

## SEAI Decision to Retire the SEAI BER Examination

1st February 2021

Dear Assessor,

**Please review the information in this newsletter in detail as it contains important updates regarding changes to the BER Programme and to your registration as a BER assessor.**

SEAI recently completed a review of key quality assurance mechanisms for the Building Energy Rating Scheme in consultation with BER assessors. Your insights and feedback were important as SEAI now consider and develop an action plan to implement a new Quality Assurance Programme.

**Following this review, and feedback from BER assessors, SEAI has made the decision to retire the BER exam for new entrants and registered BER assessors from 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.**

A Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme will replace the requirement to pass the BER exam. The CPD details will be shared with you in due course.

The retirement of the BER exam will affect the BER registration process for new entrants and existing BER assessor registrations.

Changes to the current BER registration processes will not come into effect until the **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**. All current processes will remain in place until this date.

There are no immediate changes planned for the existing QA auditing processes. SEAI intends to update the quality assurance programme starting in 2021 and details will be communicated when these are available.

**Details of the changes to the BER registration processes are outlined below.**

### **Updates to BER Registration Processes after the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2021:**

#### **1. New Domestic Entrants to the BER Register:**

For new entrants looking to register as a domestic BER assessor for the first time, candidates will be required to fulfill the pre-qualification registration requirements currently outlined on SEAI's website, complete the Domestic BER Training Course, supply the relevant registration documentation to SEAI and complete a mandatory online Registration Module.

Once successfully registered as a BER assessor, new entrants will be required to complete a mentoring audit and will be subject to current standard QA auditing processes.

#### **2. New Non-Domestic Entrants to the BER Register:**

For new entrants looking to register as a non-domestic BER assessor for the first time, candidates will be required to fulfill the pre-qualification registration requirements currently outlined on SEAI's website, supply the relevant registration documentation to SEAI and complete a mandatory training/assessment.

Once successfully registered as a BER assessor, new entrants will be required to complete a mentoring audit and will be subject to current standard QA auditing processes.

### **3. Existing Domestic and Non-Domestic BER Assessors:**

It is no longer a requirement to complete the BER exam every 2-years for existing BER assessors. Existing BER assessors will be required to take part in a CPD program, the details of which to be communicated in due course, that will support knowledge development and assessor learning. Existing BER assessors will also be subject to current standard QA auditing processes.

### **4. New DEC Entrants to the BER Register:**

There will be no changes to the current requirements and processes to register as a DEC assessor. All DEC assessors will be subject to standard QA auditing processes. More information on how to register as a DEC assessor is available on SEAI's website [here](#).

**Further changes to the registration processes will be communicated to all stakeholders in due course.**

**Please note:** Up until the 22nd of February 2021, new entrants to both the domestic and the non-domestic BER register will be required to sit the BER exam, unless communicated otherwise. However, in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic and as per Government Guidelines, all Exam Centers will remain closed during the current Level 5 restrictions.

**For further updates, please see SEAI's COVID-19 Notice [here](#).**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the BER Helpdesk.

**Email:** [info@ber.seai.ie](mailto:info@ber.seai.ie)

**Call:** 1890 734237 or 01 248 6985

With regards,

SEAI BER Team

