Passivhaus Trust

CLAIMING PASSIVHAUS

TECHNICAL BRIEFING NOTE

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June 2025

Claiming Passivhaus
Technical briefing note

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> *I was working as a physicist. I read that the construction industry had experimented with adding insulation to new buildings and that energy consumption had failed to reduce. This offended me – it was counter to the basic laws of physics. I knew that they must be doing something wrong. So I made it my mission to find out what, and to establish what was needed to do it right.*
>
> **— Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist**

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Cover image: *Cannock Mill Cohousing, certified Passivhaus - Anne Thorne Architects*

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INTRODUCTION

Passivhaus is arguably the world's most rigorous quality assurance standard for energy efficiency and comfort in buildings. Passivhaus buildings are internationally recognised not only for their energy efficiency, but also for their comfort and quality. This has led to a rapid growth in the adoption of the standard and global interest in the buildings that result.

One of the original drivers for developing the Passivhaus standard was to close the large gap between how buildings were designed to perform and how they actually perform once occupied. At the time, just like now, many buildings already had insulation, and good glazing, but failed to perform as expected. The Passive House Institute (PHI)[1] in Darmstadt, Germany developed the Passivhaus standard based on rigorous scientific research and testing in response to this discrepancy. The performance gap continues to be a significant issue in the UK, but based on the evidence to date and within the constraints of measurement uncertainty, Passivhaus buildings perform as predicted[2].

The original Passivhaus standard (sometimes called Passivhaus Classic) has been supplemented by a suite of additional classes and options for certification, which have been developed for the retrofit of existing buildings (EnerPHit), projects that incorporate renewable energy (Plus and Premium), and projects that fall short of the full Passivhaus standard but still achieve a defined level of high performance (Passive House Institute Low Energy Buildings). Within this document, reference to "the Passivhaus standard" should be taken to encompass all of these variants, unless specified otherwise.

To support the quality assurance of the Passivhaus standard, the Passive House Institute has also developed accreditation for building components and for construction professionals. This document is primarily concerned with matters relating to buildings.

Within the UK, there are occasionally claims that buildings meet or exceed the Passivhaus standard simply because they might meet one or more of the criteria or requirements of the standard. On other occasions, claims have been made that buildings are designed using "Passivhaus principles" on the basis that they achieve the airtightness target, incorporate insulation to levels that meet or are close to the recommended U-values, or have been shown to have a space heating energy demand of less than 15 kWh/m^2.a using National Calculation Methods (NCM) such as the UK's regulatory compliance tools SAP and SBEM.

It is incorrect to claim that such a building satisfies the Passivhaus standard, is a Passivhaus, or that it adheres to the principles that underpin the quality assurance standard.

A building may not be described as a Passivhaus unless it meets all the performance and comfort criteria established by the PHI, as modelled in the Passivhaus Planning Package (PHPP), and satisfies all of the quality assurance requirements. If the building does so, and is therefore accurately described using the word Passivhaus, this is a clear and bold claim that it has been optimised for comfort and energy efficiency, and that it will enjoy all of the resultant benefits[3]. The evidence base and quality assurance underpinning the standard secures the credibility of the claim.

This document outlines the technical requirements and provides guidance to those who may seek to make performance and marketing claims relating to Passivhaus standard buildings.

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1 Passive House Institute (English) or Passivhaus Institut (German)

2 See, for example, David Johnston, Mark Siddall et al., 'Are the energy savings of the Passive House standard reliable? A review of the as-built thermal and space heating performance of Passive House dwellings from 1990 to 2018' *Energy Efficiency* (2020) https://doi.org/10.1007/s12053-020-09855-7 and Rachel Mitchell and Sukumar Natarajan, 'UK Passivhaus and the energy performance gap', *Energy and Buildings* (2020) https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enbuild.2020.110240

3 See *Passivhaus Benefits*, PHT (2021). Available at: https://pht.guide/benefits

WHAT IS MEANT BY "PASSIVHAUS"?

The Passivhaus standard consists of detailed performance and comfort criteria for all types of building, which are calculated by modelling the building in the Passive House Planning Package (PHPP), and verified according to rigorous quality assurance requirements[4].

