
TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Issue:
Dec 2023

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Identification and correct data entry for High Heat Retention storage heaters.

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Preparation for RdSAP 10. We look at the latest specification and summarise the important changes.

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Updated guidance from DLUCH relating to the recommendations on non-domestic EPCs.

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the December issue of the ecmk Technical Bulletin. In this issue we will cover high heat retention storage heaters and correct data entry. We also look at the RdSAP 10 specification in preparation for next year. We will summarise the recent changes in the latest edition of PAS 2035:2023 and cover loft hatch insulation guidance and non-domestic EPC recommendations from DLUCH. As the year comes to a close, we'd like to thank our members for their continued support and hope that you enjoy a well-earned rest over the festive holidays!



Ian Rowley, Scheme Manager, ecmk

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High Heat Retention Storage Heaters

HHRSH correct data entry- use of database

A 'high heat retention storage heater' is one with heat retention not less than 45% measured according to BS EN 60531. It incorporates a timer and electronic room thermostat to control the heat output that is user adjusted. It is also able to estimate the next day's heating demand based on external temperature, room temperature settings and heat demand periods. Qualifying storage heaters are included in the Product Characteristics Database File and can only be recorded into RdSAP by using the PCDF (convention 4.09).

How to identify:

- Improved insulation (wider than slimline storage heaters).
- timer & electronic room thermostat to control the heat output.
- They can estimate the next day's heating demand based on external temperature, room temperature settings & heat demand periods.
- The Dimplex Quantum range is very popular, however, other makes such as Elnur are also available.

High heat Retention:

The Dimplex Quantum range is recognised in SAP2012 as being up to 27% cheaper to run, and using up to 22% less energy than a standard storage heater. This is mainly due to its improved insulation of the heat storage cores and extremely advanced controls.





If the product can be identified, its characteristics are obtained via the PCDF. Storage heaters (high heat retention types only): index number of each heater.

NOTE:

A storage heater can only be entered as HHR if it can be found in the PCDF database.

Boiler Search

Show / hide columns

	PRODUCT ID	BOILER ID	MANUFACTURER	MODEL	QUALIFIER	YEAR	FUEL
	Type to filter	Type to	Type to filter	Type to	100	Type to	
<input type="radio"/>	230006	020046	GDC Group Ltd	Quantum	QHR 100	2014	
<input type="radio"/>	230029	020046	Dimplex	Dynamic HHR	HSDHHR100	2019	
<input type="radio"/>	230010	020046	GDC Group Ltd	Quantum	HSDQ 100	2014	
<input type="radio"/>	230002	020046	GDC Group Ltd	Quantum	QM 100	2013	
<input type="radio"/>	230024	020046	Dimplex	Quantum	QM100RF	2019	

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries (filtered from 38 total entries)

Previous **1** Next

Show 10 entries

Once the correct heater has been entered ensure that the HHR controls are selected.

This screenshot shows a form for selecting a heating system. The 'How would you like to select Heating System' dropdown is set to 'PCDF'. The 'System type' is 'Electric storage heaters', 'Number of Storage Heater Types' is '1', and 'Number of Heaters' is '1'. The 'Storage heater search' field contains '2300002 GDC Group Ltd Quantum (QM 100)'. A red arrow points to the search button. A red circle highlights the search results and the 'Controls' dropdown, which is set to 'Controls for high heat retention storage heaters*'. The 'Fuel' is set to 'Electricity'.

How would you like to select Heating System	PCDF
* System type	Electric storage heaters
Number of Storage Heater Types	1
Number of Heaters	1
Storage heater search	2300002 GDC Group Ltd Quantum (QM 100)
Fuel	Electricity
Controls	Controls for high heat retention storage heaters*

If the HHR Storage heater cannot be found within the PCDF, then Fan Assisted Storage heaters with automatic controls must be selected.

This screenshot shows a form for selecting a heating system. The 'How would you like to select Heating System' dropdown is set to 'Manual'. The 'System type' is 'Electric storage heaters', 'Fuel' is 'Electricity', and 'Heating System' is 'Fan storage heaters #'. A red arrow points to the 'Manual' dropdown. A red circle highlights the 'Heating System' and 'Controls' dropdowns. The 'Controls' dropdown is set to 'Automatic charge control'.

How would you like to select Heating System	Manual
* System type	Electric storage heaters
Fuel	Electricity
Heating System	Fan storage heaters #
Controls	Automatic charge control

Not HHR Storate Heaters:

Rointe Electric Radiator



If storage heaters are fan-assisted or HHR storage heaters, this suppresses the recommendation for HHR storage heaters in RdSAP.

