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EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive - Implementation Advisory Group established

The EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPD) was published in the European Journal on 4 January 2003. The Directive has far-reaching implications for the owners, operators and developers of buildings in the UK.

There are also major issues to be resolved regarding the large number of independent experts needed to meet the EPD's building certification and plant inspection requirements.

Key provisions of the Directive are:

- minimum requirements for the energy performance of all new buildings
- minimum requirements for the energy performance of large existing buildings subject to major renovation
- energy certification of all buildings (with frequently visited buildings providing public services being required to prominently display the energy certificate)
- regular mandatory inspection of boilers and air conditioning systems in buildings.

To help the Government implement the Directive, a high-level working group has been established by key professional bodies and trade associations, with seventeen organisations forming the Directive Implementation Advisory Group (DIAG).

Following the inaugural meeting, Professor David Strong, Managing Director of BRE's Energy Division and DIAG's acting Chairman, said "The EPD provides a major opportunity to achieve the step-change in buildings-related energy efficiency called for in the PIU Energy Review. However, practical implementation of the Directive will be very demanding and a pressing need exists to start the essential preparatory work as quickly as possible".

The Directive provides a significant and realistic opportunity to substantially reduce energy use in buildings, which accounts for nearly 50% of all UK CO₂ emissions. Major issues remain to be resolved - including those associated with building labelling, certification and plant inspection - with important implications in terms of research, development, demonstration and training. DIAG is seeking early engagement with the relevant Government department to ensure that the Directive is successfully transposed into law within the three year deadline set by the European Parliament and Council.

Notes for Editors

The member organisations of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive Implementation Advisory Group (DIAG) are:

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
The Institute of Energy
Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
Royal Institute of British Architects
Property Environment Group
Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry Board
Institute of Refrigeration
Federation of Authorised Energy Rating Organisations
Energy Systems Trade Association
BRE
British Energy Efficiency Federation
Association for the Conservation of Energy
Construction Products Association
Federation of Environmental Trade Associations
European Association for the Conservation of Energy
Heating and Ventilating Contractors Association
Thermal Insulation Manufacturers and Suppliers Association

A copy of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is available as a pdf file from harveyt@bre.co.uk