

SPAIN

Status

A brief description of the most important elements in Spanish regulations and certification/subsidy schemes related to solar thermal products is given here below. The description is valid for November 2007.

Regulations

- Building Technical Code, CTE is in force. The use of solar thermal to produce hot water in most of new buildings is mandatory and it is also mandatory the use of certificated solar collectors.

Water installations-regulation

- The basic regulation is described in R.D. 1218/2002 (RITE: Reglamento de Instalaciones Térmicas en los Edificios y sus Instrucciones Técnicas Complementarias). There is a specific chapter focused to solar thermal installations.

Subsidies

- Since 2006 all the subsidies given by regional governments because the institute for Energy Diversification and Efficiency (IDAE) has transferred this competence. The requirements are the same (more and less) but each region decides what kind of installation is more suitable to receive subsidies. In the case of Canary region, only solar thermal installations with more than 75m² can ask subsidies.

Testing

- There are three accredited laboratories according to EN 12975-2:2006
INTA, Instituto de Técnica Aeroespacial
CENER, Centro Nacional de Energías Renovables
LABSOL-ITC, Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias

Certification

- Installer certification: No national certification scheme for installers.
- AENOR is working to be empowered for Solar Keymark certification.
- A new rule approval on January 2007 (ITC/71/2007) establishes the requirements in order to certificate solar collectors and solar factory systems. In both cases it is necessary the testing according to EN 12975-2:2006 in an accredited laboratory (not necessary Spanish laboratory) and an ISO 9000 certification in the production process.

Insurance

House insurance does not include solar thermal installations.

Others

Actions taken in the project period

The actions taken within the project period for:

- co-ordinating the Spanish requirements in regulations and subsidy schemes with European standards and Solar Keymark certification
- implementing - with respect to solar thermal systems - the European directives on energy performance of buildings and energy labelling of hot water tanks

are listed below:

Regulation

- An agreement among Spanish laboratories was promoted in order to elaborate one document related to the testing of collectors with different sizes (the same collector). The conditions declared in Solar Keymark scheme rules were adopted.
- Because of the delay to publish the European standard for calculation the influence of solar thermal systems on the energy performance of the buildings, no action could be taken with respect to this.

Subsidies

Testing

- INTA and CENER are now prepared to run all the test sequence described in EN12975-2:2006 and ITC is going to be prepared on spring 2008.

Certification

- The national certification scheme for solar thermal collectors and factory made systems has been organised to accept the Solar Keymark certification.
- Several contacts and advising to AENOR (Certification Body).

Others

- Solar keymark Brochure has been translated into Spanish and it has been distributed among solar thermal association (ASIT) and national standardization committee (solar thermal systems).

Remaining trade barriers at the end of the project

Regulation

- No barriers to trade related to regulation.

Subsidies

- No barriers to trade related to subsidies but anyway most of the subsidies are going to disappear because now solar thermal installations to produce hot water are mandatory.

Testing

- No barriers to trade related to testing.

Certification

- Certification (national) demands an ISO 9000 qualification on production and/or assembling. There are not flexible agreements among Certification Bodies, so in most of the cases it is necessary to issue a second ISO 9000 certificate.
- The language used in test reports and ISO 9000 certificates is delaying to obtain the national certification because most of them are not written in English, so it is necessary and official translation.

Others

- There is not demand on getting the Solar Keymark because it is not mandatory in national certification; it is a voluntary mark so it can not be included in an official rule.

Action needed to overcome remaining trade barriers

Regulation

- European standard for calculation the influence of solar thermal systems on the energy performance of the buildings is required.

Subsidies

- No actions needed.

Testing

- Laboratories must be prepared to test according to EN 12976-2:2006.

Certification

- Make more attractive Solar Keymark certification to the Spanish manufacturers.
- Certification conditions must be more flexible (acceptance of different Certification Bodies, and so on,..)

Insurance

- No actions needed.

Others

- Make national work shops, disseminating status and results of the project to the interested parties / target groups.