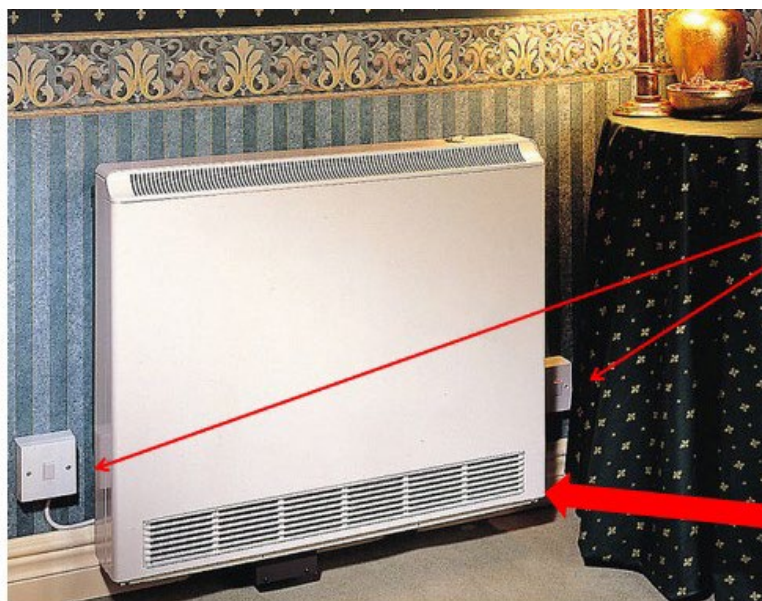
SAP 2012 Appendix T

Item	Measure	To be considered when existing dwelling is/has:	Recommended if existing dwelling has:	Improve to:
L2	New or replacement storage heaters	Main heating by storage heaters, Old (large volume) or Slimline	Mains gas not available, and hot-water heating by cylinder with single immersion, or from solid-fuel secondary heater	High heat retention storage heaters and controls, and dual immersion water heating, large cylinder with 50 mm factory-applied insulation
			Mains gas not available, and any other hot water system	High heat retention storage heaters and controls
		Main heating by: - electric room heaters - electric ceiling heating Also if no space heating system present	Mains gas not available, and hot-water heating by cylinder with single immersion or from solid-fuel secondary heater or no hot water system present	High heat retention storage heaters and controls, 7-hour off-peak tariff and dual immersion water heating, large cylinder with 50 mm factory-applied insulation
			Mains gas not available, and any other hot water system	High heat retention storage heaters and controls, 7-hour off-peak tariff

Note: A storage heater can only be entered as HHR if it can be located in the PCDF database.

Storage heaters are also covered under convention 4.09 Two Main [heating] systems. – “If there is more than one type of storage heater . . . treat as two main systems. If then main system 1 or main system 2 has more than one type, choose the most prevalent. For example, If a dwelling has a fan-assisted storage in the sitting room and modern slimline storage heaters elsewhere, this must be treated as 2 main systems. **This scenario is quite common.**

Fan Assisted



two power supplies

grill at the bottom of the unit

Unidare - 3.4kW Storage Heater with 1.5kW Fan Heater built in

Would you like to select Heating System	Manual
* System type	Electric storage heaters
Fuel	Electricity
Heating System	Fan storage heaters #
Controls	Automatic charge control

What is a lot 20 storage heater?

LOT 20 Storage Heaters are the latest smart storage heaters which are ideal when replacing older storage heaters. These modern storage heaters use Less Energy Compared to a Standard Manual Storage Heater.

Lot 20 compliant means that a heater adheres to a specific set of standards outlined in the legislation. This varies among different heaters but cites that specific heaters must come equipped with specific features to avoid wasted energy.



Lot 20 Storage heaters are not HHR storage heaters. They must be researched as they may be either Fan Assisted Storage heaters with automatic charge controls or integrated Storage/direct-acting for type (dependent on model type) with automatic charge controls.



DEA Updates

Get ready for RDSAP 10

A new RdSAP Specification has been released in preparation of the changes early next year. This is available to read from the BRE Group website and ecmk scheme documents.

The RdSAP 10 Specification gives guidance on existing dwellings, it replaces Appendix S of the SAP Document. This specification provides the calculations and assumptions used in RdSAP software and also provides guidance on how an energy assessment should be carried out and recorded.

