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WHAT IS SAP?

The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) methodology for assessing and comparing the energy and environmental performance of dwellings. Its purpose is to provide accurate and reliable assessments of dwelling energy performances that are needed to underpin energy and environmental policy initiatives.

SAP works by assessing how much energy a dwelling will consume and how much carbon dioxide (CO₂) will be emitted in delivering a defined level of comfort and service provision, based on standardised occupancy conditions. This enables a like for like comparison of dwelling performance.

SAP was developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) for the former Department of the Environment in 1992, as a tool to help deliver its energy efficiency policies. The SAP methodology is based on the BRE's Domestic Energy Model (BREDEM), which provides a framework for calculating the energy consumption of dwellings. In 1994 SAP was cited in Part L of the Building Regulations for England and Wales as a means of assessing dwelling performance. Reduced Data SAP (RDSAP) was introduced in 2005 as a lower cost method of assessing the performance of existing dwellings.

SAP compliance is a core element of Part L of the building regulations. Prior to obtaining building control approval for the construction of a new home a SAP calculation should be carried out by a qualified SAP assessor to show that the intended design will not emit more CO₂ than is permitted under Part L.

In order to comply it will not normally be sufficient to adopt the minimum guidance U values shown in Part L. One or more elements will need to be improved upon to ensure compliance.

A full copy of the SAP documentation can be found on the following link:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/emissions/sap/sap.aspx>

VentRite employ a full time certified SAP assessor who can carry out your SAP calculations and advise how compliance may be achieved.