

COUNTRY REPORT: Slovak Republic

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This short report includes a brief description of the most important elements in Slovak Republic regulations and certification/subsidy schemes related to solar thermal products.

The description is valid for 10 - 2010.

Regulatory Framework

Building Regulation (general)

The requirement related to the energy demand/use of the buildings is defined in the energy saving directive (Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010). This directive covers all kinds of energy consumed by the buildings; and the energy from renewable sources is defined as the energy from renewable non-fossil sources, such as wind, solar, aerothermal, geothermal, hydrothermal and ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogases.

Registration

The registration of a solar thermal system is not necessary if the builder is not interested in any subsidies or similar advantages. In case of using subsidies, sometimes the registration is required (depending on the subsidy scheme).

Safety control

General rules related to this kind of products such as pressure directive, electrical safety etc.

Public Incentives (subsidies, ordinances or other)

Relevant incentives:

Environmental Fund

Act No. 587/2004 Coll. of 21th October 2004 related to Environmental Fund and amendments and completions of certain acts.

Declaration No. 157/2005 Coll. of Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic of 31th March 2005, which implements the Act. 587/2004 Coll. related to the Environmental Fund and amendments and completions of certain acts.

Individual projects

The Green Investment Scheme is a supportive mechanism of countries created in order to finance internal projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sources of revenue gained from the sale of unused units admitted by the Kyoto Protocol (AAUs). Projects under the Green Investment Scheme will be supported according to the objectives of the

State Environmental Protection Policies for protection of the atmosphere and Earth's ozone layer.

Support in the form of GRANTS

Under the specification of activities of the year 2011 for support gained from the Environmental Fund in the framework of the Green Investment Scheme (Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic), the following activities can be supported in the form of grants:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy sources

Activity GIS/1: Replacement of equipment used for the preparation of heat and hot water using fossil fuel by equipment using biomass, heat pumps or solar collectors including exchange of whole system.

Activity GIS/2: New equipment installation for the preparation of heat and hot water using biomass, new heat pumps installation or solar collectors installation including whole system installation.

Activity GIS/3: New equipment installation, which uses renewable sources as a source of energy.

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency

Activity GIS/4: Bringing the equipment up-to-date in order to ensure energy savings.

Support in the form of CREDIT

Under the specification of activities of the year 2011 for support from Environmental Fund in the framework of the Green Investment Scheme (Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic), the following activities can be supported in the form of credits:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy sources

Activity ZIS/1: Replacement of equipment used for the preparation of heat and hot water using fossil fuel by equipment using biomass, heat pumps or solar collectors including exchange of whole system.

Activity ZIS/2: New equipment installation for the preparation of heat and hot water using biomass, new heat pumps installation or solar collectors installation including whole system installation.

Activity ZIS/3: New equipment installation, which uses renewable sources as a source of energy.

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency

Activity ZIS/4: Bringing the equipment up-to-date in order to ensure energy savings.

Activity ZIS/5: Reduction of heat losses by heating media distribution in the central heating distribution systems.

Program of higher biomass and solar energy

Program to promote biomass and solar energy use in households determines the amount of grants and conditions for the allocation of grants as follows:

The subsidy amount is determined for solar collectors:

- 200 € per m² of installed solar collectors in the range of less than 8 m² absorber area, including in family house,
- 50 € per 1 m² installed solar collectors in the range of more than 8 m² absorber area in family house,
- 100 € per 1 m² installed solar collectors in flat house, maximum subsidy is not more than 3 m² for each flat in flat house.

Installed equipments must meet certain technical parameters. For solar collectors is it a Solar Keymark certificate. Based on the higher use solar energy in households must have solar panels since 1 January 2010 also confirmation of minimum energy gain 525 kWh/year applicable to the 1m² aperture area under defined condition for hot water preparation at a reference point issued by a reference point on the basis of test report issued by an accredited European testing laboratory. As a reference point for the purposes of this program is established Technický skúšobný ústav Piešťany, š.p.

The mentioned program ensures significant stimulus for installation of solar collectors and biomass boilers, which will fulfil the condition for environmental acceptability with the purpose of not only increasing the use of renewable resources in Slovakia but also to ensure an effective way to cover the energy needs of households.

Program of higher biomass and solar energy use in households has fulfilled the objectives of strategy for greater use of renewable energy sources in Slovakia in the field of heat generation from biomass and solar energy. This program is in accordance with Decree No. 1 / 2005 of the Ministry of Economy about the granting of subsidies by the Ministry of Economy, as

amended and Government Resolution No. 383/2007 the draft strategy for greater use of renewable energy sources in Slovakia.

Testing

One test institute is accredited to perform EN testing (of solar thermal products). This institute is the Technický skúšobný ústav Piešťany, š.p. Krajinská cesta 2929/9, 921 01 Piešťany, Slovak Republic.

Certification

Product certification:

- The following certification scheme is available:
 - Solar Keymark
 - Installer certification: performed by the manufacturer of solar collectors

Insurance

In most cases the solar collector is included in the insurance of the house. There are different sorts of insurance policies for solar thermal systems.

Other relevant information

The progress on energy labelling for buildings is quite good for new buildings and existing buildings which are not used by their owner. Since the lodger has the right to see the energy label of a living unit before signing the lease contract, landlords are forced to get the label.

Trade Barriers

There are not any important trade barriers for solar thermal collectors. Solar Keymark certificates and tests performed by the empowered certifications bodies and testing laboratory are accepted.

Actions needed

Improve the promotion of Solar Keymark brand.