For existing buildings, the **EnerPHit standard** sets slightly relaxed performance criteria, with the same modelling and quality assurance requirements. There are two methods of certification for existing buildings retrofitted to EnerPHit: the energy demand method and the component method. Both of these EnerPHit methods can be applied in a step-by-step approach, i.e not all the work is carried out at once. An 'overall refurbishment plan' must be created before any work starts, then each step of the refurbishment is certified. EnerPHit+i is a variant for situations where more than 25% of the building's insulation has to be internal. In all cases, exemptions may be made to allow for legal, heritage, financial feasibility or certain other reasons as defined in the criteria.

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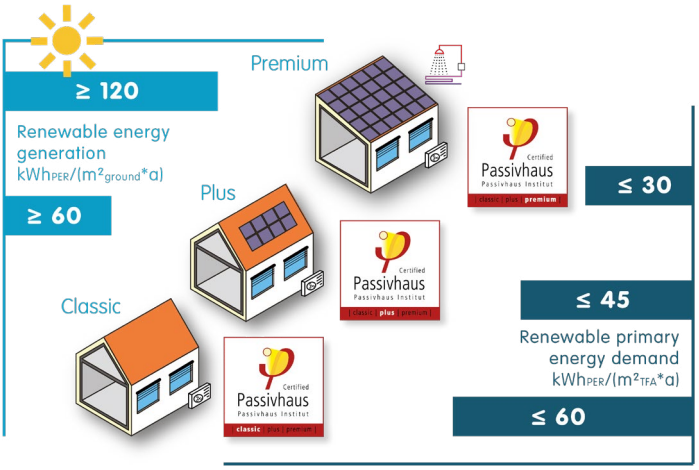
Supplementary classes of certification (**Plus** and **Premium**) can be attained by buildings, both new build and retrofit, that also generate renewable energy.

LEARN MORE https://pht.guide/PHclasses



If a building aiming for the Passivhaus or EnerPHit standard does not quite satisfy certification targets, it may still be eligible to be awarded the **Passive House Institute Low Energy Building standard** ("PHI LEB"). In some circumstances, PHI Low Energy Building can also be selected as an appropriate solution at an early stage where certification to the full Passivhaus or EnerPHit standard is deemed not to be optimal . Note that not all of the Passivhaus and EnerPHit comfort criteria are included in the PHI LEB standard, notably internal surface temperatures. However, the principles of detailed performance criteria, modelling in PHPP and robust quality assurance still apply. Certification of PHI LEBs is carried out by a PHI accredited Passivhaus Certifier in the same way as for full Passivhaus or EnerPHit. This is supported, and recommended, by both the PHI and the Passivhaus Trust.

The term "Passivhaus" or "Passive House"[5] on its own is used to reference a building that meets the Passivhaus standard, also sometimes identified as "Passivhaus Classic". A building that meets the relevant additional criteria relating to renewable energy can be called a "Passivhaus Plus" / "EnerPHit Plus" or "Passivhaus Premium" / "EnerPHit Premium" accordingly. Describing a building as a "Passivhaus retrofit" implies that it has been retrofitted to meet the same performance and comfort criteria as a new build, ie. full Passivhaus Classic; if only the EnerPHit targets have been met, the building should be described as an "EnerPHit". A building that meets the PHI LEB standard should NOT be described as a Passivhaus, but clearly identifed as a "PHI Low Energy Building", "PHI LEB", or "Passive House Institute LEB".

In order to support the quality assurance that is offered by the standard, the Passive House Institute has also developed accreditation for products and people, as well as for buildings. Construction components

4 The headline criteria are given below – for the full criteria, see *Criteria for Buildings - Passive House – EnerPHit – PHI Low Energy Building*, PHI 2023, available online at https://passiv.de/downloads/03_building_criteria_en.pdf

5 In the UK, the original German spelling "Passivhaus" is preferred. The German word Haus can be used to refer to many kinds of buildings occupied by people, whether for work or dwelling, not only houses. Since the Passivhaus standard is applicable to all types of buildings, both domestic and non-domestic, the German spelling is therefore more appropriate. "Passivhaus" also helps avoid any potential confusion with building approaches such as passive solar or passive ventilation. Internationally, "Passive House" is more commonly used.

such as windows and doors, ventilation units, airtightness products, and more, can attain the PHI Certified Component seal. Construction professionals can qualify as a Certified Passivhaus Designer/Consultant or Certified Passivhaus Tradesperson, and earn advanced qualifications recognising specialisms or greater expertise.

