We conversed with a good amount of people regarding **Fully Accredited Commercial Energy Assessors** and collated the following particulars. I hope you find it illuminating.

For new build flats, bungalows and houses in need of an EPC, you will need to acquire the services of an accredited On Construction Domestic Energy Assessor (OCDEA). These professionals will undertake a desk-based assessment of your property, using building plans and elevation drawings. An EPC highlights the energy efficiency improvements you could make, how much they will cost, and how much you could save. This can be useful when looking to improve your current property, or if you're looking to buy and improve. Bear in mind that any figures for energy use and potential savings are for a typical household in that property – they're not tailored to you, your family or housemates, or your lifestyle. When a commercial EPC is provided it is also accompanied by a recommendations report, which provides recommendations on how the performance of the building can be enhanced, together with an indication of the likely payback period. In January 2017, the Government published its green paper, 'Building our Industrial Strategy', which highlighted affordable energy and clean growth as a priority for UK growth. It set out an approach for energy comprising three pillars: delivering affordable energy, in line with the Government's commitment to ensuring the UK has 'the lowest energy bills in Europe'; making the UK one of the most advanced economies for mainstream smart grids; and ensuring that the UK can harness the industrial opportunities from new energy technologies. When commissioning a commercial EPC, it is useful if you have to hand information about the useable size of the property, the heating systems involved and air conditioning present. This is because commercial EPCs are divided into categories or 'Levels' which are set by the type of heating system present. Level three properties are defined by basic heating and comfort cooling, level four properties will include much more complex ducted heating/cooling systems. An EPC will look like the multi-coloured sticker that you see on new household appliances. It will include an energy efficiency rating, the estimated costs of running your home and a summary of energy performance related features.



If you do not make an EPC available to a prospective buyer or tenant when selling or letting non-dwellings, the penalty is fixed, in most cases, at 12.5 per cent of the rateable value of the building. A formula is used as the costs of producing an EPC for business premises varies according to the size, complexity and use of the building. The range of penalties under this formula is set with a minimum of £500 and a maximum of £5,000. An Energy Performance Certificate survey takes on average anywhere from twenty minutes, for a studio apartment, to an hour for larger family homes. The main determining factor is the size of the property but the layout of the property is also a factor. Commercial, or Non-Domestic surveys can take considerably longer with some large commercial buildings taking a full day or even longer. Note: Time does not affect your EPC If you are looking to sell a property then there are no minimum requirements, you simply need to have a valid Energy Performance Certificate. Rental properties now have a minimum requirement. If the property fails to meet the minimum requirement then you will not be able to move tenants in. Under the current regulations a Landlord is required to provide a valid EPC when granting a new lease of a Property. This may be granting a new lease to a new tenant or renewing a lease with an existing tenant. The EPC must have a rating of E or above for the Landlord to be able to lawfully let the property. Aside from going to market, an EPC is also needed when your property is viewed, when written information is requested, or the moment when contracts are being exchanged. In any case, it's best to have this requirement taken care of ahead of time. Do your research about mees regulations before entering into any long term transactions.

## **Potential Savings**

For selling or renting out a portion of a building which has a heating system common with the rest of the building, an EPC for the whole building is to be made available for the buyer or tenant. However, if the a portion which has its own heating system is rented or sold, then an EPC for that area only should be made available for the buyer or tenant. Efficiency improvements that may cause minimal harm to the aesthetic and structural integrity of a building can include switching to a renewable energy source, installing a more efficient boiler and draught-proofing. An EPC gives information on how energy efficient a building is and sets out how this can be improved. It is a legal requirement to provide an EPC when a commercial property over a certain size is sold or leased. An Action Plan (specifying improvement measures) must also accompany the EPC for all properties for sale/lease over 1,000m<sup>2</sup>. You will also be asked to produce a Domestic EPC or Commercial EPC when applying for the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme or the Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme for a property in Darlington. These are government schemes that pay a grant to householders or property owners who are using renewable energy. Examples of renewable energy include biomass boilers, solar panels, ground source and air source heat pumps. The action of selling, renting or construction of a commercial building, triggers the need for an energy performance certificate. An EPC is not required for an existing tenancy. Professional assistance in relation to commercial epc can make or break a commercial building project.