Compared to the current guidance known as Appendix S or RdSAP2012, the significant changes are:

- Window measurements required for all windows
- Location of each window allocated to main walls or each extension, or alternative walls
- Thermal properties of insulation revised
- Roof insulation details have more options
- Floor insulation revised; heated basement details added
- Table of Window U-Values expanded
- U-values of brick wall revised to account for wall thickness
- U-values of stone walls revised
- Curtain wall added as new wall type
- Window shutters added as a new feature
- Hot water tank size included
- Hot water tank insulation included
- Room in roof (RR) revised to take into the account all elements including continuous main wall
- Additional alternative/shelter wall added
- Mechanical ventilation is treated as in full SAP allowing PCDB entry, still allowing default values
- PV calculated as in SAP10.2
- PV Diverter for water heating added
- PV Batteries added
- Ventilation algorithm allows more options
- Air pressure test result can be used if available
- New age-band M added, and all tables of U-values updated
- Data for Isle of Man added for completeness of information
- Table 32 with the RdSAP10-specific fuel prices replaces fuel prices in Table 12 of SAP10.2
- RdSAP10-specific metrics added to replace SAP metrics in SAP10.2
- Indicative relationship between SAP/RdSAP 2012 ratings and RdSAP10 ratings added in Table 33
- Small scale hydro added as in SAP10.2
- Flue gas heat recovery - calculation according to SAP 10.2.
- Waste water heat recovery - calculation according

The day-to-day effects this will have on energy assessors is the evidence requirements and slight adjustments to inputs. It is important to make sure the RdSAP Software you are using is up to date and the assessor checks all inputs before lodging an EPC. The most notable differences will be: Measuring all windows, Room in Roof Types, Mechanical Ventilation, Curtain Wall Construction, and PV information.

Reduced Data SAP specification v.10 for existing dwellings (formerly Appendix S)

RdSAP 10 methodology is due to be released within the first quarter of 2024.

ECMK will provide training covering the changes to both methodology & data inputs prior to the release. Details will be published in the training section of the ECMK website in the New Year.

Click below to download the RdSAP10 Specification

[Download](#)

RdSAP Convention 4.19

Solar PV panels connected or not connected

Renewable energy is becoming more popular, especially Solar PV panels. They harness the sunlight to generate electricity for a dwelling. It's essential to determine whether Solar PV is connected to the dwelling's meter because this connection directly impacts energy consumption cost. The implications of recording this incorrectly may result in a significant SAP points difference and this variation may result in an audit fail.

What does the convention say?

Convention 9.05:

PV connection to the dwelling's meter must be verified by the presence of a PV generation meter or documentary evidence.

In all cases, the PV-generated electricity is included in the assessment of a dwelling only if the dwelling has a PV generation meter serving it.

Where it cannot be determined that the PV supply is feeding into a meter serving the dwelling being assessed, the PV panels are still allocated to the dwelling but should not be specified as being connected.

How do you know if PV is connected to the dwellings meter?

An assessor should look for a generation meter and or a MCS certificate as documentary evidence. The MCS certificate is key and results in a more accurate EPC.



Generation
Meter

The generation meter maybe found by the inverter or isolation switch

MCS CERTIFIED

MCS Certificate

MCS INSTALLATION CERTIFICATE NO. MCS-01239543-D
CERTIFICATE VERSION 1
19/11/2021

INSTALLER DETAILS
MCS Certified Installer Company Name and MCS Number:
Test Installer (NAP1111)
TSI Consumer Code: RECC
TSI Consumer Code ID: 1111

INSURANCE BACKED GUARANTEE
System Owner Address:
Installation Type: Domestic
Cover Period: 2 Year Insurance Backed Guarantee
Policy Number: MCS-01239543-D

SITE DETAILS
Address:
Supply MPAN:
Commissioning Date: 19/11/2021

INSTALLATION DETAILS
Total Installed Capacity (kW): 4.50
Estimated Annual Generation (kWh): 3000.00
Green Deal Installation: No
Planning Regulations Compliance: Permitting Development Rights
Building Regulations Notification: After The Installation Through A Self
Certification Competent Persons Scheme (CPS)

PRODUCT DETAILS
TECHNOLOGY TYPE: AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP

MCS PRODUCT NUMBER	PRODUCT MANUFACTURER	MCS CERTIFIED PRODUCT NAME	FLOW TEMP	SCOP
011-TW0433_02	Dakin Europe N. V.	ESLA25D3/IV3	42	4.12

The MCS certificate should have the address of the property

Please note: Recording PV without relevant evidence may result in an audit fail for lack of verifiable evidence.

Retrofit Updates

A new update of PAS 2035:2023 has been released!

PAS 2035 has been updated in line with current industry requirements and best practices. There have been some substantial changes made within the latest edition and we will cover the important updates below. It is important to remember that the current version of PAS 2035:2022 is still relevant until March 2025 when PAS 2035:2023 will supersede this standard.

For a full list of changes please refer to the 'Forward' Section in the new PAS 2035:2023 standard.

A summary of the impactful changes are:

Removal of Risk Paths

There are no longer Path A, B and C projects. All dwellings and dwelling types are treated on a case-by-case basis. **This clause has been removed from PAS 2035:2023.**

Annex A – Qualifications

This section provides guidance on the qualifications required for Retrofit Assessors, Retrofit Coordinators and Retrofit Designers. There are some changes to the requirements dependent on construction type and number and type of measures.

