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Lithuania: Impact, compliance and control of legislation

The paper describes Impact, Compliance and Control related to implementation of EPBD in Lithuania. Impact is analysed as a driving force towards application of new more demanding requirements, and their results. Compliance is referred to fulfilment of country's obligation, whereas control is discussed as a country's approach to quality of legal solutions.

1 > Impact of the EPBD on the national requirements

The main provisions on the energy performance of buildings and the certification of the energy performance of buildings are described in the Law Amending the Law on Construction no. x-404, adopted 17 November, 2005 by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. The calculation procedure is described in Technical regulation of construction STR 2.01.09:2005 "Energy performance of buildings; Certification of energy performance of buildings", adopted on 20 December, 2005 by the order no. D-1-624 of the Ministry of the Environment. The procedure to qualify for a right to certify energy performance of buildings is described in Technical regulation of construction STR 1.02.09:2005.

The software for calculation of EP of buildings was prepared and adopted by the Ministry of the Environment. The training program, rules and procedures for experts were adopted by the Orders of the Ministry of the Environment. The institutions responsible for the training and attestation of experts were appointed. The Commission was constituted for the attestation of the experts.

Regulation shall be applied for estimation of energy performance of heated residential and tertiary sector buildings and for certification of energy efficiency of the buildings. The targets of the Regulation are action on environmental protection, rational and economic use of energy sources (petroleum products, natural gas, solid fuel etc.), which are the most important sources of carbon dioxide emission; Forming the presumptions of effective energy consumption in residential and tertiary sector buildings, for energy demand management; Reduction and limiting of the emission of carbon dioxide into the environment; provisions; that construction products and the engineering installation shall be designed and built in such a way, that energy consumption shall be as low as possible with regard to local climate and the comfort of inhabitants.

The implementation of the EPBD and related national legislation creates an independent control system of energy performance of buildings. New buildings shall meet the minimal requirements of energy performance and the optimal use of factors relevant to enhancing the energy performance of the buildings shall be promoted. The implementation of requirements of energy performance determines the fulfilling of indoor climate

requirements. The requirements presented in the national legislations of Lithuania fully conform to the requirements of EP presented in article 7 of the EPBD. Major repairs of existing big buildings shall be considered an opportunity to implement effective energy saving measures with the aim of increasing the energy efficiency of the buildings. Technical measures for better energy performance than indicated in EPBD are coming in 2010. With the beginning of EP certification of buildings, a relationship between the EP and the price of the building emerged. Minimum ventilation requirements are for residential buildings only, however, the implementation of EPBD results in the ventilation systems evaluation for all types of buildings. There are no requirements for use of renewable energy sources in buildings, but the Government policy is to promote such action. At the moment the evaluation of energy performance of buildings is based on the calculation of energy demand for heating. With the establishment of the Directive, a new independent system of qualification requirements, training, further education and control of experts of EP certification of buildings was created.

2 > Compliance and control of EP requirements

Certification requirements for new buildings came into force on January 1st, 2007. Requirements for new buildings are:

The energy performance class of new buildings (or building part) must be not worse than class C. This requirement is valid for all new buildings, for which the set of the design terms (references) was issued before the Regulation came into force (January 4th, 2006).

Certification requirements for existing and refurbished existing buildings came into force on January 1st, 2009. Requirements for existing buildings are:

The energy performance class of large buildings (or building part) with a heated area of more than 1000 m² after major renovation must be not worse than class D. This requirement is valid for all buildings undergone major renovation, for which the completion of the design terms were issued after the Regulation came into force.

All building certificates are published on the internet. The certificates of energy performance are obligatory for new buildings before the procedure of acceptance of structures as serviceable, as well as for buildings (building part) for sale or rent. Buildings that do not conform to the EP requirements cannot be accepted as serviceable, their performance must be improved to conform to the minimal requirements. The experts must inspect the building, the methods of determining the building characteristics are chosen by the expert. The responsibility for the validity of EP of a building lies on the expert.

3 > Compliance and control of EP certification

The first certificate of the energy performance of a building was issued on 10th of January, 2007. The Certification Center of Construction Products under the Ministry of Environment was appointed to manage the attestation of experts and the registration of certificates of the energy performance of buildings. Enclosed with the certificate, general information about the building collected by the expert is sent to Certification center database. A representative of the Certification Center or a different certification expert delegated by the representative is permitted to carry out a primary evaluation of the certification process and the validity of certification. Should instances of improperly carried out certifications be determined, the expert may have his certificate of expert limited or discarded.

The certificates of energy performance are obligatory for new buildings

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before accepting them as serviceable, as well as for buildings (or building part) for sale or rent.

No legal action involving the building can be carried out without a valid certificate.

The qualifications required from the experts are: engineer diplomas with experience of three years in construction, special training courses and required certification practice of three buildings.

Expert's training program was prepared on June 21st, 2006 and adopted by the Order no. D-1-305 by the Ministry of the Environment. The training courses for experts started in November and the first group of 30 experts was attested on December 11th, 2006. At the moment, 250 experts have been attested. The software has been prepared and adopted. Two institutions were appointed as teaching organisations for experts: Institute of Architecture and Construction of Kaunas University of Technology and Quality Management Center of Vilnius Gedimino Technical University (32 hours of training and three certified buildings as practical experience). Revision training program of experts takes place every 5 years.

The expert may belong to company or act as a private entity. The sole responsibility for the validity of the results of certification lies on the expert.

4 > Future planning

From 2010 onwards, the Lithuanian Government plans to subsidize only those building modernization projects upon completion of which a level of heat consumption no higher than the regulated. These regulated requirements for renovated buildings are approximately 30 % stricter than the minimal D class requirements.

5 > References

Detailed official information, texts and tools will be available on the national websites. Primary information and related legal acts are already available on the national websites www.am.lt; www.spsc.lt; www.ukmin.lt.

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