

## What Does Part L mean for you?

### What is Part L of the building regulations?

Part L of the Irish Building Regulations deals with the conservation of fuel and energy.

The regulation itself states that a building shall be designed and constructed so as to ensure that the energy performance of the building is such as to limit the amount of energy required for the operation of the building and the amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions associated with this energy use insofar as is reasonably practicable.

Building regulations requirements for new dwellings also prescribe that a reasonable proportion of the energy consumption to meet the energy performance of a dwelling is provided by renewable energy sources.

This in effect means for the homeowner that a renewable contribution of the buildings overall energy requirements must be provided. The contribution required is:

10 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr. of thermal energy

Or

4 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr. of electrical energy

Or

A combination of both

The energy requirements of a building can be lowered however as an extremely well insulated building with good air tightness will require less energy than a building with lower levels of insulation and air tightness.

### How do I know if I meet the standard?

The only way to know if a building meets part L of the building regulations is through results determined by DEAP. This is the Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure. This procedure evaluates all the characteristics of the proposed building such as its insulation values and methods of heating and so on to produce a report on the building. For standardised occupancy, it calculates annual values of delivered energy consumption, primary energy consumption, carbon dioxide emissions and costs, both totals and per square metre of total floor area of the dwelling. This procedure should be carried out by a BER assessor at the planning stage so as to determine any changes and alterations that need to be made to existing plans to get compliance. Once the building is completed a final BER assessment shall determine if the building is compliant.



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