



UK SUSTAINABLE
FLOORING
ALLIANCE

Info Sheet

EU Energy Performance Building Directive– Apr 2026

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The EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive: What it could mean for the UK flooring sector

Europe's ambitions for a low-carbon built environment are reshaping construction markets well beyond its borders. The [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive \(EPBD\)](#) recently recast to accelerate the transition to climate-aligned buildings could be one of the most influential pieces of policy in the global construction landscape. The UK may no longer be bound by EU law, but the directive's effects are already being felt through supply chain expectations, client demands and the gradual alignment of British regulatory reforms with European norms. At its heart, the EPBD seeks to cut emissions from buildings by improving energy efficiency, phasing out fossil-fuel heating, and embedding whole-life carbon measurement into the design and refurbishment process. It is a directive ostensibly about buildings, but its implications will impact the flooring industry.

Key requirements

The EPBD introduces several key requirements that will influence how products are chosen and how construction projects are evaluated, which includes:

Whole-Life Carbon Reporting

For new buildings, the EPBD requires the disclosure of lifecycle Global Warming Potential (GWP the method used to determine how potent a specific greenhouse gas is compared to CO²), creating a clear link between the materials specified and a building's assessed environmental performance. Materials with lower embodied carbon, credible Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and circularity credentials become more attractive to designers and developers.

Renovation as a Growth Engine

The directive aims to dramatically scale building renovation across Europe. Deep retrofits will prioritise improved thermal performance, healthier indoor environments and materials with low environmental impact. Flooring manufacturers and contractors involved in refurbishment work stand to benefit from increased demand for durable, low-carbon products.

Digital Building Passports (DBP) & Digital Product Passports (DPP)

These will require clear, accessible information about the products installed in a building, including environmental performance. Manufacturers supplying flooring into new builds or large refurbishments may soon find themselves expected to provide data in structured, digital formats. Although the UK is charting its own regulatory course, the direction of travel is similar. Government consultations on a new [Construction Products Regulatory \(CPR\) Framework](#) suggest a move towards integrated oversight of product safety, performance and environmental reporting, mirroring many of the pressures embedded in the EPBD.

Why the flooring industry should pay attention

Companies that embrace transparency, innovate in low-carbon materials, and embed circularity will find themselves aligned with the future of the market.

Carbon performance becomes a competitive differentiator

Flooring has historically been valued for durability, appearance and cost. Increasingly, embodied carbon will join this list of core criteria. Specifiers and architects working on projects that must disclose lifecycle Global Warming Potential (GWP) will favour materials with transparent, verified data.

Lifecycle transparency becomes mandatory rather than optional

The EPBD strengthens a Europe-wide shift towards lifecycle-based assessment. For the flooring sector, this means that Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), recycled content data, chemical composition transparency and end-of-life pathways will become integral parts of the commercial offering. Companies that invest early in credible reporting frameworks could enjoy a regulatory and reputational head start.

Circularity moves to the forefront

Flooring products with take-back schemes, recycled content, modularity and repairability will align closely with EPBD driven renovation strategies. The directive's emphasis on reducing waste and minimising lifecycle emissions dovetails neatly with the sector's growing circular economy initiatives.

Pan-European clients expect pan-European standards

Many developers, property owners and product distributors operate across UK–EU borders. Even if Britain does not replicate the EPBD in law, international clients may insist on EPBD aligned performance data when working in the UK.

UK regulatory reform is nudging in the same direction

Although the UK's post-Brexit regulatory framework is evolving independently, it is influenced directly or indirectly by European norms. Ongoing consultations indicate increasing emphasis on product traceability, environmental performance and digital data. The more the EPBD becomes the benchmark across Europe, the more attractive alignment becomes for the UK supply chain.

Practical actions for UK flooring businesses to consider

Invest in high-quality environmental data

EPDs, lifecycle assessments and transparent documentation will soon be as important as technical datasheets. Early adoption reduces future compliance costs and strengthens market positioning.

Review product portfolios through a carbon-lens

Materials with high embodied carbon may become liabilities. Low-carbon alternatives and recycled materials could open new routes to specification.

Strengthen circularity programmes

Take-back schemes, recycling partnerships and durable, repairable products align closely with EPBD principles and the broader push towards net-zero construction.

Prepare for digital product data

Building passports and digital construction workflows require structured, accurate product information. Manufacturers could standardise documentation formats and improve data accessibility.

Engage early with evolving UK regulations

Keeping abreast of consultations on product safety, environmental reporting and construction oversight will help companies anticipate change rather than respond reactively.