

Energy audits in the European Union

The improvement of energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to concurrently improve the security of supply, reduce energy-related emissions, assure affordable energy prices, and improve economic competitiveness. To help improve energy efficiency in Europe, the Energy Efficiency Directive (Directive 2012/27/EU) entered into force on 4 December 2012. It aims to remove market barriers and failures, and promotes a more efficient use of energy in supply and demand side applications.

In its Article 8, the Energy Efficiency Directive addresses the requirements and promotion of energy audits and energy management systems. More specifically, it requires Member States to promote and ensure the use of high quality, cost-effective energy audits and energy management systems to all final customers. Whilst large enterprises are required to be subject to an energy audit by 5 December 2015 and at least every four years thereafter, SMEs should be encouraged to undertake energy audits and implement the resulting recommendations.

As a European Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive is a legal instrument that requires the transposition of its requirements into national laws by Member States. There is a degree of liberty in respect of national implementation, provided that the national transposition fulfils the Directive's minimum requirements. The European Commission has recently published a study on the national implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive, including guidance and good practice information. The documents of the study are available here::

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy>



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Energy audits for Large Enterprises (non-SMEs)

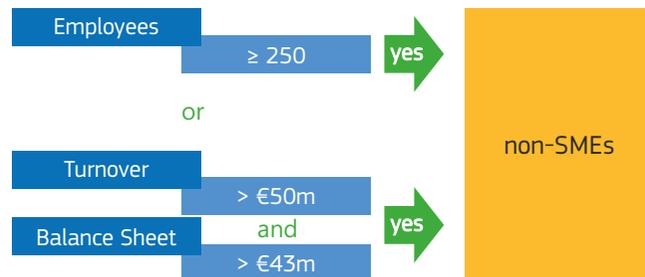
Scope and Definitions

Scope of Art. 8 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)

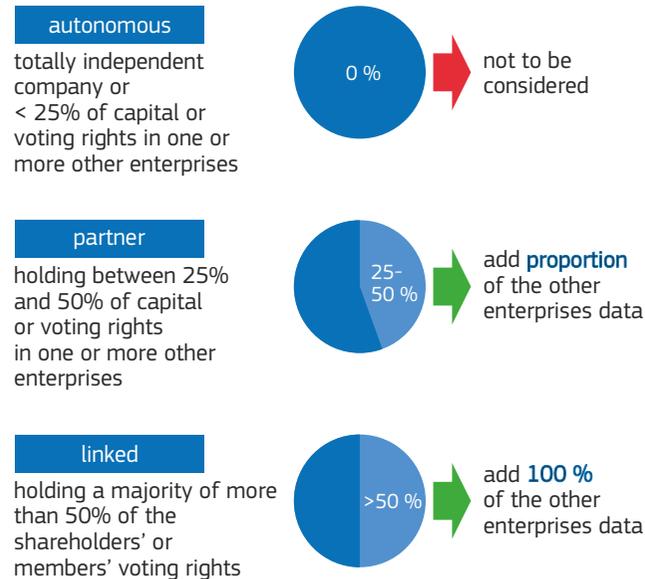


Definition of a non-SME

based on the inversion of the SME definition (EC 2003/361)



Considerations for controlled companies



The sum of the data of your company, your linked companies and the relevant proportion of your partner companies is relevant to the non-SME definition.



Sampling approach*	Only one energy audit may be necessary for different sites with sufficiently similar energy consumption profiles.
Minimum coverage*	A minimum percentage of a company's energy consumption has to be covered by the energy audit.
Buildings*	A building is under the responsibility of the landlord or the tenant .
Transport*	Cross border and/or national transportation activities have to be considered.
Monitoring, Reporting and Verification*	Companies may be subject to spot checks of their audit documentation or will have to submit their audit report proactively .
Penalties*	Targeted person for penalties may be the director of the company , the company itself, the auditor or a combination.