EPC surveys are non-invasive. That means that if you have loft insulation, for example, the surveyor must be able to easily get up there to see in order to lodge it. They cannot take your word for it, and they can't make boreholes to check for cavity wall insulation or cause

any damage. If you have any work that you think should be included on the EPC that the assessor will not be able to easily see or access, paperwork like invoices or warranties can be used to prove the existence of it and get it included on the survey. An EPC assessor will provide you with a thorough and detailed analysis of the building's energy efficiency, which will result in a final energy efficiency rating from A to G, G being the least efficient and A the most. A separate report will list the different ways the energy efficiency of the property can be improved. An EPC rating is a score based on a review of your home's energy effiency. Properties are scored from A (Highly efficient) to G (Inefficient). The more efficent your property, the higher your EPC rating and the cheaper your energy bills. What you see on an EPC will differ depending on where you are in the country and whether it is an existing or new build property. EPCs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are fully displayed online, where as, EPCs in Scotland are distributed as PDFs. Investing in the appropriate energy-saving measures will lower the complexity and costs of maintaining aged or otherwise insufficient property features or technologies. For example, an old boiler may require regular servicing and can be difficult to fix, not to mention is typically less efficient and costs more to run when compared to modern, high-efficiency boilers. The EPC highlights areas such as this that could benefit from improvement, thus reducing maintenance. Maximising potential for mees isn't the same as meeting client requirements and expectations.

## **Energy Efficiency Scheme**

Energy performance certification is a key policy instrument that can assist governments in reducing energy consumption in buildings. It provides decision makers in the buildings industry and the property marketplace with objective information on a given building, either in relation to achieving a specified level of energy performance or in comparison to other similar buildings. In April 2018, Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards came into force in England and Wales. MEES makes it a legal requirement for all privately owned properties to have an EPC rating of at least an 'E' before they are let. From April 2020, MEES will be extended to existing lettings of residential property and in April 2023 to existing lettings of commercial property. Energy assessment for EPC is non-invasive. If roof, floor or wall insulation is to be taken into account during energy efficiency testing, there should be documentary or visual evidence to support. In the absence of this, it cannot be included. Public buildings in England and Wales (but not Scotland) require a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) showing actual energy use, and not just the theoretical energy rating. If a building has parts designed or altered to be used with separate heating systems, then an EPC for each individual part plus an EPC for any communal areas may be required. The DEC is accompanied by an Advisory Report that lists cost-effective measures to improve the building's energy rating, and should always be clearly displayed to the public. An EPC will provide an energy rating for a building which is based on the performance potential of the building itself (the fabric) and its services (such as heating, ventilation and lighting). The energy rating given on the certificate reflects the intrinsic energy performance standard of the building relative to a benchmark which can then be used to make comparisons with comparable properties. A solid understanding of non domestic epc register makes any related process simple and hassle free.

There is a common misunderstanding relating to listed buildings and whether they are exempt from the requirement to obtain an EPC. Listed properties, and buildings within a conservation area, will not necessarily be exempt from the requirement to have a valid EPC and it's down to the owner of a listed building to understand whether or not their property is required to have an EPC. The idea behind an EPC is both to inform you of what you can do to improve the energy efficiency of your property, and hence save money, and also to show how attractive the property is from an energy perspective for potential buyers. An energy performance certificate demonstrates the energy efficiency of a property. It will include information on the energy-saving measures already in place (such as double glazing, insulation, solar panels, etc.) as well as the estimated energy costs for the building based on its average use. Landlords can no longer let or continue to let properties covered by the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) Regulations if they have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating below E. This means landlords with properties with an EPC rating of F or G will have to invest up to £3500 (inc VAT) to improve the energy efficiency of the property before they can rent it to new tenants, or issue a renewal to existing tenants (unless an exemption is in place). In the UK, a commercial energy performance certificate or commercial EPC is required when selling or renting commercial properties which are over 50 m2 in size, have a roof and walls and use energy to control indoor climate. This is done in an effort to decrease the emission of carbon dioxide from commercial buildings. A commercial EPC has been a requirement for the marketing of a commercial property since 2008. Commercial EPCs are valid for ten years. Conducting viability appraisals with respect to epc commercial property is useful from the outset of any project.

## **NEBOSH Qualified**

An EPC is required at the time of marketing. The EPC grade should be displayed in advertisements in commercial media and must be available for issue to all prospective tenants. Where an EPC is not provided a landlord may be subject to a penalty charge notice of £500, minimum. Energy-efficient buildings reduce indoor air pollution because they offer cleaner combustion and better ventilation than traditional buildings. And because they use less energy, they also curb outdoor pollution by reducing the fossil fuel pollution created by power generation. Reduction in indoor and outdoor air pollutants can decrease incidence of illnesses such as asthma and lung cancer, as well as lower the rate of premature deaths. When you rent or buy a property – either commercial or domestic – you should be given an Energy Performance Certificate (or EPC). This is a document showing the results of an assessment which will have been carried out by a professional assessor and indicates how energy efficient the property is. Uncover further insights appertaining to Fully Accredited Commercial Energy Assessors in this <u>UK Government Portal</u> entry.

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