

Initial country report: SPAIN

The situation in Spain 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

This is brief description of the most important elements:

Regulations

Building Regulation (general)

- Last 28th March, 2006 a new building regulation was established: Building Technical Code, CTE. The use of solar thermal to produce hot water in new buildings is going to be obligatory in six months (since 28th March). Solar collectors must be certificated by Spanish government (see below).

Solar collectors and factory-made systems certification (by Spanish government)

- The market is waiting for a change in the regulation in order to update the present situation: only solar collectors tested by Spanish laboratories according to EN´s can be certificated (foreseen date: September 2006)

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.
- In CTE, subclause HE4, conditions for solar thermal size and circuits are given.

Subsidies

- Since 2006 all the subsidies will be given by regional governments. The institute for Energy Diversification and Efficiency (IDAE) has transferred this competence and each regional government can establish their own requirements (technical requirements will be the same probably because they are included in CTE and RITE).

Testing

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

Certification

- Installer certification: No national certification scheme for installers.
- AENOR is working to be empowered for Solar Keymark certification.

Insurance

Others

Actions needed

The general actions needed for:

- Promote revision of national requirements.
- Promote the implementation - with respect to solar thermal systems – of the European directives on energy performance of buildings and energy labelling of hot water tanks.

are the following:

Regulation

- Studying and adapting of the coming European standard for calculation the influence of solar thermal systems on the energy performance of the buildings in the procedures used for calculating the energy performance of buildings in the national building regulation.
- It is necessary to modify the certification conditions as soon as possible.

Subsidies

- Subsidies should focus on system level and not only on solar collectors and of course over the energy supplied by the system.

Testing

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

Certification

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

Others

- Make national work shops, disseminating status and results of the project to the interested parties / target groups not already involved directly in the project.
- Getting the Solar Keymark should be less expensive due to a reduction of the effort required for (re)testing and auditing