Change of emphasis from measures-based retrofit to whole dwelling retrofit by including more reference to a Main Contract. – Clause 5

This is relevant for larger projects of multiple dwellings and measures.

Clarification of the role of the Retrofit Coordinator, including site visits and recording of non-compliance. – Clause 9

The Retrofit Coordinator shall collect evidence themselves to satisfy the requirements of PAS 2035 has been met during the installation. The Retrofit Coordinator shall make a written record of quality and progress from all inspections. It does state that if the Retrofit Coordinator cannot make an in-person visit themselves they shall collect digital evidence from a third party for a selected number of measures only. Where any of those measures connect to or penetrate another fabric EEM being or already installed, an in-person site inspection shall be required. Any EEMs not listed shall also require an in-person site inspection. The records must include photographic evidence.

Contents of a Medium-Term Improvement Plan is now a requirement rather than guidance – Clause 8.1

An improvement option evaluation and medium-term improvement plan are required for every dwelling or dwelling type.

Requirements to produce an airtightness strategy for projects, which can include setting an airtightness target and air leakage testing – Clause 8.2.35

An airtightness strategy is required for all EEMs where the building fabric is being improved. Airtightness testing is only mandatory if an airtightness target has been set in the strategy.

Annex C for ventilation has been simplified and brought in line with Approved Document F.

More reference is made to Tables and Diagrams from Approved Document F with regard to assessing and upgrading ventilation.

Further Monitoring and Evaluation references – Clause 13

There is now a Basic Monitoring level which shall be applied to every retrofit project, and a further monitoring and evaluating stage that shall be applied to projects under certain criteria set out in Clause 13, Section 13.3.

Distressed replacement of heating appliances – Clause 7.2, 8.3, 12.2 for more in depth information on how these types of projects can be delivered and the requirements.

Retrofit Assessments – Clause 7

An additional part of the retrofit assessment will include additional information that might have an impact on the retrofit project now and in the future such as noise, air pollution, flooding and climate change-induced environmental risks.

PAS 2035:2023 Retrofitting dwellings for improved energy efficiency – Specification and Guidance

ECMK will provide CPD with an overview of the changes. Details will be published in the training section of the ECMK website in the new year.

Click below to download a copy of the specification

[Download](#)

Loft Hatch Insulation Guidance

RA and RC correct identification

As part of a loft insulation project, it is important to ensure loft hatches are correctly insulated and draught-proofed in Accordance with PAS2035 and current relevant building regulations.

Loft Hatch Inspection

When assessing loft insulation as a potential measure, in addition to collecting all relevant data for the loft area, assessors should also pay consideration and record the following:

- Hatch type: hinged or removable, proprietary, or non-proprietary.
- Hatch insulation: insulated as per original manufacture – type and thickness or not insulated.
- Hatch dimensions (if insulation is required).
- Draught proofing: as per original manufacture or none
- Ladder type: none, hinged from hatch opening (not connected to hatch) or connected to hatch.
- **Provide photographic evidence of the above items and of the hatch itself.**

The above evidence will enable the retrofit designer to prepare a suitable design for ensuring that the hatch is correctly insulated and draught proofed.

Required level of insulation¹

The loft hatch cover shall be completely insulated, as far as practical, to at least the same U-Value degree as the rest of the roof space. As a minimum, the requirements of the current building regulations/standards shall apply.

Under current building regulations², Approved Document L1, Table 4.3, loft insulation should achieve a U value of **0.16W/m2k**.

Where a loft hatch is not already insulated, the easiest material to attach to the upper side of the hatch would be rigid insulation board, which can be cut to size to fit the hatch and cut around any fixings for ladder attachments.

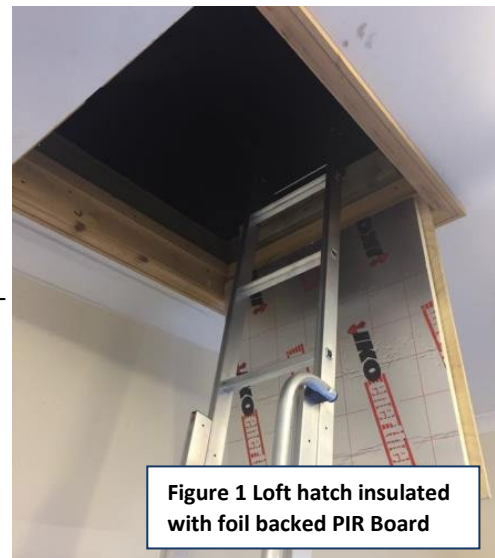


Figure 1 Loft hatch insulated with foil backed PIR Board



Figure 2 Proprietary hatch insulated with polystyrene board and draught proofed

Loose insulation material such as mineral wool will have to be secured in a suitable bag and attached to the upper face of the hatch – ensuring that this does not interfere with the hatch closing, however, if a loft ladder is hinged from the hatch opening, the ladder will compress this type of insulation, compromising the quality of the install. An unavoidable thermal bridge will be created due to the compressed depth of the insulation measuring less than the overall installation and therefore having a higher thermal conductivity.

