SLOVENSKI STANDARD
oSIST prEN 16883:2026

01-december-2026

Ohranjanje kulturne dediščine - Smernice za izboljšanje energetske učinkovitosti zgodovinskih stavb

Conservation of cultural heritage - Guidelines for improving the energy performance of historic buildings

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Leitlinien für die Verbesserung der energiebezogenen Leistung historischer Gebäude

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Conservation du patrimoine culturel - Lignes directrices pour l'amélioration de la performance énergétique des bâtiments d'intérêt patrimonial

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ICS:

27.015	Energijska učinkovitost. Ohranjanje energije na splošno	Energy efficiency. Energy conservation in general
91.120.10	Toplotna izolacija stavb	Thermal insulation of buildings
97.195	Umetniški in obrtniški izdelki. Kulturne dobrine in kulturna dediščina	Items of art and handicrafts. Cultural property and heritage

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

DRAFT
prEN 16883

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ICS 97.195

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English Version

Conservation of cultural heritage - Guidelines for improving the energy performance of historic buildings

Conservation du patrimoine culturel - Principes directeurs pour l'amélioration de la performance énergétique des bâtiments d'intérêt patrimonial

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Leitlinien für die Verbesserung der energiebezogenen Leistung historischer Gebäude

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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European foreword

This document (prEN 16883:2026) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 "Conservation of Cultural Heritage" the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This document is currently submitted to the CEN Enquiry.

This document will supersede EN 16883:2017 [1].

prEN 16883:2026 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to EN 16883:2017 [1]:

a) aspects related to climate change mitigation and adaptation have been introduced and clarified;

b) terminology has been aligned with EN ISO 52000-1:2017 [2] and EN 15898:2019 [3];

c) the nature of the provisions in the document has been identified and clarified.

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Introduction

The European building stock represents an important cultural and material resource. Some buildings are of significance due to their historical, architectural or cultural values; this document refers to them as historic buildings. Due to climate change and associated political goals, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mainly CO_2) associated with energy use in buildings is evident. A challenge is to improve energy performance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions without unacceptable effects on the significance of the existing built environment. This aspect distinguishes working with historic buildings from working with the building stock in general. Appropriate procedures are needed to improve energy performance in historic buildings. This document provides guidelines for such a procedure. It complements existing standards on energy performance for the building stock in general by focusing on aspects particular to historic buildings and showing how existing standards can be applied appropriately.

Historic buildings are material manifestations of immovable tangible cultural heritage. They are of significance to present and future generations. Significance is a combination of all values assigned to a building and its setting. Values can be of, among others, aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual nature. These types of values include various heritage bound aspects, for example: architectural, artistic, symbolic, technological, etc. Historic buildings in the sense of this document do not necessarily have to be statutorily designated as cultural heritage.

This document is designed to be used by building owners, authorities and professionals involved in the conservation and renovation of historic buildings. This document aims at facilitating the sustainable management of these buildings by integrating measures for energy performance improvements and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions with the adequate conservation of the buildings. Generally, the guidelines will be applicable to a wide range of buildings where special considerations are needed in order to find a sustainable balance between the use of the building, its energy performance and its conservation.

Sample Document

This document should assist users in applying existing standards in the field of energy efficiency to the special conditions of historic buildings. It presents a systematic approach, or procedure, to facilitate the best decision in each individual case. This document does not presuppose that all historic buildings need energy performance improvements.

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1 Scope

This document provides guidelines for sustainably improving the energy performance of historic buildings, e.g. historically, architecturally or culturally valuable buildings, while respecting their significance. The use of this document is not limited to buildings with statutory heritage designation, it applies to historic buildings of all types and ages.

This document presents a normative working procedure for selecting measures to improve energy performance, based on an investigation, analysis and documentation of the building including its significance. The procedure assesses the impact of those measures in relation to preserving the character-defining elements of the building.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents contain text which fully or in part is part of the requirements in the document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the cited document applies (including amendments).

EN 16096, *Conservation of cultural property - Condition survey and report of built cultural heritage*

EN 16247-2, *Energy audits - Part 2: Buildings*

3 Terms and definitions

Sample Document

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

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3.1 Terms related to buildings

3.1.1
building
construction as a whole, including the fabric and all technical building systems, where energy can be used to condition the indoor environment, to provide domestic hot water and illumination and other services related to the use of the building

Note 1 to entry: The term refers to the physical building as a whole, or to all parts thereof, that at least include the spaces and technical building systems that are relevant for the energy performance assessment.

Note 2 to entry: Parts of a building can be physically detached, but are on the same building site. For example: a canteen or a guard house or one or more classrooms of a school in a detached part of a building; or an essential space in a dwelling (e.g. bedroom).

[SOURCE: EN ISO 52000-1:2017 [2], 3.1.2]

3.1.2
building element
integral component of the technical building systems or of the fabric of a *building* (3.1.1)

[SOURCE: EN ISO 52000-1:2017 [2], 3.1.4]

3.1.3
building envelope
physical boundary or barrier separating the interior volume of a *building* (3.1.1) from the external unconditioned environment

[SOURCE: ISO 6707-4:2021 [4], 3.2.4]

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3.1.4
building fabric
physical elements of a building, excluding technical building systems

EXAMPLE Roofs, walls, floors, doors, gates and internal partitions.

Note 1 to entry: It includes elements both inside and outside of the thermal envelope, including the thermal envelope itself.

Note 2 to entry: The fabric determines the thermal transmission, the thermal envelope airtightness and (nearly all of) the thermal mass of the building (apart from the thermal mass of furniture and technical building systems). The fabric also makes the building wind and water tight. The building fabric is sometimes described as the building as such, i.e. the building without any technical building system.

[SOURCE: EN ISO 52000-1:2017 [2], 3.1.5]

3.1.5
historic building
building of *significance* (3.2.4)

Note 1 to entry: A historic building does not necessarily have to be statutorily designated as cultural heritage.

3.1.6
renovation
action of renewing an object without necessarily respecting its material or *significance* (3.2.4)

Note 1 to entry: Renovation is not a conservation activity.

Note 2 to entry: A renovation plan, however, can involve some conservation actions.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2019 [3], 3.5.9]

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3.1.7
sustainability
state of a system, including environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects, in which the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Note 1 to entry: The environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects interact and are interdependent.

3.1.8
technical building system
technical equipment for heating, cooling, ventilation, humidification, dehumidification, domestic hot water, lighting, building automation and control and electricity production

Note 1 to entry: A technical building system can refer to one or to several building services (e.g. heating, cooling and domestic hot water).

Note 2 to entry: A technical building system is composed of different sub-systems.

Note 3 to entry: Electricity production can include cogeneration, wind power and photovoltaic systems.

[SOURCE: EN ISO 52000-1:2017 [2], 3.3.13 - modified. In Note 1, "heating, heating and domestic hot water " is corrected to "heating, cooling and domestic hot water "]

3.2 Terms related to heritage

3.2.1
character-defining element
materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the *significance* (3.2.4) of a *historic building* (3.1.5), which is preserved in order to retain its *significance* (3.2.4)

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