

Peter Wouters
BBRI, Belgium
Dick van Dijk
TNO, The Netherlands

www.buildingsplatform.eu

The EPBD Buildings Platform is executed by a consortium of organisations led by INIVE EEIG

- INIVE EEIG (www.inive.org)
 - BBRI (daily management team)
 - TNO (daily management team)
 - CETIAT
 - CSTB
 - IBP
 - NKUA
- REHVA, Sbi, BRE, ISSO, NAPE, UP-FGT, ENVIROS
- Subcontractors: CTU, Ekodoma
- External advisors: A. Warren, H. David and A. Zold

The project is carried out in close collaboration with a whole range of European Umbrella Organisations.

EPBD Buildings Platform: Overall context and activities

This paper supersedes Information Paper P00

1 > The Directive (EPBD)

Introduction

The Directive 2002/91/EC (EPBD, 2003) of the European Parliament and Council on energy efficiency of buildings ("Energy Performance of Buildings Directive", EPBD) was adopted, after a lively discussion at all levels and with overwhelming support from Member States and the European Parliament, on 16th December 2002 and came into force on 4th January 2003. The EPBD is considered a very important legislative component of energy efficiency activities of the European Union is designed to meet the Kyoto commitment and respond to issues raised in the Green Paper on energy supply security.

The recent EC Action Plan for Energy Efficiency ("*Realising the potential*", Oct. 2006) identifies energy efficiency in the building sector as top priority. It foresees a key role for the EPBD in realising the savings potential in the building sector, which is estimated at 28%, and which in turn can reduce the total EU final energy use by around 11%.

EPBD requirements

The Directive is set to promote the improvement of energy performance of buildings with the following requirements to be implemented by the Member States:

- the general framework for a methodology of calculation of the integrated energy performance of buildings;
- the application of minimum requirements on the energy performance of new buildings;
- the application of minimum requirements on the energy performance of large existing buildings that are subject to major renovation;
- energy performance certification of buildings;
- regular inspection of boilers and of air-conditioning systems in buildings and in addition an assessment of the heating installation in which the boilers are more than 15 years old;
- requirements for experts and inspectors for the certification of buildings, the drafting of the accompanying recommendations and the inspection of boilers and air-conditioning systems.

More information at the website:



Home
The Directive
Themes
Information Papers
Helpdesk
Newsletter
Publications & downloads
Standards & Tools
Events

www.buildingsplatform.eu

Impact of the EPBD

Within these general principles and objectives, it is the individual responsibility of each EU Member State to choose measures that correspond best to its particular situation (subsidiary principle). However, it is clear that collaboration and information exchange can highly facilitate the implementation.

The Directive is foremost a measure that concerns a very large number of participants on all levels and with different impacts and different motivations: designers, housing associations, architects, providers of building appliances, installation companies, building experts, owners, tenants, essentially all energy consumers in the European Union.

It will greatly affect awareness of energy use in buildings, and is intended to lead to substantial increases in investments in energy efficiency measures within these buildings. It presents a great challenge for the transformation of the European building sector towards energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources.

The 4th of January 2006 was the official deadline by which the 25 Member States had to transpose the Directive into national law. For the two new Member States, Bulgaria and Romania, this date is January 2007. Only for the 2 last requirements (certifications and inspections), Member States may, because of lack of qualified and/or accredited experts, have an additional period of three years (before January 2009) to apply fully.

2 > The five EPBD themes

The 5 main themes of the EPBD that were introduced above can be briefly described as follows.

Theme "Certification procedures"

This theme comprises topics such as which methodologies are suitable for existing buildings (data collection), how is quality assurance of tools handled, information on effectiveness and public acceptance of certificate schemes (information on costs, benefits, information as function of building age and type), what is the effectiveness of energy saving recommendations,...

Theme "Inspection of boilers and air conditioning"

This theme relates to:

- > the inspection of hot water boilers used for heating of buildings,
- > the inspection of air conditioning systems used to control air temperature inside buildings, possibly in combination with the control of building ventilation, air humidity and air cleanliness.

In its "considerations", the EPB Directive states that

"regular maintenance of boilers and of air-conditioning systems by qualified personnel contributes to maintaining their correct adjustment in accordance with the product specification and in that way will ensure optimal performance from an environmental, safety and energy point of view".

It also asserts that

"an independent assessment of the total heating installation is appropriate whenever replacement could be considered on the basis of cost-effectiveness".

Theme “Requirements for experts and inspectors”

This theme comprises e.g. specifications and training requirements for experts and inspectors including indications on the resources needed at national level (how many experts and inspectors and level of expertise), quality assurance for experts, inspectors and certificates, criteria for accreditation, code of practice, insurance and liability.

Theme “Calculation procedures”

The EPBD provides the general framework for the calculation procedures. A mandate (N° 343) has been given to the CEN committee to develop appropriate calculation procedures to support Member States in the national application of this article. This theme includes the assessment of the relevant EN (CEN) and EN ISO standards, in particular under Mandate 343, the way they are or will be implemented at national level, options for quality assurance of calculation methods, differences between methods or data input for new versus existing buildings, legal aspects (e.g. national versus CEN options), practicability, methodologies for innovative technologies, further needs and possibilities for further harmonisation and more.