Table 1.0 below provides the typical thickness of the insulation material required to achieve the above required U Value.

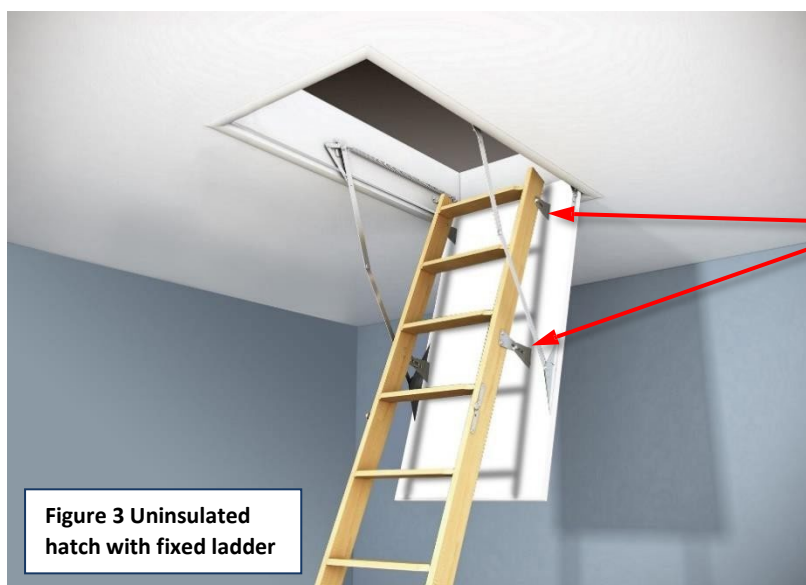
Table 1.0 Insulation Materials and Typical Thicknesses Required for U-Value 0.16W/m²K

Material	Thermal Conductivity (W/mK)	Minimum Insulation Thickness Required
Glass Wool	0.035 – 0.040	250mm
Rock Wool	0.034 – 0.040	250mm
PIR Board	0.021 – 0.023	150mm
Phenolic Foam	0.018 – 0.023	150mm
Polystyrene	0.029 – 0.040	200 – 250mm

Suitable methods of insulating and draught-proofing Loft hatches¹

Loft hatches should be insulated and draught-proofed in accordance with the insulation material's specifications or installation instructions. For older properties or where a non-proprietary hatch has been used, draught-proofing can be installed using systems in a manner similar to that used for external doors – ensuring that the hatch can still be opened and closed by the occupant.

Example of Rigid Insulation Board Installed on to Ladder Fixed to Loft Hatch



Ladder attached to loft hatch secured with rigid brackets



Draught proofing installed in hatch frame to seal against upper face of loft hatch

Rigid insulation board to correct thickness to achieve U-value of $0.16 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$

Insulation board cut to fit around mounting brackets, hinges and support mechanisms

Note: the installer should always ensure that any relevant fire regulations are followed and that the loft hatch can still be easily closed and securely locked in place following the installation of insulation and any draught-proofing.

References:

1. CITB - General Requirements and Guidance for the Installation of Cold Roof Loft Insulation (Version CITB 2013)
2. The Building Regulations 2010 Conservation of fuel and power, Approved Document L 2021

GDPR Reminder

Email communications

It has come to our attention that certain retrofit projects have been in breach of our GDPR guidelines. Members of the public have inadvertently been receiving information for projects that have nothing to do with them.

Retrofit Assessors and Retrofit Coordinators must ensure that all customer details are correctly checked before submitting.

Most importantly ensure that the email address and communications are correct for the relevant customer.

Non-Domestic

EPC Recommendations

Updated guidance has been issued to Accreditation Schemes by DLUCH via the Conventions Group relating to the recommendations on Non-Domestic EPCs. Accreditation Schemes have been requested to pass this information on to their assessors.

Once an assessment has been completed and the building rating has been obtained, the recommendations produced by the software for the report **MUST** be edited. Only recommendations relevant to the building being assessed must be included in the published report.

Recommendations that are technically not feasible must be removed. However, recommendations must not be excluded on cost grounds alone as stake holders must be enabled to make any decisions regarding these options for themselves. In determining the technical feasibility, consideration must also be given to changing legislative requirements. For example, products banned by UK law cannot be considered technically feasible and any recommendations suggesting these must be removed or updated.

