



Building Regulation Update
Part L1B – Conservation of Fuel & Power in
Dwellings - Works to existing buildings
In force from 6th April 2006



1. Introduction

The forthcoming changes to Part L come into effect on April 6th 2006. The current part L1 for dwellings is being divided into L1A (new build) and L1B (work in existing buildings).

Part L1A significantly increases the bar for new build dwellings and does away with the elemental and target u-value calculation methods in favour of design stage and post construction SAP calcs. The changes are far reaching and will be dealt with separately in another EDDC Guidance Note.

This guidance note is intended to raise awareness of the key changes to the requirements under Part L1B.

1.1 Application

L1B applies to work to existing dwellings:

- Extensions
- Material change of use creating a new dwelling
- Material alterations
- Provision of a controlled fitting (windows etc)
- Provision or extension of a controlled service
- Provision or extension of a thermal element

1.2 Exemptions

Special considerations for historic buildings (e.g listed buildings) are still possible, however any departures from Part L1B should be discussed with Building Control.

2. Requirements

L1B provides deemed to satisfy provisions for all aspects. If greater design flexibility is required a new reduced data SAP (SAP/RdSAP) for existing building may be used. Alternatively area weighted average u-values may also be used provided the minimum u-values for an individual element are not exceeded (i.e walls 0.7, roof 0.35, floor 0.7, windows etc 3.3 W/m²K)

2.1 Building Fabric

Building elements must be insulated to meet the revised u-values in L1B as indicated in table 6 as copied from Part L1B and shown below:

Table 6 Standards for thermal elements W/M ² K		
Element	(a) Standard for new elements in an extension	(b) Standard for replacement element in an existing building
Wall	0.30	0.35*
Pitched roof – Insulation at ceiling level	0.16	0.16

Pitched roof – Insulation between rafters	0.20	0.20
Flat roof or roof with integral insulation	0.20	0.25
Floors	0.22	0.25**

Notes:

** A lesser provision may be appropriate where meeting such as standard would result in a reduction in floor area of >5% in the internal floor area of the room bounded by the wall.*

*** A lesser provision may be appropriate where meeting the provision would create a significant problem in relation to adjoining floor levels.*

Reference to roof includes the roof parts of dormer windows.

New to Part L are retrospective requirements to upgrade elements which are to be renovated. As a general rule, where >25% of the surface area of an element (e.g roof, walls, floor) is being renovated and the existing construction falls below a given threshold u-value, the element must be upgraded to a minimum improved level (see Table 7 below). Dispensations may apply if the floor area would decrease by >5%. Speak to your Building Control Officer if uncertain.

Guidance is given as to what constitutes renovation and is taken to include (though not limited to):

- a) Renewal of roof covering
- b) Renewal of ceiling to cold roof space
- c) Renewal of internal or external finish to solid wall – e.g re-plastering may trigger a requirement for insulation and dry lining to inner face.
- d) Replacement floor screed or timber flooring.
- e) Replacement cavity wall ties – May trigger requirement for cavity fill insulation subject to suitability.

Upgrading retained thermal elements		
Element	(a) Threshold value W/m²K	(b) Improved value W/M²K
Cavity wall*	0.70	0.55
Other wall type	0.70	0.35
Floor	0.70	0.25
Pitched roof – Insulation at ceiling level	0.35	0.16
Pitched roof – Insulation between rafters	0.35	0.20
Flat roof or roof with integral insulation	0.35	0.25

Note:

** This only applies in the case of a cavity wall capable of accepting insulation. Where this is not the case it should be treated as for other wall types.*

2.2 Controlled Fittings

L1B further improves the u-value for windows, doors and roof lights for new extensions to a max 1.8W/m²K. The standard for replacement windows is unchanged at 2.0W/m²K.

This basically means that argon filled low-e double glazed windows (or equivalent) will be the new standard for new extensions.

2.3 Controlled Services

Energy efficient lighting requirements have increased to 1 in 4 light fittings or 1 energy efficient light fitting per 25m².

Limitations on design flexibility in relation to mechanical ventilation systems have also been added. Refer to the full document for further details.

Other provisions in relation to water and space heating are similar to the current 2002 edition provisions.

If in doubt ask!

The full document can be now be downloaded from the ODPM website <http://www.odpm.gov.uk>.

Should you have any question relating to specific projects then please feel free to contact your local East Devon Building Control Officer for further advice on 01395 517482.