Theme “Minimum EP requirements”

This theme deals with the procedures for setting up energy performance requirements in the Member States. As Member States may differentiate their requirements between new and existing buildings and different building categories, the issues of this theme span a wide range of items. These items include: strategies on national minimum EP requirements; which building categories are considered in the different Member States; how do the requirements take into account the general indoor climate conditions; what building types are exempted from energy requirements; is the 1000 m² borderline applied in all Member States; what kind of requirements are there for major renovations; are these requirements based on benchmarks; is the rating based on measured or calculated data; how are compliance checks organised; what kind of legal sanctions are there, etc.

EPBD related support activities

- > The EPBD Concerted Action
- > The mandate to CEN for preparing EPBD related standards
- > The EPBD related SAVE projects
- > The ManagEnergy programme and the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign
- > The EPBD Buildings Platform

3 > EPBD related support activities by the European Commission

A successful implementation of the EPBD is a huge challenge and requires often rather similar types of activities by the Member States. Therefore, the European Commission Directorate General for Transport and Energy (DG TREN) is supporting several actions, directly or through the Intelligent Energy - Europe Programme, implemented by the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA). The programme deals to a large extent with issues covered by the requirements of the directive.

EPBD Concerted Action

The EPBD Concerted Action started in January 2005 and aims primarily at information exchange between policy makers involved in the implementation of the EPBD in the EU Member States. The CA participants are the representatives of national governmental ministries or governmental affiliated institutions that are in charge of preparing the technical, legal and administrative framework for the transposition of the EPBD in their own country.



www.epbd-ca.org

The CA working plan is organised around trimestrial meetings, bringing together the participants of 29 countries.

The global objectives of the EPBD Concerted Action (www.epbd-ca.org) are:

- > to enhance and structure the sharing of information and experiences from national implementation and to promote good practice concepts in activities required of Member States for EPBD implementation
- > to create favourable conditions for an accelerated degree of convergence of national procedures in EPBD related matters.
- > to complement the work of the Energy Demand Management Committee and its ad-hoc group on CEN standards and Certification exercises.

Mandate to CEN for EPBD related standards

The European Commission decided after consultation with the Member States experts, interest groups and CEN, that there was an urgent need for standards to support the EPBD. A mandate was given to CEN (Mandate 343) to develop a set of standards. This set of standards is based on a list of about 40 topics covering calculation, measurement and inspection procedures, including methods on the level of building components and systems. During 2007, a set of standards for the basis of national procedures in the Member States will be published. An overview of the CEN standards can be found on www.buildingsplatform.eu. In particular, Member States with a very limited experience in the field of the EPBD could benefit from this in the short term. In addition, it will also increase the accessibility, transparency and objectivity of the energy performance assessment in the Member States in general. An overview of the CEN related activities is given in information papers P02 and P40, and other related papers.



www.cen.eu

EPBD related SAVE projects

In general SAVE projects in the frame of the Intelligent Energy-Europe programme are concerned with the improvement of energy efficiency and the rational use of energy, in particular in the building and industry sectors including the preparation of legislative measures and their application. A significant number of projects have produced results or are running to directly support in practice the efficient implementation of the EPBD (the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). The projects cover most subjects of the EPBD: Energy requirements for new and existing buildings, Energy certification, Inspection of boilers and air-conditioning systems. Many of the other SAVE projects are also relevant to the implementation in the practise of the directive. An overview of SAVE activities is given in information papers P01 and P29 and other related papers.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/intelligent/projects/save_en.htm



www.managEnergy.net

ManagEnergy and Sustainable Energy Europe

ManagEnergy aims to support the work of individuals and organisations working on energy efficiency and renewable energies at a local and regional level. The main tools are training workshops and online events, including internet video broadcasts. Additionally, information is provided on case studies, good practice, European legislation and programmes. Internet Broadcasts on EPBD related events can be found on www.buildingsplatform.eu (→ Publications and downloads).



www.sustenergy.org

The **Sustainable Energy Europe 2005-2008 Campaign** aims to raise public awareness and promote sustainable energy production and use among individuals and organisations, private companies and public authorities, professional and energy agencies, industry associations and NGOs across Europe.

The EPBD Buildings Platform deliverables include:

- > A website;
- > A monthly newsletter;
- > Various databases covering publications, standards, software tools, events, etc.
- > EPBD information papers covering a wide range of topics such as National implementation status, CEN status, SAVE projects, highlights of EPBD related conferences, European activities, etc.
- > A helpdesk with FAQ list;
- > An active collaboration with ManagEnergy, Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign and other European actions and leading European Conferences.
- > An active support to Member States and stakeholders through Helpdesk and targeted actions.
- > Special reports prepared at the request of the EC.

The databases

- > The implementation of the EPBD is the topic of many workshops, conferences, training events, ... at regional, national and European level. The events database database gives an overview of these events.
- > Information on relevant EPBD related publications is compiled into the publications database. For each publication, there will be an abstract. For all free publications without copyright restrictions, the full publication is also available in pdf-format.
- > A standards database contains information about the most relevant CEN standards in relation to the EPBD implementation.
- > A software database of available tools contains also information on other building energy related tools.