Passivhaus continues to develop in response to real world learnings from delivered projects. For example, in response to a warming climate, summer comfort requirements have been strengthened, and a series of stress tests that evaluate robustness of the summer comfort strategy in varying conditions are now included in PHPP. The criteria undergo regular updates, and new approaches for building certification to suit specific circumstances are currently under development, including the retrofit of a single unit within a larger building (EnerPHit Unit) and a stripped down certification for tenanted commercial buildings (Core & Shell).

THE VALUE OF PASSIVHAUS

The true value of the performance claims associated with the Passivhaus standard, and any associated claims/marketing by any third party[6], rest upon the assurance that claims are both credible to consumers, and reflect a genuine benefit to both the consumer and the environment.

The intensive monitoring of certified Passivhaus buildings by the Passive House Institute and others since the completion of the first Passivhaus in 1991 has clearly validated the quality assurance of the standard[7] and secured its credibility.

The benefits delivered by Passivhaus buildings are far-reaching and relevant for a wide range of stakeholders. With outstanding levels of building performance, the Passivhaus standard delivers exceptional levels of interior comfort, health and wellbeing, affordability, resilience and durability. Different clients, owners and user groups have different priorities, for instance:

- Individual homeowners and building users will be interested in comfort and lower energy bills,
- Local Authorities and Housing Associations may focus on tackling fuel poverty, improving health outcomes, and meeting zero carbon pledges.
- Government and energy suppliers may be attracted to the sound economics of lowering peak demand, minimising budgets for large scale infrastructure costs, and amplifying the resilience of a national grid that's fit for the 21st Century.

The benefits of Passivhaus buildings include:

a. Building performance
b. Addressing the climate emergency
c. Health and wellbeing
d. People performance
e. Financial benefits
f. Social return

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6 Including designers, manufacturers, vendors etc

7 See above (footnote 2)

THE PASSIVHAUS PRINCIPLES

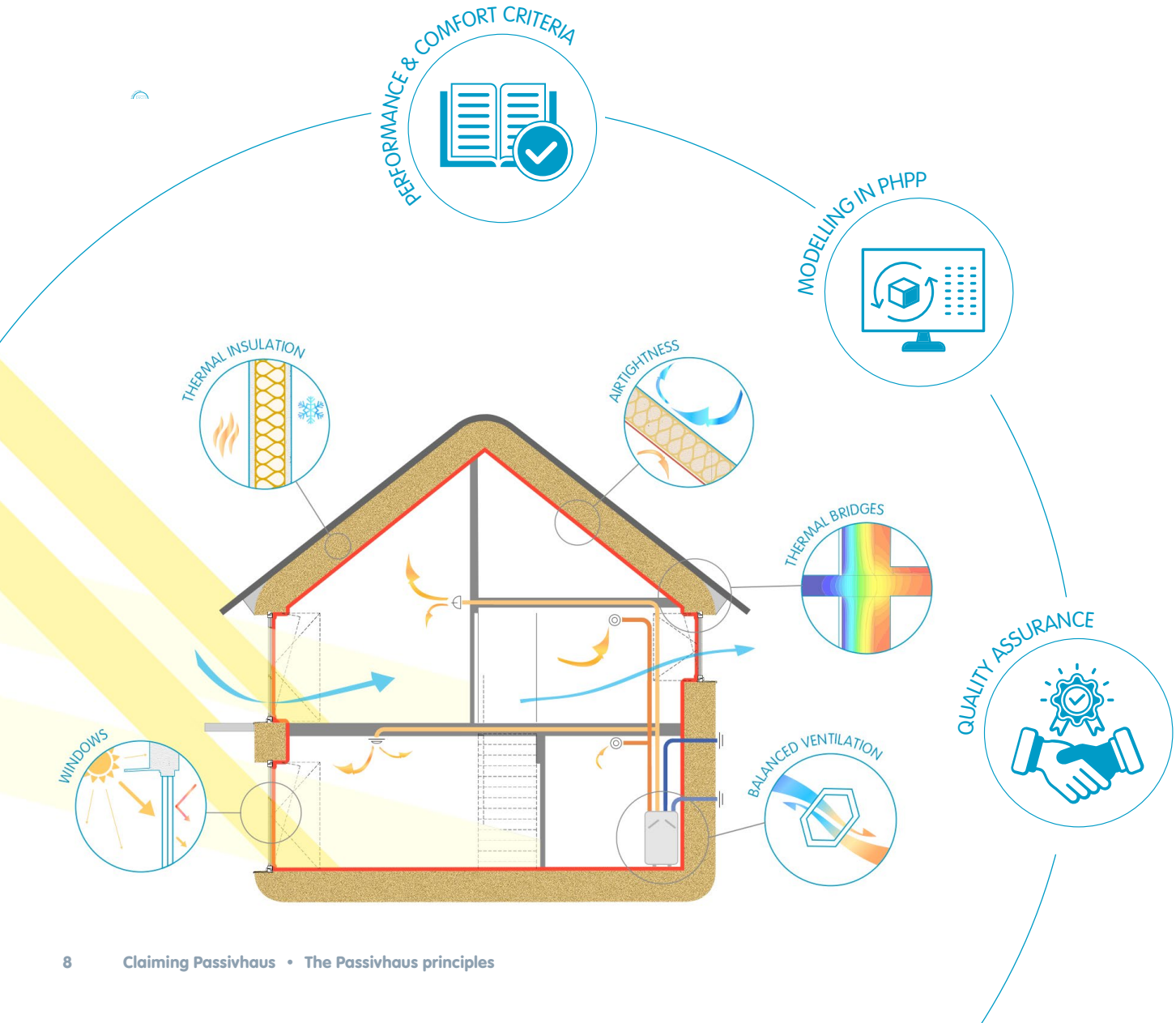
Passivhaus buildings are based on fundamental principles that must form part of an integrated approach to reliably deliver the exceptional energy efficiency, comfort, and durability that such buildings are known for.

