

COUNTRY REPORT: GREECE

Prepared by:

Solar & other Energy Systems Laboratory, NCSR DEMOKRITOS

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Address: NCSR DEMOKRITOS, 15310 Agia Paraskevi Attikis
Tel. : +30 210 6503815
Fax : +30 210 6544592
E-mail: sollab@ipta.demokritos.gr

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This short report includes a brief description of the most important elements in Greek regulations and certification/subsidy schemes related to solar thermal products is given here below. The description is valid for September/2010¹.

Regulatory Framework

Building Regulation (general)

- The general building regulations-requirements shall be fulfilled
- According to the revised Building Regulation, in force since April 2010 for the Implementation of the Directive 2002/91/EC, a study for the installation of a solar thermal system is compulsory for the new or under major refurbishment buildings. Furthermore, the 60% of the hot water energy demand shall be covered by solar thermal energy.
- There are no other specific rules/regulations for solar thermal systems/components in the building regulation. The installed elements should be in compliance to the general building regulations (CE marking, aesthetic issues for preserved sites, etc).
- The new building regulation includes in the calculation of energy loads the contribution of the solar thermal system
- There are no specific legal requirements for solar thermal products, except CE Marking (only for systems, especially when a heating element is included in the system). Consequently there are no specific regulations for installations, energy demand/use of the house, durability, wind and snow load, sanitary water, etc.

Registration

- There are no particular requirements for the registration of a solar system

Safety control

- There is no any particular regulation related to the safety control of a solar system/collector, except from the CE compliance

¹ The original report was published in 2007 and was developed in the framework of the project Solar Keymark II with the support of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme.

Public Incentives (subsidies, ordinances or other)

Relevant incentives:

- The 20% of the total cost for the procurement and installation of a solar thermal system, up to an amount of 700 €, is subtracted from the annual declared income of the beneficiary.
- There has been in force a specific short-termed action, anticipating financial support to people willing to install solar thermal, within the context of an intervention resulting to an upgrade of the energy class of the building. The type and the amount of this support depend on the income of the beneficiary. The range of this support stands within non-interest loan and 30% subsidies (for people of low income), up to loan of low interest for people of high income.

Testing

The *Solar & other Energy Systems Laboratory* of NCSR “DEMOKRITOS” is accredited to perform testing of solar thermal collectors and factory made systems according to ISO and EN standards.

Certification

Product certification:

- The Solar Keymark for collectors and systems is implemented in Greece.
- The Greek Certification Body ELOT is empowered to deliver Solar Keymark certificates for solar collectors. A national certification scheme for solar thermal systems is operated by ELOT, on the basis of Solar Keymark, including also a rating depending on the system annual energy output. Other certification bodies have expressed intention to become empowered certification bodies for Solar Keymark.
- There is no national energy labelling scheme for hot water tanks

Installer certification:

- There is no certification scheme for installers of solar thermal systems

Insurance

- The installation of a solar thermal system usually does not affect house insurance

Trade Barriers

No specific trade barriers are to be reported

Actions needed

Regulation

- Supportive actions for the actual implementation of the revised Building Regulation (e.g. training of the inspectors, elaboration of calculation tools, training of the building engineers, etc.)

Subsidies

- Establishment of subsidy schemes, especially for large solar thermal systems.
- Subsidies to be linked to the energy output of the systems :
 - Based on certified test results for factory made systems
 - Based on measurements for large custom systems

Certification

- Further promotion of the use of the National Certification Scheme and of the Solar Keymark by assisting the Greek manufacturers and by adapting existing/futures subsidy requirements to these certification schemes.
- Development of national certification schemes for large solar thermal systems and for installers.