

Information for the Client

Golden Rules to Ensure Part L Is Met Ensure air tightness is thought about at the concept stage of the project and designed in from the start.

Ensure that all materials and components used for air tightness purposes have a similar specification and longevity, as all others used on the project. There is no reason that buildings constructed to an airtight standard should be stuffy for occupiers or be at greater risk from condensation. The rule is; build tight – ventilate right.

Answers to The Most Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a risk from making a building envelope too airtight?

No. Part L is meant to control the amount of uncontrolled air leakage through the building fabric, not the amount of controlled ventilation.

Is the target air permeability rate achievable?

The target air permeability rate of $10 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}/\text{m}^2$ set down in Part L is achievable when current best practice for buildings is around $2 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}/\text{m}^2$. However, if no regard is taken to air tightness, it is probable that Part L will not be complied with.

How expensive will it be?

Additional building costs may amount to 0.5%. This ignores cost savings from down sizing heating plant and the life time reduction in energy costs.

When To Get Worried

When a party claims that air leakage problems will be sorted out after the first air leakage test and will be remedied then. HRS's golden rule is that it costs considerably more to put right second time, rather than doing it right first time. Ensure that maintenance procedures take air tightness into account. Degradation or damage to air tight elements or components needs to be minimised over the long term. We have witnessed how simple it is for an electrician to punch a large hole through a wall, thereby increasing the air permeability figure significantly enough for users of the building to complain about an increase in drafts.

Clients HRS SERVICES have worked for.

Sound, professional working relationships have been built up with many blue chip clients and large construction organisations. Our skills and expertise has been gained from successfully air sealing over 250 buildings across the UK and Europe, for blue chip clients such as BAe, Consignia, Norwich Union, Safeway and Tesco. Repeat business has been gained from contractors such as Bovis Lendlease, HBG, Simons, B and K, Mowlems, Kier, Britannia and Dudleys.

HRS is certified to ISO 9001 and UKAS for all air tightness operations. HRS are full members of the ATTMA, which is recognised by Building Control and Approved Inspectors as “competent persons”, as required under Part L. HRS hold PI insurance with cover of £1M for testing and consultancy works.

