

# Part L & Part F Update

## Building Regulations Customer Information - April 2006

*As you may already be aware, new Building Regulations documents have now been published for Part L & Part F. These are effective from 6th April 2006.*

You will be relieved to hear that compliance doesn't have to be immediate. Due to the short notice, transitional arrangements have been given as follows:

- All major building work without full plans approval by 6 April must comply with the 2006 regulations.
- Work with approval must begin within 12 months in order to comply with the existing 2002 regulations.
- For Part F requirements on Replacement windows – compliance is from 1st October 2006.

### Part L Update

Fortunately there are no new surprises and the information we published in our first Part L update is still factual. We are pleased that our efforts in pushing for the 1.2 centre pane option for replacement doors has been kept.

For clarity on new build curtain walling the vision areas are treated as windows and opaque areas treated as walls. For replacement curtain walling there is a formula within the document to calculate the overall U Value based upon the percentage of vision area.

A note of caution to all is the inclusion of the requirement for most new buildings to undergo pressure testing. It is now vital that you identify the pressure seal line of the building and ensure that there is a seal to this from your framing. The use of robust details will help with compliance in this respect.

We have been working as part of the Facades group of CAB to publish a guide to the new document Setting The Standard 7. This is in its final checking stage and is expected to go into print in May, copies can then be purchased direct from the CAB.

### Part F Update

Part F, Ventilation, is now a more comprehensive document that has implications for house-builders, social housing professionals, heating & ventilation engineers, product manufacturers (such as window fabricators) and consultants.

The link with Part L is more integrated than before. The ventilation provisions have been designed to ventilate buildings having air permeability down to 3m<sup>3</sup>/h/m<sup>2</sup> at 50 Pa.

More guidance has been given for domestic mechanical and natural ventilation systems that are more detailed than can be described here and which are more use to the Building Designer who will be responsible for specifying the requirement for background ventilation.

Ventilator areas are now described in terms of equivalent area, instead of free area, as it is a better measure of airflow

performance. BS EN 13141-1:2004 includes a method for measuring equivalent area.

New dwellings now need to achieve a total background ventilation equivalent area figure, rather than the free area minimums set for each room in the 1995 document. This dwelling figure is calculated based on a number of criteria, such as floor area, number of storeys, and occupancy levels. This also typically means more background ventilation is required than before. The size of the background ventilators to achieve this will not necessarily have to be bigger; the size of the product will be dependent upon its air flow efficiency.

Ventilators will have to be marked with their equivalent area performance, although building control will adopt a 'flexible approach' until October 2006. Ventilators will either be marked with equivalent area in mm<sup>2</sup> or equivalent area in mm<sup>2</sup> per metre (where equivalent area of product varies according to length).

All replacement windows should include trickle ventilators, unless the room is ventilated adequately by other installed ventilation provisions. The actual requirements per room are given in the ADF. Night latch positions are only to be used in exceptional circumstances. Clarification of the term 'exceptional circumstances' is expected soon from relevant trade associations.

Window openings, this is now called 'purge' ventilation, (this was 'rapid' ventilation in the 1995 document), and further guidance on openings is given in Appendix C of the document.

For non-domestic situations the recommended air supply rate for offices has been increased from 8 l/s per person to 10 l/s per person. As before, compliance levels for non-domestic buildings vary according to type and most of these situations require reference to other specific technical publications.

In summary the implication is that it will be the Building Designers responsibility to specify the trickle ventilation requirement. The number and size of vents can then be determined with the manufacturers published performance data.

**We will bring you more information on both Part F and Part L as things are clarified over the coming months.**



SAPA BUILDING SYSTEMS LIMITED

Sapa Building Systems Limited, Alexandra Way Ashchurch Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 8NB

T : 01684 853500 F : 01684 851850 E : info.buildingsystems.uk@sapagroup.com W : www.sapagroup.com/uk/buildingsystems