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Energy Performance of  
Buildings Directive (EPBD)



## The new EPBD

### Towards 'Zero-Emission Buildings' (ZEB)

The EPBD is particularly important because buildings account for 40% of energy consumed and 36% of energy-related direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions. In the EU, heating, cooling and domestic hot water account for 80% of the energy that households consume. Making Europe more resilient calls for renovation of EU buildings, making them more energy efficient and less dependent on fossil fuels. Renovation is key for reducing the energy consumption of buildings, for bringing down emissions and for reducing energy bills. In particular, the aim of the revised EPBD will be to have 'Zero-Emission Building' (ZEB) as the standard starting from 2030.

#### Article 2: Definitions

Art. 2(2): 'Zero-Emission Building' (ZEB) means a building with a very high energy performance, as determined in accordance with Annex I, where the very low amount of energy still required is fully covered by energy from renewable sources generated on-site or nearby, from a renewable energy community within the meaning of the amended RED or from a district heating and cooling system, in accordance with the requirements set out in Annex III;

Art. 2(3): 'Nearly Zero Energy Building' (NZEB) remains the standard for new buildings until the application of the ZEB standard in 2030, which then replaces NZEB.

Art. 2(19): 'Deep Renovation' means a renovation that transforms a building or building unit into an NZEB before 2030 and into a ZEB starting from that year onwards.





## Minimum energy performance standards

### **NEW Article 9: Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for existing buildings**

9(1): With the goal to transform the national building stock to zero-emission by 2050 a progressive MEPS timeline has been set for different types of buildings to be achieved in the coming decade:

- Buildings & building units owned by public bodies to achieve at least EP class F by 2027 and class E by 2030.
- Non-residential buildings & building units to achieve at least class F by 2027 and class E by 2030.
- Residential buildings & building units to achieve at least class F by 2030 and class E by 2033.



## Other key new provisions

### **Article 3: Long-term Renovation Strategies renamed to National Building Renovation Plans (NBRP)**

One of the key updates in the requirements is a national roadmap where Member States have to set targets for 2030, 2040 & 2050 on different indicators such as annual energy renovation rate, primary and final energy consumption of the national building stock and its operational GHG reductions. For 2050 the objective for the transformation of the existing building stock is raised from NZEB to ZEB.

### **Article 7: New Buildings**

7(1): All new public buildings shall be zero-emission buildings from 2027, and all other new buildings from 2030.

### **NEW Article 10: Renovation Passport**

A new article introduces the Renovation Passport as a document that provides a tailored roadmap for the renovation of a specific building in several steps. The passport should contain expected benefits in terms of energy savings, savings on bills and operational GHG reductions, as well as benefits related to health and comfort.

### **NEW Article 15: Financial barriers**

15(10): From 2027, MS shall not provide any financial incentives for the installation of fossil fuel boilers.



## Annex III: Zero-Emission Building Requirements

- All new residential and non-residential buildings must have zero on-site emissions from fossil fuels, as of 1 January 2028 for publicly-owned buildings and as of 1 January 2030 for all other new buildings, with a possibility for specific exemptions.
- With regard to non-residential buildings, Member States will have to renovate the 16% worst-performing buildings by 2030 and the 26% worst-performing buildings by 2033;
- With regard to residential buildings, the average primary energy consumption of the entire housing stock will have to be reduced by at least 16% by 2030 and by 20 to 22% by 2035;
- Member States must include in their National Building Renovation Plans a roadmap with a view to phase out of fossil fuel boilers by 2040;
- Member States will also have to stop subsidising stand-alone fossil fuel boilers from 2025.

### Main take-aways

The progressive effort towards having more and more zero-emission buildings and to phase out the worst-performing buildings is an important step towards the decarbonisation of the building sector.

Moreover, setting a date for ending fossil fuel heating in Europe's buildings provides crucial clarity for consumers and charts the path for the heating sector and makes any investment in geothermal energy a future-proof choice.