

Shortfalls of Part L

EPG workshop summary

On 11th July 2018, the CIBSE EPG undertook a workshop exercise amongst the committee to (briefly) discuss the shortfalls of Building Regulations Part L in anticipation for any upcoming consultation that may arise for the next revision. This carbon bite provides a summary of the topics discussed. Please do get in touch if you would like us to debate any other issues related to building energy performance!

What works well?

- Sets a common structure for energy efficiency considerations in buildings
- Provides a mechanism for undertaking energy & carbon calculations
- Has separate guidance for new-build and refurbishment works
- Ensures that all parts of the building fabric are considered (e.g. elemental approach)

What doesn't work well?

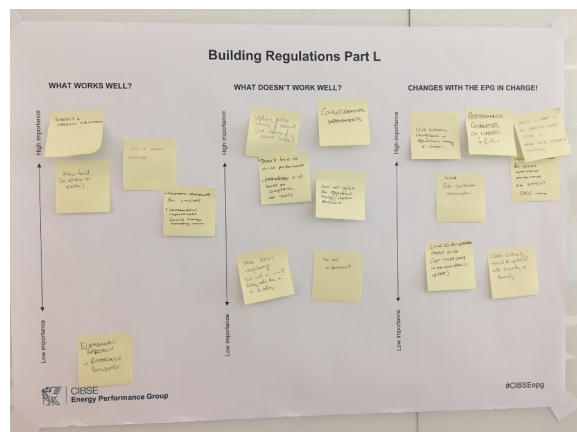
- It doesn't encourage designers to push beyond the minimum
- Lack of enforcement and on-site checking post construction
- It doesn't focus on in-use performance (i.e. operational energy or carbon)
- It doesn't consider future changes to carbon factors / electrification of the grid
- The NCM calculation methodology is restrictive in places (e.g. domestic hot water loads)
- Consequential improvements on refurbishment works are complex to navigate
- The metering and sub-metering requirements aren't prescriptive enough

Changes that would make Part L even better!

- Provide a mechanism for making operational performance calculations compulsory
- Include requirements to achieve in-use performance targets (e.g. DEC's should be mandatory, and a different rating scale such as 1-7 could be introduced to loosen the comparison to EPC's).
- Link to an updated metering guide (e.g. Part L currently refers to TM39 published in 2009)
- More regular updating of reference data (e.g. carbon intensities) to ensure that buildings adapt to the changing energy sector in the UK

Mark Dowson, BuroHappold, July 2018

Workshop photos



This Carbon Bite has been written by a member of the CIBSE Energy Performance Group and does not necessarily reflect the views of CIBSE. CIBSE and the author are not responsible for the interpretation or application of the information it contains.