

Title of the measure:	GER12	Thermal Insulation Ordinance (Wärmeschutzverordnung) of 1982
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General description

The objective of the German building regulation on thermal insulation is the reduction of energy consumption and the resulting CO₂ emissions caused by space heating, i.e. all energy carriers used for space heating purposes are affected by this measure (coal, oil, gas, district heat, electricity). The measure is valid for the whole country without differences between regions. The revision of the first building code of 1977 came into force in 1982 (BGBl. I, 24.2.1982). It again laid down a maximum heat transmission value (U-value) either as an average transmission through the building shell (average U-value), or as specific U-values for each of the building components. The limits were tightened by 25 % compared to the former regulation, which means the following U values resulted for building components (in W/m² K):

- outer walls incl. glazed areas: 1.15
- ceilings, roofs: 0.30
- ceilings of cellars, next to unheated rooms: 0.50

The Ordinance was valid for new buildings and for the first time also for existing buildings if particular retrofitting measures are made. It is both valid for residential buildings and for buildings in the industrial and tertiary sector.

Impact evaluation (methods and results)

The insulation data are part of the building plans which have to be approved by local building administrations.

Impact evaluation

Though there is no specific impact evaluation of the 1982 building code, the experience from the subsequent building codes of 1994 and 2002 (GER11, GER7) shows that the impact on energy and CO₂ reduction is noticeable in the tertiary sector, though considerably lower than in the household sector.

Historical data

The legal foundation of the Heating Installations Ordinance is the Energy Saving Law of 22 July 1976 (BGBl. I p. 1873), of which §§ 4 and 5 were amended by the law of 20 June 1980 (BGBl. I p. 701). The first Thermal Insulation Ordinance came into force in 1977 (GER19). The ordinance of 1982 was replaced by a new ordinance in 1994 (GER11).