As awareness of the Passivhaus standard has grown, so has appreciation of the five underlying principles of building fabric: insulation, airtightness, ventilation, high-performance windows, and minimised thermal bridging. This must be seen as a positive. But these alone are not sufficient to reliably realise the high performance and the wide-ranging benefits of Passivhaus buildings. Three core principles of approach are also essential to successful delivery of a Passivhaus project:

- meeting detailed performance and comfort criteria
- modelling in the Passivhaus Planning Package (PHPP), and
- rigorous quality assurance across design, construction and commissioning.

It is the integration of all eight principles that enables a project to achieve the Passivhaus standard.

LEARN MORE https://pht.guide/PHPrinciplesPrimer



ACHIEVING THE PASSIVHAUS STANDARD

In order to achieve the Passivhaus standard, a project must clearly demonstrate that it meets the published performance and comfort criteria by modelling in the Passive House Planning Package (PHPP) and by satisfying the validated quality assurance requirements. This includes the requirements listed below; reference must also be made to any other requirements or guidelines currently set by the Passive House Institute.

The Passivhaus Trust recommends that the best way to demonstrate that the quality assurance requirements have been met is through certification by an accredited member of the UK Certifiers Circle[8]. A project can only claim to be Passivhaus certified and use the Passivhaus badge/ plaque if it has gone through independent certification.

It is reasonable to claim that a building is a non-certified 'self-declared Passivhaus' provided that it still meets ALL the criteria and requirements of the standard, including modelling in PHPP and adequate quality assurance. The responsibility for such a claim would be wholly with the person making the claim.

If the quality assurance protocols endorsed by the Passivhaus standard have not been observed during the design and construction of a building, then claims that such a building satisfies the Passivhaus standard, is a Passivhaus, or follows "Passivhaus principles" are, at the very least, unfounded and at worst, under consumer law, both misleading and fraudulent. Such claims also risk bringing the Passivhaus standard into disrepute, as the building in question may fail to perform according to expectations, undermining the credibility of the Passivhaus standard and of those who are delivering buildings to the standard.

THE PASSIVE HOUSE PLANNING PACKAGE

The Passivhaus Planning Package (PHPP) is a modelling tool that reports a bespoke energy balance for a building based on user input of the building characteristics[9]. This means that while the Passivhaus standard is the same for most building types, the particular solution for each building will be tailored.

PHPP is more than a simple compliance tool. Employed as a design aid at an early stage, PHPP can help the user quickly identify which details have the most impact, and find opportunities for optimisation.

PHPP has been especially developed for high performance buildings and is compatible with international norms (such as ISO 13790). It has been tested against dynamic simulation tools as well as the measured data[10]. It has been proven to be reliable in giving accurate predictions of actual energy use in the finished building. Because of its demonstrated accuracy, it is frequently used as a comparator to evaluate other building energy modelling tools[11].