Building Rating Recommendations EPC Audit Calculation Logs Calculation Errors Supporting Documents

Show Recommendations

☐ All NCM ☐ All USER ☐ All ☒ Only from Report

☐ Click to Edit this Recommendation

Category: RENEWABLES Code: EPC-R2

Recommendation: Consider installing building mounted wind turbine(s).

Assessor comments: No comments from assessor

Energy impact: LOW

CO2 impact: LOW

CO2 saved per £ spent: POOR

Payback: LONG

Applicable to: BUILDING Pay back: 15.9 years

Record: 20 of 23 No Filter Search

Building Rating Recommendations EPC Audit Calculation Logs Calculation Errors Supporting Documents

Show Recommendations

☐ All NCM
 ☐ All USER
 ☐ All
 ☒ Only from Report

☒ Click to Edit this Recommendation
 Category: RENEWABLES Code: EPC-R2

☒ Click to take out

Recommendation: Consider installing building mounted wind turbine(s).

Assessor comments: No comments from assessor

Applicable to: BUILDING Pay back: 15.9 years

Energy impact: LOW
 CO2 impact: LOW
 CO2 saved per £ spent: POOR
 Payback: LONG

Record: 20 of 23 No Filter Search

Additionally, assessors are encouraged to make their own recommendations where they identify opportunities for energy efficiency improvements within the building during their site visits. This is particularly relevant where upgrades to systems and/or controls are not included in the standard recommendations. Commonly occurring examples may include opportunities to upgrade lighting controls and/or to switch to modern high efficiency LED lighting.

As with Display Energy Certificates (DECs) where this has been common practice for some time, care must be taken to word any added recommendation appropriately. All recommendations must be worded to encourage further investigation by the stake holder and not as any instruction to carry out works. For example, phrases like "Consult with experts to identify improvements to", "Consider" and "It is recommended that" are encouraged. Care should be employed to ensure an appropriate level of profession language is used together with accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

When editing recommendations, the comments box must be used to explain the reasoning for adding, removing or editing any recommendation where this is carried out. The explanation should provide sufficient information for any future audit as to why the amendment has been made. Please note that these comments are included in the supplementary reports produced by the software and therefore are potentially available to external stake holders.

Non-Domestic

EPC Lighting Recommendations

In recent years, legislation has been introduced to phase out the use of a number of forms of low efficiency lighting. In addition to restrictions on tungsten and halogen lighting systems that have now been in place for some time, restrictions on most forms of traditional fluorescent tube lights for commercial, industrial, and residential premises have now been added to the ban. As such, recommending the implementation of these technologies is no longer technically feasible and should not appear in lodged EPC Recommendation Reports.

Therefore, if any of the following recommendations are suggested by the software, they should be replaced:

EPC-L1	T12 to T8	LIGHTING
EPC-L2	GLS to CFL	LIGHTING
EPC-L3	HP mercury to SON replacements	LIGHTING
EPC-L5	T8 to T5	LIGHTING
EPC-L6	HP mercury to SON	LIGHTING
EPC-L7	Mains to HF ballast	LIGHTING

We suggest that these recommendations should be removed and the custom recommendation given below should be included in their place. The assessor can explain this in the comments section using the phrase **“Lighting banned”**.

“This building contains lighting technologies that are inefficient and may be environmentally damaging. Consideration should be given to updating and upgrading lighting and controls to high efficiency LED systems.”

Additionally, assessors may include this custom recommendation in any assessment where tungsten, halogen, compact fluorescent or fluorescent tube lighting is found to be present. The alternative wording below can also be used for display lighting systems:

“This building contains display lighting technologies that are inefficient and may be environmentally damaging. Consideration should be given to updating and upgrading display lighting and controls to high efficiency LED systems.”

Example – remove recommendation

Building Rating | Graphic rating | Recommendations | EPC Audit | Calculation Logs | Calculation Errors | Supporting Documents

Show Recommendations

☐ All NCM ☐ All USER ☐ All ☒ Only from Report

☐ Click to Edit this Recommendation

Category: LIGHTING Code: EPC-L7

Recommendation: Introduce HF (high frequency) ballasts for fluorescent tubes: Reduced number of fittings required.

Assessor comments: No comments from assessor

Applicable to: BUILDING Pay back: 2.91088 years


Click to take out ☐

Energy impact: LOW

CO2 impact: LOW

CO2 saved per £ spent: FAIR

Payback: SHORT



Example – remove recommendation

Building Rating | Graphic rating | Recommendations | EPC Audit | Calculation Logs | Calculation Errors | Supporting Documents

Show Recommendations

☐ All NCM ☐ All USER ☐ All ☒ Only from Report

☐ Click to Edit this Recommendation

Category: LIGHTING Code: EPC-L5

Recommendation: Consider replacing T8 lamps with retrofit T5 conversion kit.

