

## Initial country report: PORTUGAL

The situation in Portugal with respect to requirements in regulations and subsidy schemes is briefly described and then followed by a list of actions proposed to make “European co-ordination” of these requirements.

### ***Background/status***

#### **Regulations**

##### Building Regulation

The new codes for buildings, related with the EU Directive 2002/91/CE, were published in the Official Portuguese Journal (Diario da Republica), on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2006.

The official documents are:

**Building Certification National System on Energy and Interior Air Quality** (Decreto-Lei n.º 78/2006. DR 67 SÉRIE I-A de 2006-04-04):

It transposes to the Portuguese legislation the Directive n.º 2002/91/CE, of the European Parliament and Council of 2002, 16th December, related with energy performance of buildings.

**Air Conditioning Energy Systems Code (RSECE)** (Decreto-Lei n.º 79/2006. DR 67 SÉRIE I-A de 2006-04-04):

It defines hygienic and thermal comfort conditions; it imposes rules for the air conditioning systems efficiency, for its maintenance and for keeping the quality of interior air, to achieve a better global energy efficiency of buildings.

**Thermal Performance Building Code (RCCTE)** (Decreto-Lei n.º 80/2006. DR 67 SÉRIE I-A de 2006-04-04):

It improves the already existing code, almost duplicating the thermal performance request in the new and renovated buildings and imposing the usage of solar thermal collectors for hot water production if there is favourable conditions for exposure (if the roof or cover runs between SE and SW without significant obstructions) in a base of 1m<sup>2</sup> per person (the total can be reduced to 50% if space is necessary for other important usages of the building).

For performance calculation of such systems, the certification according to the European Standards is needed.

This performance calculation is done using a programme developed by INETI - Solterm programme.

The installers of these systems must also be certified installers.

The solar system must have a six year guarantee.

As usually the new codes will enter in force three months after their publication, meaning that in beginning of July 2006, all new projects for buildings have to be in accordance with the new regulations.

## Subsidies

The present financing programme of Solar Thermal Systems, *MAPE*, allows financing of systems installed: i) by private companies for industrial applications or for water heating in Hotels and other similar applications; ii) by public institutions in public installations, e.g., sports pavilions, swimming pools, houses for elderly people, ...; iii) private companies that install solar systems and sell energy in the form of hot water distribution to other individual persons or companies.

In this financing programme only systems that use solar collectors Certified by the Portuguese Accredited Body for product Certification – CERTIF, are considered. Solar Keymark is also accepted, although this is not stated in the Legal documents.

This financing programme has an additional request, which is that only systems installed with a six-year guaranty can be considered.

In the case of systems installed by individual persons, there is a tax deduction, but there is no technical requirement on the equipments that benefits from this deduction (up to 30% of total cost of the system with a maximum of 700 €). There is already a proposal from the General Direction of Geology and Energy in order to impose the same requirements as in *MAPE* but this was not yet approved by the Ministry of Finances.

In the financing scheme of Solar Thermal Systems, *MAPE*, part of the financing scheme is proportional to the energy delivered by the solar system. The reference programme for this calculation is Solterm.

Also in the Region of Madeira, there is a Financing scheme – *SIEST* – for Domestic Systems, which uses the Solterm programme for calculation of energy delivered by the system. The financing is proportional to the energy delivered by the system.

## Testing

- INETI is the only accredited test institute which performs tests according EN 12975 and EN 12976.

## Certification

- Product certification: The national certification scheme for solar thermal products was developed by CERTIF with the collaboration of INETI and within the Public Initiative “Solar Hot Water for Portugal”. This was done in 2002/2003. The certification scheme is based on the European Standards and it covers both Collectors and Factory Made Systems. This certification scheme is identical to Solar Keymark scheme
- CERTIF is also an empowered body for Solar Keymark Certification
- Installer certification: A Certification scheme for solar installers was developed. Solar Installers can have a Certificate of Professional Proficiency (CAP), which is given by the General Direction of Geology and Energy. The regulation of this Certification Scheme is the Portuguese regulation – Portaria n° 1451/2004 (26<sup>th</sup> November)

The development of the different certification schemes (Products and Persons) was made in the frame of the Public Initiative “Solar Hot Water for Portugal” of General Direction of Geology and Energy with the participation of INETI, ADENE (National Energy Agency), SPES (National Section of ISES) and APISOLAR (National Association of Solar Industry).

## **Insurance**

There are no special insurance schemes for installation of Solar Thermal Systems.

## **Others**

In the frame of the Public Initiative “Solar Hot Water for Portugal”, one of the activities was the establishment of a Solar Thermal Observatory. The Observatory, responsibility of ADENE, established and applies a methodology to follow up the components, installations and installers present in the Solar Thermal Market. It also evaluates the growth of the market and the needs of the users in relation to these products. The reports prepared by the Observatory are available for download in [www.aguaquentesolar.com](http://www.aguaquentesolar.com).

## ***Actions needed***

The actions needed for implementing - with respect to solar thermal systems - the European directives on energy performance of buildings are listed below:

## **Regulation**

Since a European standard procedure for calculation of the influence of solar thermal systems on the energy performance of buildings is being prepared by CEN, there will be a need to compare it with the present requirements in the new regulation of buildings which use as reference SolTerm Programme, developed by INETI.

## **Subsidies**

National legislation needs clarification in order that there will be equivalence between the Solar Keymark Certification and the Certification according to the Portuguese Quality System.

National legislation of tax deduction needs clarification in order to be applicable only to systems certified according to the National or European scheme (Solar Keymark).

There is already recognition by the General-Direction of Geology and Energy of the need of these changes. In the framework of SolarKeymark II project, the General-Direction of Geology and Energy will be informed of any important developments in European Certification of products in order that the interpretation of the National Legislation incorporates these developments.

## **Testing**

Although the Certification based on European Standards is already implemented and several products are already being certified, there is still a need for clarification of the tests performed and their interpretation among manufacturers and installers of Solar Thermal Collectors and Systems.

## **Certification**

Also in the case of Certification, it is important to develop actions for clarification of the scheme and also of Solar Keymark scheme.

## **Insurance**

To influence, in order to obtain better conditions for insurance, for certified systems.

## **Others**

Development of Guides, for the maintenance of medium and large solar thermal installations. Preparation of materials for courses specifically dedicated to maintenance of installations.

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