

FOREWORD

Our joint responsibility

The main reason why the EPBD (Energy Performance of Buildings Directive) came about was because there was a pressing need for formal guidelines to convince us that we needed to manage energy in a more responsible way. No matter whether it's a question of preventing environmental impacts that are impossible to repair or of managing oil, gas and coal supplies – so that these finite resources can last longer or, quite simply, our dependency on imported fuels can be reduced – it is quite clear that nothing will happen without appropriate legislation. This is an unfortunate, but sadly true, fact.

Of course, it is understandable, to a certain degree, that every one of us sees our own individual contributions towards global energy use as extremely marginal. On the other hand, if everyone thought this way, nothing would ever slow down the rate of climate change, of which we are so often reminded. Nor could we prevent the use of oil, gas and coal increasing at a rate that by far exceeds the resources found in new deposits. We have reached and passed 'peak oil'. In other words, we are no longer discovering enough new fossil energy sources to meet the increase in world demands. And, even if the production levels of oil, gas and coal in 2030 are predicted to be the same as they were in 1980, the basic premises are radically different. The population of the world will have doubled and our societies become industrialized to a completely different level than in 1980 and, therefore, critically dependent on sources of fuel.

Work on the EPBD identified a number of areas that were deemed necessary to regulate, if really significant results are to be achieved. These areas include heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.

Extensive framework of regulations

Very few private individuals or business people have the drive to penetrate the massive flow of information and legislation surrounding differ-

ent EU directives. Nonetheless, we are all expected to follow these well-meant and imperative orders. A lot has already been written, but we at the *Swegon Air Academy* are convinced that by publishing *Simply EPBD* we will help fill in a number of missing gaps. Quite simply, the book offers easily accessible information that each and everyone who owns a building – large or small – ought to read. It must also be mentioned that the Directive is now in the process of being updated and becoming more stringent, as it is quite clear that the 2002 version has not resulted in the intended positive effects.

Directives are not all that easy to understand

Previously published works have often been written by members of the legal profession and are, for many of us, exceptionally hard to penetrate. By publishing this book, we would like to make a contribution towards helping everyone who is obliged to follow the legislation and regulations to understand the importance and implications of their wordings. The contents of *Simply EPBD* have been written in a popular and easily accessible style, in order to explain the consequences that the EPBD and other directives will have on all of us. Of course, it is easy to object and say that they have to be written in a way that leaves no room for misunderstandings. It is, therefore, important to emphasize that this book can, in no way, replace the wordings of legislation or different directives. Instead, this is a serious attempt to explain complex texts, so that everyday people can understand the main points. We also touch on the implications of the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive that is expected to come into force in 2010.

Tight schedule

It was already realized when the Energy Directive came into force that the implementation schedule would be difficult to keep. It has also been seen that a great number of countries have been forced to use all available methods and excuses to postpone introduction. Despite this, a number of countries have not been able to meet their obligations within the stipulated extended time limits. In Sweden, this has mainly been due to

the limited availability of qualified and accredited inspectors and that the time required to train and accredit them has exceeded that allowed by the time schedule. When it comes to property owners who require energy certificates for their buildings, it is natural to ask what will happen, if they do not complete the stipulated inspections and assessments within the time limits. This and other issues are discussed in the book.

Target groups

This book is aimed at all property owners who manage buildings requiring energy certificates. The EPBD concern us all in some way or another – a message that we want to convey in this book, along with recommendations regarding how the requirements can be met. We have chosen to take a closer look at some of the EU member states, but why these in particular? The answer is simple; the choice was dictated by the fact that it was relatively easy to obtain the necessary information about them. Readers who are interested in finding out more about their own countries can refer to the Internet addresses given at the end of the book, via which further information is available.

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