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. DECs should be mandatory, and a different rating scale such as 1-7 could be introduced to loosen the comparison to EPCs).
- 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

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Workshop photos

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