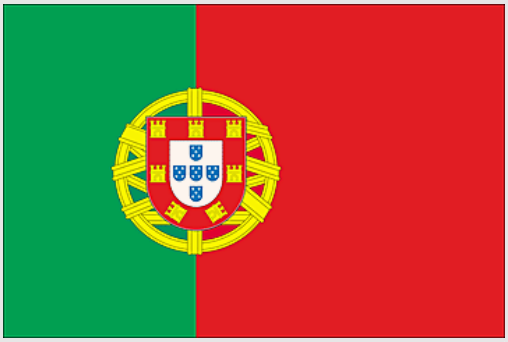
Portuguese Regulation (RCCTE)

Summary



The RCCTE imposes the usage of solar thermal collectors for hot water production if there are favourable conditions for exposure (if the roof or cover runs between SE and SW without significant obstructions), in a basis of 1m2 per person (the total can be reduced up to 50%).
Other important requirements of the Portuguese STO defined within RCCTE are the following:
- For performance calculation of such systems, the product certification according to the European Standards is needed.
- This performance calculation is done using a programme developed by INETI, the SolTerm code.
- The installers of these systems must also be certified installers.
- The solar system must be guaranteed by a six year maintenance contract, covering the whole solar thermal system.

Ordinance Facts

Ordinance title	Portuguese Regulation on Thermal Performance of Buildings
Type of ordinance	renewable heat law
Starting date	July 2007 (1st phase); July 2008 (2nd phase)
Duration	Unlimited
Geographical area	Portugal (national level)
No. of inhabitants	10 millions, 92,389 km²
Scope	All buildings.
Technology priorities	Solar thermal.
Size of the solar heating system required	1 m2 per person
Alternative measures	The regulation accepts also other renewable energy sources (PV, biomass, wind, geothermal, etc.).
Executing authority	Building certification: qualified expert; building permits: local authorities
Execution mechanism	The compliance with the law is to be verified by a qualified expert and the process shall be presented to ADENE (or AREAM, for the Madeira island), which emits a certificate.

Development and Implementation

Background	In 2006, the legislation transposing the EU Directive 2002/91/CE (EPBD) was concluded and this was the final step for the implementation of the first solar thermal obligation in Portugal. This obligation is integrated in the new Portuguese Thermal Performance Building Regulation (RCCTE).
Objectives	- To reduce the Portuguese energetic dependence, - To increase the energy efficiency and to reduce the CO2 emissions - To reduce the energy cost, and to increase the service quality
Process	The law was developed through a top-down approach, initiated by political decision makers. Hearings have been carried out with professional associations (architects, engineers, and technical engineers), housing construction companies, etc, in a public discussion, with special open sessions with all the stakeholders.

Timing	The law was enacted in April 2006. The preparation phase, including a Government change, had an approximate duration of 3 years and 6 months.
Quality schemes product	yes
Quality schemes installation	no
Quality schemes other	yes
Flanking measures	Courses for installers and dissemination campaigns on good practices. Certification scheme for installers.
Supervision	Check of the overall design process concerning the Thermal Performance of the Building. Check after the building construction.
Sanctioning fees	no
Costs for implementing	Not available

Monitoring and Results

Monitoring	Copies of building energy certificates are centrally collected.
Quantitative results	By the end of August 2008, Design Regulation Conformity Declarations / Energetic Performance and Interior Air Quality Certificates had been registered.
Costs borne by the enduser	The known surplus cost are related to the certification process reported above.
Effects on other sectors	Not available.
Communication	All information concerning the SCE Management System is available on line.
Future outlook	A revision of the legislation (SCE, RSECE, and RCCTE) is foreseen for April 2011.

Lessons Learned

Barriers faced and overcome	As the Portuguese STO is quite recent, there is not a study on the subject. However, the main barriers were all the natural barriers for all what is new (e.g. new standards for the qualification of products).
Success factors	Simple and understandable law Freedom of choice between alternatives Participated process with the stakeholders
Potential for improvement	There are no significant errors. Only it was necessary to clarify some requirements through the answers to FAQs.
Recommendations	To be implemented, a STO needs qualified people, qualified products and qualified enterprises.
This STO was provided by	INETI – www.ineti.pt

Downloads and links related to this STO are available under the STO Database under www.solarordinances.eu

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