WORKSHEET 4.15

Recertification, and the Result That Had to Be Held

Subchapter 4.15 · case in the book: Trondheim

Take the action plan from your first year of certification, the one whose measures are all marked complete, and walk the building with it tonight. Not the records: the building. Check the damper, read the set point, look at the schedule, put your hand on the cover. Whatever you find is what your certificate is about to be judged on, because at recertification the question is not only what you achieved but what you still have.

This worksheet turns the tools of the subchapter into a form you can fill in. The texts come from the book; the empty columns are for your own property. Adapt it before use: an unadapted checklist is exactly what the book warns against.

Practical application: what to do in your property

Step (from the book)	Done?	What we found / owner
Walk the first year's action plan through the building, at night, without the records.		
Build a persistence register: measure, result, signature, interval, owner.		
Give physical measures a long check interval and a check after any works that touch them, and otherwise leave them alone.		
Sample twenty held measures a quarter, partly at random, partly by judgement.		
Print current set points against their recorded criteria every quarter.		
Put the restoration of plant state into the maintenance sign-off, not into memory.		
Attach a cost per night to every deferred item before the budget meeting.		
Bring the whole cycle's story to recertification, losses included.		
Book the recertification audit a full quarter before expiry.		
In the second cycle, measure yourself on what you held, not on what you found.		

These steps are the book’s method, not requirements of ISO 50001. Evidence can take whatever form suits the property; a separate document is needed only where an applicable requirement, or the property’s own system, makes it necessary.

Verification Pact: what is believed, tested against the standard

What is commonly believed	What actually holds	Our position
«We improved seven point nine per cent over the cycle.»	And implemented twelve and a half. The gap is the subject of the audit, and it is the only number in the room that says anything about your system.	
«That measure is complete.»	That records the day the work was done. Whether its effect is still there today is a different fact, verified a different way.	
«The unit was serviced last month.»	A green mark says a visit occurred. It says nothing about the position the technician left the bypass damper in.	
«Nobody changed anything.»	Four degrees arrived one at a time, each for a real complaint, and a firmware update returned three zones to factory defaults.	
«Our savings are locked in.»	The fabric and the fittings largely are. Every schedule, set point, damper position and habit is one person and eleven seconds away from gone.	
«Recertification is a bigger surveillance visit.»	It judges the cycle: the reports, the findings, the changes, and whether the system still fits the scope. It asks what you improved and what you held.	
«We will book it for the month before expiry.»	Then a finding has nowhere to go. Miss the decision date and you do not get an extension, you get a new certificate with a new date.	
«Year four is about finding the next saving.»	Year four is the next saving and the first three held. In a building that has been looked at, holding is the part of the work nobody plans for.	

Common mistakes: a self-check

Mistake (from the book)	Present here?	Action / owner
Preparing to answer what you achieved when the question is what you held.		
Treating complete as the last entry a measure ever receives.		
Keeping reversible and irreversible measures in the same undifferentiated list.		
Looking at steps rather than at sequences of steps.		
Reading a maintenance sign-off as evidence of the state plant was left in.		

Mistake (from the book)	Present here?	Action / owner
Deferring a physical item without a cost per night beside the decision.		
Watching one headline indicator and none of the series that reveal drift.		
Arriving at recertification with the best year rather than the whole cycle.		
Booking the recertification audit into the weeks before expiry.		
Responding to decay by locking the building instead of sampling it.		

Operative synthesis

- **Recertification judges a period. It takes in the whole cycle (the reports, the findings and their closure, the changes, the complaints) and asks whether the system still fits the scope it certifies and whether performance improved across the three years. For this standard that framing changes the question a property has to answer. Not what did you achieve, which is a fact about the cycle's best year, but what have you held, which is a fact about today.**
- **Measures are of two kinds and everything practical follows from separating them. Fabric, insulation and a replaced fitting largely hold by themselves and may be verified once and then checked only rarely. A schedule, a set point, a damper position, a piece of removable equipment and a routine belonging to one person hold only while something holds them, and they decay quietly, at a rate nobody is measuring, in buildings operated by competent people solving immediate problems.**
- **So: a closed action is not a maintained result. Completion and persistence are two facts, established by two methods at two different times, and a management system that records only the first will lose the second without ever seeing it go. The remedy is small (a signature, an interval and an owner recorded when a measure is implemented, a register of what is being held, and a sample of twenty of them every quarter) and nothing else in the ordinary machinery of a certified system does this job.**
- **The requirement it satisfies is operational control rather than anything about improvement, which is why the finding in Trondheim named a damper and three zones and a circulation temperature rather than a percentage. That is the right finding. It names the thing that has to change, and the number follows it.**
- **In Trondheim the property implemented twelve and a half points across a cycle and was standing on seven point nine. Two measures had held: a relamping, because a fitting that has been replaced stays replaced, and a sequencing strategy, because it had been written into a version-controlled document. Four had decayed, none through carelessness: a conference and a firmware update, a bypass left open after a service visit, four separate guest complaints on four separate mornings, and a budget meeting held twice without a figure in front of it. The certificate was renewed. At the first quarterly sample under the new register, nine of twenty measures were not in the state the records described.**
- **Which is the note this volume ends on, and it is addressed to whoever is holding it. This chapter has been about what a certification body does, and the preceding one about what an internal auditor does, and between them they describe a great deal of machinery. None of that machinery finds a bypass damper standing open behind a completed service visit. A person does, walking a building at night with last year's action plan and no faith in it whatever. The first cycle of an energy management system is about discovering what a building is doing.**

Every cycle after it is mostly about noticing what has quietly stopped, and that work is unglamorous, it is never finished, it produces nothing anybody photographs for a report, and it is the entire difference between a certificate that describes a system and a certificate that describes a building.

Action plan for our property

Action	Owner	Due	How we will know it worked

Source: Francesco Dore, The Helm and the Lens, Volume 4b «The Lens», subchapter 4.15. Edizioni Effedore, 2026. Clause references are paraphrased; this sheet does not reproduce the text of ISO 50001, ISO 50003 or ISO/IEC 17021-1. It is not legal advice: energy law is that of the place where the property operates.