Swimming Pools – Part L Requirements

Where a swimming pool is provided in a building (new build, extension or as a material alteration) The U-value of the basin walls and floor should not be worse than 0.25 W/m^2.K, calculated in accordance with BS EN ISO 13370 *Thermal performance of buildings. Heat transfer via the ground*.

Renovation of Thermal Elements

A thermal element is defined in Regulation 2(3) and includes a wall or floor which separates a thermally conditioned part of the building from – the external environment including the ground.

It is therefore necessary to consider the provisions for upgrading the thermal performance of a pool basin (walls and floor) when undertaking renovation work to a pool.

Extension or erection of a building to incorporate an existing swimming pool.

Where a building is erected or extended to incorporate an existing swimming pool, the fabric elements of the pool become thermal elements *(A.D. L1B 4.1 AD L2B 5.12)*.

It is therefore a requirement to upgrade (if necessary) the pool basin in accordance with the recommendations of the relevant approved document. In all cases the required U-value is 0.25 W/m^2.K.

Requirements for existing pool basins

The pool basin is a thermal element, if the pool forms part of a building.

Where an existing element becomes part of the thermal envelope of a building where previously it was not, or, where an element is being renovated, consideration must be given to upgrading the thermal element. In the case of pool basins, walls and floors should achieve 0.25 W/m^2.K. It must however be functionally, technically and economically feasible. If it can be demonstrated that an upgrade is not technically, functionally or economically feasible, then it should be upgraded to the best standard that is possible. Generally this lesser standard should not be worse than 0.7 W/m^2.K

It may however be difficult to 'practically' achieve any improvement when considering pool basins.

Notes / Comments