

Changes to Technical Guidance Document L of the Republic of Ireland Building Regulations 2007

Important changes have been made to Technical Guidance Document L of the Republic of Ireland Building Regulations 2007, which sets out technical requirements for conservation of fuel and energy in dwellings. These requirements come into effect in two stages. The first phase taking effect from 1st April 2008 and the second from 1st July 2008.

The first phase requires that from the 1st April 2008 all new and replacement oil fired boilers in new and existing dwellings (including flats) must have a minimum seasonal HARP efficiency of 86%. To satisfy this requirement condensing boilers should be specified. Where this is not practicable an assessment should be carried out to determine whether a non-condensing boiler can be installed.

The Assessment

The condensing assessment requires a form to be completed to ascertain if it is permissible to install a non-condensing boiler in existing dwellings. Exemption from having to install a condensing boiler is only achieved by scoring greater than 3 on the assessment form.

Guidance on how to perform the assessment is published in a document entitled "Guide to the Condensing Boiler Installation Assessment Procedure for Existing Dwellings", which is available at:

<http://www.environ.ie/en/TGD/>

New systems in new build properties

Where appliance minimum HARP efficiencies on new build properties are stated in the new build specification the appliance efficiency utilised (as specified by the builder, developer, architect or consultant) must be matched to this requirement. No variation to this should take

place without prior consultation and agreement of the specifier.

New build energy conservation includes the requirement to provide fully pumped systems with dedicated time and temperature control along with full boiler interlock and zones. New build properties are designed to comply with a Maximum Permitted Carbon Dioxide Emission Rate (MPCDER).

The properties calculated Carbon Dioxide Emission Rate (CDER) must not exceed the MPCDER.

A dwelling shall be designed and constructed so as to ensure that the energy performance of the dwelling is such as to limit the amount of energy required for the operation of the dwelling and the amount of CO₂ emissions associated with this energy use so far as is practicable.





The energy performance of the dwelling is such as to limit the calculated primary energy consumption and related CO₂ emissions so far as is reasonably practical when both energy consumption and CO₂ emissions are calculated using the Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure (DEAP).

Minimum provisions for new systems in new and existing dwellings

The second phase of Technical Guidance requires that all other aspects of new and replacement space and water heating systems meet the following requirements both for new and existing dwellings.

- Full boiler controls, interlock, zones and cylinder thermostat
- Maximum heating zone 100m²
- Independent time controls for the central heating and domestic hot water
- All appliances, systems and associated equipment fully commissioned in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Information on operating & maintaining the system to be supplied to the customer.

Transitional period

There is no transitional period available regarding the first phase of these requirements. All oil boilers installed from 1st April 2008 must have a minimum seasonal HARP efficiency of 86%.

The second phase requirements come into effect on 1st July 2008, but there is a transitional period of 12 months where a planning application for planning permission, approval or a notice was made on or before 30th June 2008 and where the provisions of part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 has been published on or before the 30th June 2008.