Assessor comments: No comments from assessor

Applicable to: BUILDING Pay back: 1.42991 years


Click to take out ☐

Energy impact: LOW

CO2 impact: MEDIUM

CO2 saved per £ spent: GOOD

Payback: SHORT



DEC

Requirements for site visits

There has long been some confusion as to exactly when a site visit is required to complete a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) assessment or Recommendation Report (RR). Much of this has arisen from the statement below which is included in the Government Methodology Document.

"There is an expectation that the energy assessor must conduct a building walk-around energy survey to inform the production of the advisory report or possess comprehensive prior knowledge of the building so that he/she can answer basic questions about key elements of the building that affect energy performance. Where an existing recommendation report or advisory report is available, the energy assessor should establish with the building occupier the actions planned or completed in response to the existing report."

Whilst the vast majority of assessors will complete a building walk-around energy survey for each new building they assess, upon any significant changes to the building or when the RR is due for renewal, a small minority of assessors have been failing to do so claiming "comprehensive prior knowledge of the building". On a number of occasions, this has resulted in insufficient evidence being available to support an audit called on the assessment.

This was not the intention of the statement and it was understood updated text for the methodology and DEC Conventions was agreed a number of years ago but this has yet to be formally published.

However, all assessors must note that, in order to produce a DEC or RR, it is a requirement that an assessor be a member of a Government Approved Accreditation Scheme. This requirement means that, in addition to any methodology requirements, assessors must also meet the requirements of the EASOB Scheme Operating Requirements (SOR) and instructions from Accreditation Schemes as they apply to assessors.

The current SOR (v1.9, p18) requirements for audit evidence are:

1. Members will provide sufficient evidence to their Accreditation Scheme to prove that the Energy Certificate lodged is correct. The evidence presented must be of sufficient clarity to enable the Accreditation Scheme to replicate the Energy Certificate in order to judge within all reasonableness that it is correct.
2. All evidence provided must be unique to the property visited and be reflective of the nominated date.
3. Acceptable evidence will consist of floor plans, photographs and any other documentation to support the data entry and the assumptions made during the assessment process.
4. Accreditation Schemes will provide their members with the appropriate guidance on what they consider to be appropriate evidence.

As such, it is not possible for an assessor to supply the required evidence in a number of circumstances without personally visiting the building under assessment. Therefore, site visits by the assessor MUST be undertaken in each of the following circumstances:

1. It is the first time that a specific assessor has assessed and lodged an assessment for the specific building under assessment;
2. A new RR needs to be produced, whether this is an original issue or an update; or
3. On any occasion when there is a significant change to the building that could affect the DEC assessment (i.e. any circumstance where the renewal of an annual DEC without a site visit exemption criteria do not apply).

In each case, the evidence must reflect the relevant nominated date ("Assessment Date"). In the case of photographs and site notes, this means they are dated to match the nominated date. In some cases, it may be acceptable to use previous floor plans etc. for the building but they must be clearly revalidated to confirm that they have been checked and are accurate at the relevant nominated date. The simplest way to achieve this is to annotate them clearly with any changes and to sign and date them to confirm accuracy on the nominated date.

For clarity, where a site visit is required or has been completed, the nominated date used in the assessment must be the date upon which that visit took place. Failure to achieve this will result in a mandatory audit failure on the grounds that insufficient appropriate evidence has been supplied.

Where an annual DEC has been renewed without a site visit (within the permitted exemptions), the nominated date should be the date upon which the new energy data was reviewed to produce the new assessment.

Photographic evidence, site notes, floor plans etc. submitted in audit evidence must relate to the latest site visit that has been required. This is to enable the Accreditation Scheme to make a reasonable assessment as to the accuracy and validity of the assessment.

Supported iOS/iPadOS operating systems

In a recent statement released from Apple on the 12 September 2023, it was stated that from April 2024, all Apps submitted to the App Store must be built with Xcode 15 and the **iOS 17** SDK (or later).

In accordance with the statement above, CoreLogic UK have notified customers that it will support testing on the most up to date iOS/iPadOS operating systems (**currently iOS 16 & 17 and iPadOS 16 & 17**) for any new App releases. However, please be aware that CoreLogic UK will cease to provide active testing on earlier Apple operating systems (i.e. iOS 15 and iPadOS 15 or older).

Their focus is to provide the best stability, privacy, and security possible. Unfortunately, it becomes increasingly difficult to continue supporting significantly older iOS/iPadOS operating systems that are no longer compatible with the latest security updates from Apple.

CoreLogic UK Apps will continue to work as intended at this point in time on your current iOS/iPadOS operating system. However, any new functionality we introduce may not be compatible on older versions, therefore **we recommend updating your device where possible to the latest iOS operating system (currently iOS 16 & 17 and iPadOS 16 & 17).**

How to check what iOS version you are running on your device:

Go to Settings > General > About (*check your 'software version' here*)

Upcoming training

Looking to become a qualified Retrofit Assessor?

