

The Building Regulations 2000

Conservation of fuel and power

APPROVED DOCUMENT

L1

L1 Conservation of fuel and power in dwellings

Coming into effect 1 April 2002

The Stationery Office

2002 EDITION

MAIN CHANGES IN THE 2002 EDITION

1 This Approved Document L1 replaces the content of the 1995 edition of Approved Document L that relates to dwellings. The main changes made by the Building Regulations (Amendment) Regulations 2001 and in the guidance in this document are as follows.

Changes in the requirements

2 Part L of Schedule 1, which sets out the legal requirements for the conservation of fuel and power in buildings, has been subdivided into Part L1, covering dwellings, and Part L2, covering other types of buildings. This Approved Document only gives guidance on complying with Part L1.

3 In Part L1, the requirement applying to heating and hot water systems has been changed to encompass overall system performance rather than just controls. This means that boiler seasonal efficiency and inspection and commissioning are now covered.

4 In Part L1, new requirements with no limits on application are introduced covering efficient internal and external lighting systems fixed to the dwelling (and appropriate controls for external lighting), and the provision of information for householders. The information is required to enable householders to operate and maintain the heating, hot water and external lighting systems effectively.

5 In Regulation 2 the definition of controlled service has been expanded to include services and fittings in relation to which Part L1 imposes a requirement. In Regulation 3 a new sub-paragraph 1(A) limits the application of this new definition of controlled service to existing dwellings so that replacement work on windows and other glazed elements, boilers and hot water vessels is now controlled.

6 Regulation 18 is amended to enable local authorities to test the compliance of buildings and controlled services and fittings for compliance with the technical requirements in Part L1.

Changes in the technical guidance

7 A summary guide to the use of the Approved Document is given at page 5.

8 The standards of fabric insulation have improved by changing the methods of calculating U-values to those in the European Standards and by setting lower (i.e. better) values.

9 The nominal average U-value for windows and other glazed elements has been improved and is now based on sealed double-glazing units with low-emissivity inner panes and 16mm air gaps. Metal windows are given some credit for their thinner framing members and hence the increased useful solar gain. The base area allowance has been increased to 25% to give more daylighting design flexibility.

10 The Elemental Method now includes boiler efficiency and it has been constrained as a simple approach where trading off between elements and boilers is only possible for complete dwellings.

11 The Target U-value Method is retained and the provisions for trading off between fabric and heating system performance have been improved.

12 The Energy Rating Method which used SAP Ratings has been replaced by the new Carbon Index Method. However, to comply with the requirements in Regulation 16 of the Building Regulations 2000 and in Regulation 12 of the Building (Approved Inspectors etc.) Regulations 2000, SAP Ratings must continue to be notified to building control bodies and posted as notices in new dwellings.

13 The guidance on reducing thermal bridging has been improved and new guidance is given on reducing unwanted air leakage. A way of achieving compliance with these requirements is to adopt robust construction detail designs that have been specially published for this purpose.

14 New guidance is given on complying with the requirements for commissioning heating and hot water systems, for lighting and for the provision of information for householders.

15 The guidance on conservatories has been extended to cover conservatories attached to existing dwellings.

16 The guidance on material alterations and changes of use remains unchanged, but it has been placed in a new section along with the new guidance on work on controlled services in existing dwellings and the guidance relevant to conservation and restoration work in historic buildings.

17 The guidance suggests, in paragraph 1.49, the provision of certificates or declarations of compliance from suitably qualified persons.

Approved Documents

The following documents have been approved and issued by the Secretary of State for the purpose of providing practical guidance with respect to the requirements of the Building Regulations 2000.

Approved Document A – Structure: 1992 Edition, fourth impression (with amendments) 1994, further amended 2000.

Approved Document B – Fire safety: 2000 Edition, amended 2000.

Approved Document C – Site preparation and resistance to moisture: 1992 Edition, second impression (with amendments) 1992, further amended 2000.

Approved Document D – Toxic substances: amended 1992, further amended 2000.

Approved Document E – Resistance to the passage of sound: 1992 Edition, second impression (with amendments) 1992, further amended 2000.

Approved Document F – Ventilation: 1995 Edition, amended 2000.

Approved Document G – Hygiene: 1992 Edition, second impression (with amendments) 1992, further amended 2000.

Approved Document H – Drainage and waste disposal: 2002 Edition.

Approved Document J – Combustion appliances and fuel storage systems: 2002 Edition.

Approved Document K – Protection from falling, collision and impact: 1998 Edition, amended 2000.

Approved Document L1 – Conservation of fuel and power in dwellings: 2002 Edition.

Approved Document L2 – Conservation of fuel and power in buildings other than dwellings: 2002 Edition.

Approved Document M – Access and facilities for disabled people: 1999 Edition, amended 2000.

Approved Document N – Glazing – safety in relation to impact, opening and cleaning: 1998 Edition, amended 2000

Approved Document to support regulation 7 – Materials and workmanship: 1999 Edition, amended 2000.