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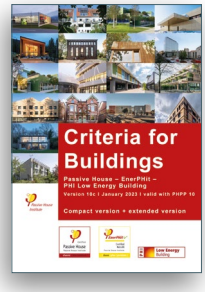
8 Find out more about the UK Certifiers Circle including a list of its members on the Passivhaus Trust website here: https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/certification.php#building%20certifiers

9 See 'PHPP – More than just an energy balance' in Passipedia https://passipedia.org/planning/calculating_energy_efficiency/phpp_-_the_passive_house_planning_package

10 See 'PHPP – Validated and proven in practice' in Passipedia https://passipedia.org/planning/calculating_energy_efficiency/phpp_-_the_passive_ house_planning_package/phpp_-_validated_and_proven_in_practice

11 See, for example, 'Inter-Model Comparison Summary Report: Home Energy Model Validation'. DESNZ 2023 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6578b3da254aaa0010050bb3/hem-val-01-inter-model-comparison.pdf

THE PASSIVHAUS CRITERIA



The table below summarises the key headline criteria. In addition, there are detailed criteria relating to optimal thermal comfort, user satisfaction, and low risk of damage from moisture accumulation.

For the full criteria, refer to https://passiv.de/downloads/03_building_criteria_en.pdf.

Passivhaus criteria	LEB	EnerPHit [1]	Classic		Plus	Premium
Airtightness n_{50} [2]	**≤ 1** ACH @ 50 Pa	**≤ 1** ACH @ 50 Pa	**≤ 0.6** ACH @ 50 Pa			
Space Heating Demand (SHD)[3]	**≤ 30** kWh/m².a	**≤ 25** kWh/m².a	**≤ 15** kWh/m².a	–		
Heating load[3]	–	–	–	**≤ 10** W/m²		
Primary Energy Renewable (PER)[4]	**≤ 75** kWh/m².a	**≤ 60** kWh/m².a	**≤ 60** kWh/m².a		**≤ 45** kWh/m².a	**≤ 30** kWh/m².a
Renewable energy generation	–				**≥ 60** kWh/m².a	**≥ 120** kWh/m².a
Summer overheating[5]	**≤ 10%** exceeding 25°C (best practice: **≤ 2%** exceeding 25°C)					
Surface temperature[6]	–	Typically **≥ 17°C**				
Ventilation[7]	Typically **≥ 30** m³/hr.person					

VIEW FULL CRITERIA

1 This table gives the criteria for EnerPHit certification using the space heating demand method. Certification is also possible using the component method, in which each individual building element must meet defined criteria, but the overall space heating demand may vary. In both cases, variants and exemptions may apply.

2 For larger buildings ie. ≥1500m³ an additional measurement of air leakage in reference to envelope area (q_{E50}) is also required.

3 There are two alternative metrics used to limit space heating: annual demand and peak load, only one of which needs to be met. While annual space heating demand is often the headline figure, designing to limit peak heat load can offer advantages, including greater opportunities for standardised construction.

4 The majority of projects will certify using the standard PER limits. As some energy uses are driven by occupancy, PHPP 10 has in-built calculations to set a project-specific PER limit for residential and office buildings. For some atypical building uses, the limit may be varied by agreement with the PHI - see Bespoke PER. In retrofit, PER varies to allow for larger heating and cooling demand compared to a new build. In addition, all classes allow for ±15 kWh/m².a deviation from the PER criteria, with compensation through additional generation.

5 The Passivhaus Trust and the UK Certifiers Circle recommend a target of ≤5% for UK projects, plus an overheating stress test, which is included in PHPP 10 onwards. Best practice is ≤ 2%. Additionally, Passivhaus certification requires written documentation of the strategy for thermal comfort in summer - see https://pht.guide/SummerComfortStatement

6 The precise criterion is ≤4.2 K below the operative indoor temperature (windows, radiant temp. at 500mm in front of pane), which typically works out at ≥17°C.

7 In the UK it is recommended to supply air at 30 m³/h.person. The 20 m³/h.person basic criterion set by the PHI is a minimum, but it is not expected to be sufficient for UK homes because of our mild and damp climate.

