

Building and ductwork airtightness trends and regulations in Estonia, Germany and the U.S.

Monday 12 May 2025

15:30-17:00 (Brussels, BE)

14:30-16:00 (London, UK)

16:30-18:00 (Tallinn, EE)

09:30-11:00 (New York, USA)

REGISTER NOW

FREE – Participation to the Webinar is free

Registration is required: A link to join the webinar will be included in the email confirmation

Major discrepancies are found between countries regarding both the building and ductwork airtightness trends, primarily due to varying national policies, construction practices, and climates. In some countries, minimum airtightness requirements for buildings are included in regulations, such as in U.S. states that have adopted the IECC energy code, which mandates testing to justify airtightness in residential buildings. In Estonia and Germany, achieving high airtightness in the building envelope is encouraged by disadvantageous default values for Energy Performance calculations.

Regarding ductwork airtightness, although the negative impact of leaky ventilation systems on energy consumption and indoor air quality is well-documented, awareness of this issue is growing slowly in most countries, including Germany. The U.S. stands out as an exception, where heating and cooling through air distribution is common. Estonia is also among the few countries promoting airtight ductwork with national requirements.

The AIVC is releasing a series of Ventilation Information Papers (VIP 45.X) to highlight national trends and regulations on building and ductwork airtightness, with 13 papers already published. The purpose of this webinar is to share the current situation in three countries based on these VIPs: Estonia, Germany, and the U.S.

This webinar is organised with the support of the AIVC (www.aivc.org) and TightVent Europe (www.tightvent.eu). Both initiatives are facilitated by INIVE (www.inive.org).

Programme (Brussels time)

- ❖ 15:30 | Introduction: Presentation of the series of AIVC VIPs on building and ductwork airtightness regulations, *Nolwenn Hurel (Cerema, France)*
- ❖ 15:35 | Building and ductwork airtightness in Estonia: national trends and requirements, *Jaanus Hallik (Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia)*
- ❖ 15:50 | Questions and answers
- ❖ 16:00 | Building and ductwork airtightness in Germany: national trends and requirements, *Oliver Solcher (FLiB, Germany)*
- ❖ 16:15 | Questions and answers
- ❖ 16:25 | Building and ductwork airtightness in the U.S.: national trends and requirements, *Andrew K. Persily (NIST, USA)*
- ❖ 16:40 | Questions and answers
- ❖ 17:00 | End of the webinar

Cost and registration

Participation to the webinar is free but requires you to register for the event. The webinar will be limited to a maximum of 1000 persons. To register, please click on the “Register now” button above.

What is a webinar?

A webinar is a conference broadcasted on internet. To follow a webinar you must have a computer with a sound card and speakers or headphones. Once logged in the "webinar room", you will be able to see the slides of the presentation and to hear the panellists' comments. You will also be able to ask written questions to the speakers, and to answer on-line surveys.

Hardware, software

Our webinars are powered by WebEx. The only thing you need is a computer with a sound card and speakers or a smartphone or tablet. Before you can log in the "webinar room", WebEx will install the required application. If you are not a WebEx user, please visit: <https://help.webex.com/en-us/article/8l0y08/Join-a-webinar> to check the system requirements and be informed on how to join a webinar. We recommend you join the event 5...10 minutes in advance.

About TightVent

TightVent Europe (www.tightvent.eu) aims at facilitating exchanges and progress on building and ductwork airtightness issues, including the organisation of conferences and workshops. It fosters experience sharing as well as knowledge production and dissemination on practical issues such as specifications, design, execution, control, etc., taking advantage of the lessons learnt from pioneering work while keeping in mind the need for adequate ventilation.

TightVent Europe has been initiated by INIVE (International Network for Information on Ventilation and Energy Performance) with at present the financial and/or technical support of the following partners: Lindab, Retrotec, Acin Instrumenten, BCCA, BlowerDoor GmbH, dooApp, Build Test Solutions, Eurima, Gonal, SIGA and BPIE.

About AIVC

Created in 1979, the Air Infiltration and Ventilation Centre is one of the projects/annexes running under the International Energy Agency's Energy in Buildings and Communities (IEA-EBC) Programme. With the support of its member countries as well as key experts and various associations (REHVA, IBPSA, ISIAQ), the AIVC offers industry and research organisations technical support aimed at better understanding the ventilation challenges and optimizing energy efficient ventilation.

The AIVC activities are supported by the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK and USA.

About INIVE

INIVE (International Network for Information on Ventilation and Energy Performance) was created in 2001. The main reason for founding INIVE was to set up a worldwide acting network of excellence in knowledge gathering and dissemination. At present, INIVE has as member organizations Buildwise, Cerema, CETIAT, Ghent University, IBP-Fraunhofer, KU Leuven.

INIVE is coordinating and/or facilitating various international projects, e.g. AIVC (www.aivc.org), TightVent Europe (www.tightvent.eu), venticool (<https://venticool.eu/>) and Dynastee (www.dynastee.info). INIVE has also coordinated the ASIEPI project dealing with the evaluation of the implementation and impact of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, the QUALICHeCK project aiming towards improved compliance and quality of the works for better performing buildings, BUILD UP the European portal on Energy Efficiency and the EPBD feasibility study 19a.