Every building that undergoes energy retrofit work, first needs to be assessed by a trained and certified Retrofit Assessor. ecmk have developed formal training and certification to offer energy assessors. Ecmks PAS2035 Retrofit Assessor Scheme delivers training and CPD sessions geared around the Retrofit Assessor Role whereby DEAs will be authorised to carry out a Retrofit Assessment which is a non-intrusive on-site assessment allowing a retrofit coordinator to carry out a Medium-Term Improvement Plan based on the evidence gathered from the assessment.

PAS 2035 Retrofit Assessor Course | £300 + VAT

Date: 7th Dec (9-4pm)

[Book here](#)

Date: 19th Dec (9-4pm)

[Book here](#)

Have you claimed your free CPD?

Don't forget we offer ecmk members 4 hours free CPD every year to help you upskill and work towards your required hours for your accreditation. Call us on **0333 123 1418 (opt 4)**.



December CPD Sessions ‘Live online’

Course	Duration	Date	Time	Cost (+VAT)
Measuring and Modelling	1 hr	1 Dec	10:30	£25
SmartSurvey App - SMARTER SURVEYS	1 hr	1 Dec	14:30	£25
Heating Controls	1 hr	1 Dec	16:00	£25
Walls – Construction Party and Alternative	1 hr	4 Dec	16:00	£25
Plan Up	1 hr	5 Dec	12:30	£25
PAS Assessment	1 hr	5 Dec	16:00	£25
DEA Bootcamp 4	4 hrs	6 Dec	08:30	£50
PAS Ventilation Assessment - PAS2035	1 hr	6 Dec	16:00	£25
PAS Retrofit Ventilation – Coordinator	1.5 hr	7 Dec	10:30	£30
Lighting and Storage Heaters	1 hr	8 Dec	14:30	£25
PAS RdSAP - PAS2035	1 hr	8 Dec	16:00	£25
Mini Audit – DEA Tips and Hints	1 hr	11 Dec	16:00	£25
PAS Retrofit Assessment App training	1.5 hr	12 Dec	10:30	£30
PAS Condition Assessment - PAS2035	1 hr	13 Dec	16:00	£25
Advanced Heating	1 hr	14 Dec	16:00	£25
Rooms in the Roof	1 hr	15 Dec	14:30	£25
PAS Retrofit Thermal Bridging	1 hr	15 Dec	16:00	£25
Secondary Heating	1 hr	18 Dec	16:00	£25
Heating Primary	1 hr	19 Dec	16:00	£25
DEA Bootcamp 2	4 hrs	20 Dec	08:30	£50
Glazing	1 hr	20 Dec	16:00	£25
Flats and Maisonettes	1 hr	21 Dec	10:30	£25
Water Heating	1 hr	21 Dec	12:30	£25
PAS Retrofit Assessment App	1.5 hr	21 Dec	15:30	£30
Under Floor Insulation (UFI) R. Coordinator	1 hr	22 Dec	16:00	£25

For further information, more course dates and to book your place: [click here](#). Alternatively, email support@ecmk.co.uk or call **0333 123 1418 (opt 4)** and tell us what you'd like to book.

[Book training](#)

****Claim 1 hour CPD for reading this Technical Bulletin****

Once you have read this technical bulletin, please upload a copy of your notes to Assessor Hub, under the 'CPD and Training' tab to claim 1 hour CPD, as below.

Create New CPD
Create CPD

Home / Cpd Qualifications / Create

New CPD

Back Save Reset

* Training Provider ecmk

Course Id

* Course Name CPD - Reading - ecmk Tech Bulletin (September 2022)

* Qualification Type DEA

Hours 1

* Reason For Course Other Professional Development

* Date Attained 06/09/2022

Evidence Files Choose Files Evidence - ...t 2022.docx Evidence - Notes taken from T6 Sept 2022.docx

For further details about claiming CPD – read our [blog](#).

Christmas support opening hours

Should you need us over the holidays, please see below:

- **Friday 22nd December – 8am – 8pm**
- Saturday 23rd December – Closed
- Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) – Closed
- Monday 25th December (Christmas Day) – Closed
- Tuesday 26th December (Boxing Day) - Closed
- **Wednesday 27th December – 8am – 8pm**
- **Thursday 28th December – 8am – 8pm**
- **Friday 29th December – 8am – 8pm**
- Saturday 30th December – Closed
- Sunday 31st January (New Year's Eve) – Closed
- Monday 1st January (New Year's Day) – Closed
- **Tuesday 2nd January – 8am – 8pm**

Email support@ecmk.co.uk or call **0333 123 1418**