

Harmonised assessment procedures for the Building Energy Performance declaration or certification are essential to support our industry towards (Nearly) Zero Energy Performing Buildings by or after 2020

The outcome of COP21 in Paris, last December, adds to the urgency to achieve an energy efficient build environment. All countries around the globe have the duty to reach the targets formulated in Paris. Does this lead to more Zero Energy Buildings or Positive Energy buildings? That depends on the way we assess the energy performance and determine the cost effectiveness. Yes, the answer will be positive; if investors, building developers and real-estate investors are willingly to weigh their investment to reach ZEB or PEB level over a longer period and award the added value due to this rating in a correct way.

The EPB-overarching standard, the EN ISO 52000-1, offers the backbone to assess the overall energy performance of a building in a correct way. Supporting the decarbonizing of the building sector. This is the goal of the holistic approach as chosen by CEN/TC371 and the ISO/TC163&205 Joint Working Group for the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB). An approach which reconciles climate and energy needs. With this EN ISO 52000 EPB series of standards and other CEN-EPB standards, the building industry is expected to be in a much better position to be rewarded for energy efficiency improvements with the best available technology and practice. These EPB series of standards will enable to assess the overall energy performance of a building. This means that any combination of technologies can be used to reach the intended energy performance level. The competition between different technologies is best served by this holistic approach as this is a key driver for technological innovation and change. Countries using this approach for several years have experienced large-scale implementation and cost savings on a variety of new technologies. This includes innovative thermal insulation concepts, windows, heating, cooling, lighting, ventilation and domestic hot-water, building automation and control, and renewable energy systems. What does this mean for our business? For new building and system design we have to be more innovative to reach the zero energy performance level, towards the energy positive buildings.

In this issue of the REHVA Journal the importance of certified performance product data supporting the development of high performance buildings is presented. The next issue will focus on the EPB standards that are expected to be published for Formal Vote around October 2016. ■



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