Building energy certification is a procedure where the energy efficiency is determined and a building energy certificate is issued.

In Latvia building energy certification is introduced with the Law on Buildings Energy Efficiency. When selling or renting a separate apartment or a part of a nonresidential building, an energy efficiency certificate is not needed. At the same time, if a proprietor of a building wants to assess the energy efficiency of the building, he can do it in cases the law doesn't anticipate it. The option to assess a separate apartment is not excluded, as well; however it can be practical only if the apartment has own autonomous heating system.

Building energy certification is a tool that allows the potential buyer or tenant of the building to find out what is the energy consumption of the offered building during operation. Similarly, assessment of energy efficiency can be useful for the proprietors or managers of the buildings. When assessing the energy efficiency of a building, the energy auditor calculates not only what is the energy consumption of the building, but gives also suggestions for improvement of energy efficiency of the building.

The regulations determine two types of certificates:

- certificate of energy efficiency of a building (for existing buildings) that is valid for 10 years;

- temporary certificate of energy efficiency of a building (for newly erected buildings and building to be reconstructed) that is valid 2 years.

Pursuant to the parameters included in the energy certificate or in the interim energy certificate, the proprietor, manager or purchaser of the building can compare the parameters of the particular building with other buildings. Similarly he can decide also on options to implement the suggestions of the energy auditor for improvement of the energy efficiency of the building (e.g., insulate a building

To assess the impact of communications of the building on the **environment**, the calculated and measured carbon dioxide emission values (kg CO_2/m^2) are used; the closer these parameters are to zero, the smaller if the emission of the building. If the parameters approach 160 kg CO_2/m^2, it means that the building has to big negative impact on the environment. It has two reasons – type of fuel energy and its emission factor or the increased energy consumption.

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