFEE) which has to be lower than the Target Fabric Energy Efficiency (TFEE).

Limiting standards have not changed this continues to allow design flexibility, although the Approved Documents now clearly show the values used in the construction of the Notional Building against which the actual building is assessed.

SAP 2012 is the approved method of assessing the TER/DER and TFEE/DFEE as well as assessing the risk of overheating. Greater prominence is given to pipework insulation, particularly circulation pipework within communal spaces to reduce the risk of overheating.

A greater emphasis is given to thermal bridges, with four approaches clearly identified.

- Use approved Accredited Construction Details
- Calculate the performance or joints using approved software.
- Use default thermal transmittance values detailed within SAP 2012
- Apply an overall default value of $0.15\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$

It should be noted that the significant improvements will be required elsewhere if either of the default options are used.

Low water temperature systems are recommended for heating to increase the efficiencies of condensing boilers, and minimum insulation standards are quoted within the Domestic Building Services Compliance Guide for systems within dwellings and distribution pipework serving community heating systems.

Transitional Arrangements

Any projects that have started on site before the 6 April 2014 can be constructed to the 2010 regulations. Alternatively if plans are submitted to the building control officer before the 6 April 2014, the building can also be constructed to the 2010 regulations, providing construction starts before 6 April 2015.

For developments where plans are submitted after the 6 April 2014, the 2013 regulations will apply.

New Non Domestic Buildings

CO₂ emission targets have been tightened to deliver a 9% CO₂ reduction across the building mix. This will see the largest reductions to offices and the smallest to warehouse developments. A wider set of notional buildings have been defined for top lit, side lit (heated only) and side lit (heated and cooled) buildings. The notional building air permeability has been further sub-divided by building size, with a more relaxed rate applied to smaller buildings and some warehouse type constructions.

As with domestic buildings limiting U values and the majority of the fixed building services efficiencies are not changing to allow design flexibility.

The Approved Document now details the values used in the notional building, to provide greater clarity of how the notional building emissions are calculated and to provide an indication of the building elements performance required for compliance. The requirement for limiting Solar gain remains. The aggregated solar gains in normally occupied spaces from April to September are required to be no greater than would occur through a reference window in the same space.

The minimum performance standards for lighting, chillers and fan coil units have tightened. As an alternative to lighting efficiency standards, the Lighting Energy Numerical Indicator (LENI) may now be used as an alternative method of compliance.

New energy performance requirements have already come into force improving the efficiency of circulating pumps in new and existing buildings, with further improvements due in 2015.

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