
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2010 No. 66

**The Rate Relief (Low-Carbon Homes
Scheme) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010**

PART 2

Rate Relief

Rate relief

4.—(1) Subject to the conditions in paragraph (2) being satisfied and to the provisions of these Regulations, a person who is the first occupier of a newly-constructed dwelling-house which is a low-carbon or zero-carbon home shall not be chargeable in respect of it to rates—

- (a) in the case of a low-carbon home, for a period of two years; and
- (b) in the case of a zero-carbon home, for a period of five years,

from the date on which he first occupies that dwelling-house or 1st April 2010, whichever is the later.

(2) The conditions referred to in paragraph (1) are—

- (a) that work on the dwelling-house shall not have been completed before 1st April 2010;
- (b) that the date on which the first occupier first occupies the dwelling-house is—
 - (i) in the case of a low-carbon home, not later than 31st March 2013;
 - (ii) in the case of a zero-carbon home, not later than 31st March 2016; and
- (c) that—
 - (i) in the case of a low-carbon home, a low-carbon home certificate has been issued;
 - (ii) in the case of a zero-carbon home, a zero-carbon home certificate has been issued.

Low-carbon home

5.—(1) “Low-carbon home” means a dwelling-house that is energy efficient in relation to the aspects of energy efficiency in column 1 of Table 1 in the Schedule.

(2) The evidence to be adduced to show that a dwelling-house satisfies each relevant aspect of energy efficiency is set out in column 2 of that Table.

(3) Whether the requirements in column 2 of that Table are met shall be determined by an assessment of the dwelling-house by an accredited assessor.

Zero-carbon home

6.—(1) “Zero-carbon home” means a dwelling-house that is energy efficient in relation to the aspects of energy efficiency in column 1 of Table 2 in the Schedule.

(2) The evidence to be adduced to show that a dwelling-house satisfies each relevant aspect of energy efficiency is set out in column 2 of that Table.

(3) Whether the requirements in column 2 of that Table are met shall be determined by an assessment of the dwelling-house by an accredited assessor.

Certification

7.—(1) If an accredited assessor, who carried out an assessment of a dwelling-house under these Regulations, is satisfied that the dwelling-house satisfies the definition of—

- (a) low-carbon home, he shall issue a low-carbon home certificate which states that the dwelling-house is a low-carbon home within the meaning of these Regulations; or
 - (b) zero-carbon home, he shall issue a zero-carbon home certificate which states that the dwelling-house is a zero-carbon home within the meaning of these Regulations.
- (2) In addition, both the low-carbon and zero-carbon home certificate shall state—
- (a) in relation to the dwelling-house—
 - (i) the address, including the postcode; and
 - (ii) the property reference number from the energy performance certificate issued in respect of it;
 - (b) in relation to the accredited assessor issuing the certificate—
 - (i) the accredited assessor's full name,
 - (ii) the name and address of the accredited assessor's employer, or if he is self employed, the name under which he trades and his address; and
 - (iii) the accreditation scheme to which the accredited assessor belongs; and
 - (c) the date on which it was issued.

Application

8.—(1) Relief under these Regulations shall be claimed in an application made to the Department by the first occupier of a newly-constructed dwelling-house which shall be—

- (a) in such a form and contain such information as the Department may reasonably require; and
 - (b) accompanied by—
 - (i) a low-carbon home certificate or a zero-carbon home certificate issued in respect of the dwelling-house;
 - (ii) a copy of an energy performance certificate issued in respect of the dwelling-house; and
 - (iii) such other documents as the Department may reasonably require.
- (2) The closing date for an application under paragraph (1) shall be—
- (a) in the case of a low-carbon home, 30th September 2013; and
 - (b) in the case of a zero-carbon home, 30th September 2016.