QUALITY ASSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Certifying that a buildingmeets the Passivhaus standard necessitates a series of quality assurance requirements be satisfied[12]. Evidence that must be submitted for certification includes but is not limited to:

1. The completed **Passive House Planning Package (PHPP)** model
2. **Design and planning documents** including site plan, construction drawings, reference drawings of envelope areas and clear calculation of the TFA (Treated Floor Area)
3. **Standard and connection details** including detail drawings of building connections, details of thermal bridges, manufacturer, type and technical data sheets for insulation materials etc
4. Reference drawings and performance details for **windows and doors**
5. Evidence of the **shading** factor
6. **Ventilation** drawings and specifications, evidence of the heat recovery efficiency, pressure loss calculation and HRV commissioning report
7. Drawings and specifications for any **space heating/cooling systems, DHW and waste water**
8. Details relating to **electrical devices and lighting** (planning or concept for efficient electricity use in residential buildings, or technical data sheets and other evidence for all significant electricity uses in non-residential buildings)
9. Details of **renewable energy** generation systems
10. Evidence of the **airtightness** of the building envelope[13]
11. Verification of general minimum requirements relating to optimal thermal comfort, user satisfaction, and low risk of damage from moisture accumulation
12. **Written declaration signed by the contractor** confirming that the building has been built in accordance with the contract documentation
13. **Written documentation of the strategy for thermal comfort in summer**, signed by the building owner, and evidence of instructions given to the future building user for summer comfort (in buildings without active cooling)[14]
14. **Photographic records** of the project[15]

The Passivhaus Trust and UK Certifiers' Circle further recommend that an **MVHR Maintenance Statement** should be prepared and issued to the Passivhaus Certifier. This should identify the relevant maintenance documents and requirements, and be signed by the project owner or client to confirm their understanding[16].

The above tools and documentation are used to demonstrate that the standards established by the Passive House Institute have been satisfied[17].

Quality assurance must be carried out by an independent third party. This means that, for example, the Certifier may not carry out the Passivhaus project planning (Passivhaus Designer or Consultant role) for the same building, and vice versa.

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12 Complete certification criteria: https://passiv.de/downloads/03_building_criteria_en.pdf

13 The final test is undertaken upon completion of the building or retrofit and in compliance with Passivhaus procedure (ATTMA TSL4) for Passivhaus certification evidence. Refer also to PHI checklist https://passipedia.org/planning/airtight_construction/general_principles/checklist_test_reports_of_airtightness_measurements and 'Demystifying airtightness: a good practice guide', Passivhaus Trust 2020.

14 A template is provided for this purpose at https://passivhaus.uk/summer-comfort-statement/

15 PHI checklist https://passipedia.org/planning/construction_site_photos_list_-_detailed

16 A template is provided for this purpose at https://passivhaus.uk/mvhr-maintenance-statement/.

17 Note that this list is necessary but may not be sufficient. Additional evidence (eg calculation of moisture risk or dynamic thermal modelling) may be required by the Certifier in certain circumstances where deemed necessary. PHI retains the right to add quality assurance requirements for certification.

THE PASSIVHAUS STANDARD AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The term 'Passivhaus', or 'Passive House', is not trademarked or registered[18]. However, it is clearly defined with its own terms and references, as set out above.

In Germany a claim that a building is a Passivhaus has legal status (Horn 2008[19]). In the UK, a Passivhaus claim will also be subject to protections in law, and the relevant pieces of legislation and guidance are set out below.

For commercial practices which took place before 6 April 2025, the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPUTRs) protect consumers from false and misleading claims[20]. In 2024, the CPUTRs were replaced and updated by provisions in the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 (DMCC Act), and these apply to commercial practices which happen from 6 April 2025 onwards.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), which is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority, publishes guidance on business conduct that the law on unfair business-to-consumer trading prohibits in 'Unfair Commercial Practices: CM207'. Of particular relevance are 'Section 3: Banned practices', 'Section 5: Misleading actions', 'Section 6: Misleading omissions' and 'Section 8: Contravention of the requirements of professional diligence'. In 'Section 10: Offences relating to unfair commercial practices', it is explained that:

- Breaching certain UCP ('Unfair Commercial Practices') provisions can be a criminal offence.
- Officers of a company may also commit an office if they consent or connive in that breach.
- The penalties for a person convicted of these offences can include a fine and up to two years imprisonment.

The CMA also publishes guidance specific to environmental claims. The publication 'Guidance on Environmental Claims on Goods and Services 2021'[21] is intended to help businesses understand and comply with their existing obligations under consumer protection law when making environmental claims. The guidance sets out principles which are designed to help businesses comply with the law, as follows:

- claims must be **truthful and accurate**[22]
- claims must be **clear and unambiguous**
- claims must not omit or hide **important relevant information**
- comparisons must be **fair and meaningful**
- claims must consider the **full life cycle** of the product or service
- claims must be **substantiated**.

18 The title Passivhaus (also Passive House) is not trademarked or registered; however, phrases including Passivhaus and Passive House are.

