

NEWS RELEASE

April 2008

We're all going to "L"!

Whether we like it or not, major revisions to part 'L' of the Building Regulations come into effect on the first of July. The new rules apply to all new housing planning applications and, from July 2009 they will apply to all new homes that have not been completed at that stage regardless of when planning permission was sought.

The key changes you need to know about are a 40% required improvement in energy efficiency and reduction in CO² omissions, mandatory air pressure testing and the need to build in some form of renewable energy such as solar or Biomass.

This well intentioned and necessary legislation comes at a bad time for a construction industry already burdened by the price correction taking place in the housing market. However, Selfbuilders have been much less affected by the downturn and have always been willing to take on new ideas. The Selfbuild, Extend and Renovate Show is now recognised as the leading construction industry event with its series of exhibitions in Ulster, Munster, Leinster & Connacht. There are no unrelated stands, no Sunday market stalls and the show is packed with ideas, new technology and products, balanced with traditional skills and sustainable building materials such as hemp and lime mortar.

Galway Racecourse is the next venue on the 24th & 25th May. 150 exhibitors, all construction related, will be on hand to provide advice, information and exhibit materials to Builders, Selfbuilders, Extenders & Renovators in the West of the country.

With oil prices at a record high and Spring arriving weeks earlier than normal due to Global Warming, it's not just **desirable** to build sustainably it's **essential**. Running throughout the show is a series of Sustainability Seminars providing full details of the new changes to part 'L' of the building regulations and covering other topics such as passive houses and the Building Energy Rating, which applied from last year. The full programme can be viewed at www.selfbuild.ie

The Selfbuild Extend & Renovate Show takes place at Galway Racecourse on 24 & 25 May from 11am – 6pm daily. Visit the website for more information and FREE trade tickets.

Pics : 1) Stressed Builder 2) House of the Future is Now

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