4 > The EPBD Buildings Platform: What can you expect from it?

The EPBD Buildings Platform officially started in January 2006 for a period of 2½ years (till June 2008).

The website www.buildingsplatform.eu

The website is the central element in the whole dissemination strategy of the EPBD Buildings Platform. In principle, all information which is generated in the context of the Platform should be found here, including links to websites on specific issues (topics, countries).

The newsletter

In order to allow a regular and efficient information exchange between interested people, there is a monthly newsletter. This newsletter is distributed in electronic format.

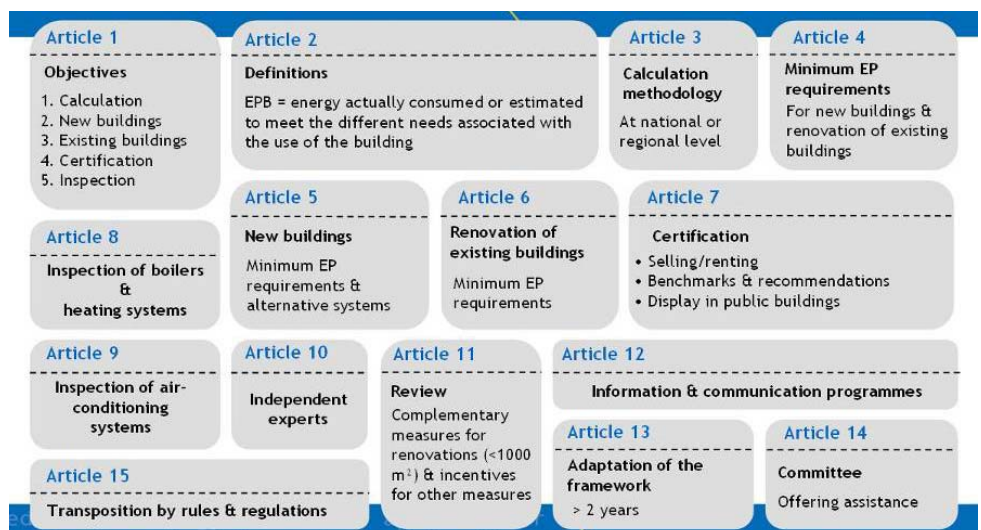
A free subscription to the newsletter is available through the website.

The databases

Easy and centralised access to information is a key objective of the Platform. Therefore, databases play a key role in the dissemination strategy of the Platform.

Information papers

Information papers (IP) are relatively short papers (typical length of 2 to 8 pages). Their main purpose is to inform a wide range of people of the status of work in a specific area. Between September 2006 and April 2007, some 30 information papers have been published.



The EPBD Buildings Platform mouse pad with a quick overview of the EPBD articles.

The EPBD Buildings Platform Information Papers (IPs)

- > Information papers on **EPBD implementation** regarding implementation of the EPBD at national level (country reviews) as well as overall at European level (e.g. overall status regarding the energy certificates, inspection of boilers and air conditioning,...)
- > twice a year an IP regarding the status and progress of those **SAVE projects** which support the implementation of the EPBD. These projects are managed by Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA).
- > Information papers on **standardisation activities** describe the status, progress and planning of those CEN standards which are directly linked to EPBD implementation.
- > Information papers on **EPBD related conferences** present the highlights of those major European conferences where EPBD related aspects are a major topic on the agenda.

Multiplication of input and output

The Platform is set up to maximize the possibilities for multiplication of the input and output, by using existing structures and networks: the "multi-in, multi-out approach":

- > Interested organisations or individuals can **submit events and publications** to the databases. The validity of the submitted item is checked and if approved the item is uploaded in the database.
- > Third parties may reproduce material from the Platform, following the terms of the reproduction agreement. This will enable the **multiplication** of the dissemination to e.g. national or regional organisations with specific interests.
- > Associated organisations may create a **dedicated dynamic link to a subset** of the Platform's publications and/or events databases. This will enable professionals (e.g. branch organisations) to publish on their own website a part or the full database of the Buildings Platform, filtered on topics that cover the specific interests of their target audience, completely using the layout and style of their own website and always kept up to date with the original database at the Buildings Platform website.

The helpdesk

An electronic helpdesk is part of the Platform. Answers on a wide range of EPBD related questions are given there, whereby an increased amount of information is becoming available as function of time. In addition, individuals can also raise questions to the helpdesk.

Conferences and webstreaming

The implementation of the EPBD is the topic of many workshops, conferences, training events at regional, national and European level. Several conferences are supported by the Buildings Platform, for instance in the form of the organisation of EPBD related sessions. European events on energy efficiency and renewables, including several Platform supported events, have been video recorded by ManagEnergy and made available as video recorded Internet broadcasts.

The EPBD Buildings Platform has been launched by the European Commission in the frame of the Intelligent Energy - Europe, 2003-2006 programme. It is managed by INIVE EEIG (www.inive.org), on behalf of Transport and Energy DG.

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