19 Horn, G. 'Legal aspects of planning and construction of Passive Houses', International Passive House Conference, Nurnberg 2008

20 'Guidance on the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008', originally published by the Office of Fair Trading and subsequently adopted by the CMA, was produced to help traders to comply with the CPUTRs.

21 'CMA Guidance on Environmental Claims on Goods and Services', Competition and Markets Authority 2021

22 That the relevant party has adopted all of the quality assurance requirements associated with the Passivhaus standard, and where possible, has undertaken a third-party audit (certification audits are considered to be robust as they can reduce the number of errors by 80-90%).

The government's Green Claims Code campaign website at https://greenclaims.campaign.gov.uk/ highlights the key points in an easy-to-read manner.

Its advice to consumers includes '1. Do not trust slogans or vague terms' – this would apply to phrases such as "built to Passivhaus principles" or "inspired by Passivhaus" and '2. Look for evidence to support a claim... A good form of proof is a reputable certification mark which indicates an alliance with an environmental standards scheme .'

A building meeting the Passivhaus standard is a distinct and established product that may be advertised, marketed, and sold to consumers.

Buildings meeting the Passivhaus standard have a number of benefits for the consumer[23]. A building which does not meet the Passivhaus standard may not have the advertised benefits. Misusing the word 'Passivhaus' or 'Passive House' may mislead a consumer into believing that a building has met the Passivhaus standard and therefore enjoys the benefits of Passivhaus when that is not the case. The consumer will be injured by the false claims and misrepresentations that the building met the Passivhaus standard.

The DMCC Act protects the consumer against false claims and misrepresentations that a building meets the Passivhaus standard. Persons making false claims and misrepresentations that a building meets the Passivhaus standard, or satisfies the principles of Passivhaus quality assurance, are subject to legal claims, sanctions, and damages for violating the DMCC Act[24].

Consumers injured by these false claims may sue the persons making false claims which injured them. The CMA may take enforcement action using civil powers, including direct enforcement, or by carrying out a criminal investigation with a view to prosecuting those responsible[25]. The Passivhaus Trust may also join or initiate enforcement actions against parties making false claims that buildings meet the Passivhaus standard in order to protect its members[26].

23 Refer to 'Passivhaus Benefits', Passivhaus Trust 2021

24 Enforcement actions under the DMCC are not exclusive remedies. The professional making false claims is likely a defendant in claims for damages based on common law tortious conduct as well as disciplinary action by professional accreditation organizations since professionals are always bound by a duty of care to act in a diligent fashion. Professional diligence would preclude the distortion or misrepresentation of the Passivhaus standard. NOTE: Reasonable care and skill is an implied term according to the Supply of Goods and Services Act, Section 13

25 See 'Consumer protection: enforcement guidance', CMA 2025 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67ef946c199d1cd55b48c7ba/Consumer_protection_enforcement_guidance.pdf and 'Direct consumer enforcement guidance' CMA 2025 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6808ca0d8c1316be7978e74b/CMA_200_Direct_consumer_enforcement_guidance.pdf

26 The true value of the performance claims of the Passivhaus standard rests upon the assurance that the claims are credible to consumers. False claims not only injure consumers but also the professionals and tradespeople creating buildings which do meet the Passivhaus standard.

CERTIFIED PASSIVHAUS DESIGNERS AND CONSULTANTS

When designing a Passivhaus building, competent persons – such as those with Certified Passivhaus Designer or Consultant qualifications – have a duty of care to ensure that their work adheres to and respects the principles of quality assurance that are established by the Passivhaus standard.

Accredited Passivhaus professionals, including Certified Passivhaus Tradespeople and accredited Passivhaus Certifiers as well as Designers and Consultants, are listed by the Passive House Institute at https://cms.passivehouse.com/en/training/find-professional/.

Construction professionals who join the Passivhaus Trust as members commit to uphold the integrity of the Passivhaus standard and behave in accordance with the objectives of the Trust. They also make commitments as affiliate members of the International Passive House Association (iPHA). See Appendix.

Passivhaus Trust members are listed in the PHT members directory at https://passivhaus.uk/directory/.

PHI CERTIFIED COMPONENTS

To achieve the Passivhaus standard, teams will have to make use of highly efficient building systems, careful planning and highly efficient components. As a rule, these components are two to three times more efficient than the corresponding commonly used products. This high level of efficiency is critical to achieving the Passivhaus standard. However, for the designer it is often very difficult to assess the energy-efficiency, durability and the necessary energy parameters of a component as the available standard parameters are frequently unrealistic or are not accurate enough; reliable project planning using manufacturers' information alone may present a challenge.

As an independent authority, the Passive House Institute tests and certifies products in respect of their suitability for use in Passive Houses. Products that carry the Passive House Institute Certified Component seal have been tested according to uniform criteria, which means they are comparable in terms of their specific values, and are of excellent quality regarding energy efficiency.

A building can achieve the Passivhaus standard (and indeed be a certified Passivhaus building) using products that are not certified by the Passive House Institute, provided that the products used meet the necessary performance requirements. It should be noted that the use of Passivhaus certified, or Passivhaus suitable, products and materials is not evidence of suitability in all cases. However, the use of certified components does simplify the audit trail that is utilised by the standard. For domestic projects, the Passivhaus Trust recommends using a ventilation unit that has PHI Certified Component accreditation.

The comprehensive list of PHI Certified Components, as well as the criteria for their certification, are available on the Passive House Institute component database website at https://database.passivehouse.com/en/components/.

APPENDIX 1

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE UK PASSIVHAUS TRUST (ARTICLE 1)

The full terms and conditions of Passivhaus Trust membership are available online at https://pht.guide/MemberTandCs. Article 1 is reproduced here:

1. All members are required to uphold the integrity of the Passivhaus standard and behave in accordance with the objectives of the Trust.

1.1. For clarity, the Trust's objectives are:

1.1.1. to preserve the integrity of Passivhaus standards and methodology
1.1.2. to promote Passivhaus to the industry and government
1.1.3. to help increase delivery of certified Passivhaus projects

1.2. This means that members must:

1.2.1. refer to Passive House (or Passivhaus) Buildings and the components suitable for their construction exclusively as those buildings/components that fulfil the Passive House Standard criteria, as set out by the Passive House Institute, Darmstadt, Germany (see www.passiv.de). The current criteria are available via https://pht.guide/criteria
1.2.2. acquaint themselves with, and act in accordance with, the Passivhaus Trust's guidance on what it means to claim Passivhaus in the UK, available via https://pht.guide/claimingPassivhaus
1.2.3. commit to the principle of independent quality assurance by promoting Passivhaus certification where possible and appropriate, or approved partner third party quality assurance schemes where full Passivhaus certification is not feasible, and providing full, clear and accurate information about these
1.2.4. disclose to their client or employee any significant interest in another company (for example when recommending services or products).

1.3. And members must not:

1.3.1. misuse the term Passivhaus in a way that could be misleading
1.3.2. undertake work which they do not justifiably consider they have sufficient competence or resources to complete to the agreed standard
1.3.3. promise to either design, supply components/products for, offer consultancy for, or construct a Passivhaus building or without taking all reasonable steps to check that the standard can be met in practice
1.3.4. have any ongoing complaints that would bring the Trust into disrepute by association
1.3.5. be part of an external investigation (criminal or other) which may jeopardize the reputation and professionalism of the Trust and its members.

1.4. Standard, Patron and Student membership of the Passivhaus Trust also confers membership of the International Passive House Association (iPHA). As members of iPHA, in addition to the above, members must also commit to:

1.4.1. keeping abreast of the latest developments and knowledge in the Passive House field through training courses and the like
1.4.2. highlighting energy efficient products and methods to clients, thereby seeking to motivate the purchase and use of such products and methods
1.4.3. informing clients openly about costs and opportunities for savings
1.4.4. offering consistently high quality as well as opportunities for quality assurance.

The Passivhaus Trust is an independent, non-profit organisation that provides leadership in the UK for the adoption of the Passivhaus standard and methodology.

Passivhaus is the leading international low energy design standard, backed with over 30 years of building performance evidence. It is a tried & tested solution that enables a meaningful transition to net-zero now. Over 65,000 buildings have been certified to this standard worldwide. The Trust promotes Passivhaus as a robust way of providing high standards of occupant comfort and health AND slashing energy use and carbon emissions from buildings in the UK.

Please find us on Linkedin, Instagram, Bluesky and other social media @PassivhausTrust. Keep up to date with all things Passivhaus by joining our mailing list.

www.passivhaustrust.org.uk

Passivhaus Trust
The UK Passive House Organisation

Thanks to our Patron members
The Passivhaus Trust Patron Members provide additional support to the Passivhaus Trust, including funding for technical research and publications.

https://passivhaus.uk/patron-members