What is Miljöbyggnad?

MILJÖ

BYGGNAD

Miljöbyggnad is the most widespread environmental certification system for buildings in Sweden. If a building has Miljöbyggnad certification, this means that its environmental properties have been assessed by a third party. Once a building is certified, it is awarded with a certificate. The certification is valid as long as the building's environmental performance is maintained, and this is reported to SGBC every five years after the certification.

Buildings are assessed within the areas of energy, indoor environment and materials. The environmental properties of a building determine whether it is given a rating of Bronze, Silver or Gold. In order to meet the criteria for a Bronze rating, it must be possible to demonstrate, among other criteria, that all statutory requirements are met. To achieve a Silver rating, the building must have a higher performance than is needed for Bronze. To achieve a Gold rating, the building must have the best possible performance with existing technology.

What can I expect from the building I work in?

Energy

A building with Miljöbyggnad certification will have a lower level of energy consumption than the average building. Beyond requiring less energy for heat in the colder months of the year, buildings with Miljöbyggnad certification are also planned, designed and built in a way that limits the need for cooling during the hottest period of the summer.

Energy which the building nevertheless requires to function will, insofar as possible, come from a renewable source, and locally produced energy is rewarded.

Indoor environment

A building with Miljöbyggnad certification lets in plenty of natural light and has a controlled and comfortable indoor climate both on warm summer days and in cold winter nights. Ventilation in the building must be sufficient in order to generate a good and healthy indoor air quality. Adequate solar protection must be installed, or alternatively the building's residents or users must have the possibility to install such protection themselves.

The indoor noise levels are measured and must meet acceptable levels both with regards to noise between apartments and from technical installations and traffic.

Miljöbyggnad is provided by SGBC



Materials

Construction materials must be correctly documented, and the most harmful chemicals cannot be used when building from scratch. In the case of a renovation, it is essential to know that those materials which are no longer permitted have been removed.

As buildings become more complex with increasingly different materials used throughout the construction process; you can feel safe in a building with Miljöbyggnad certification as there will always be a documentation in place demonstrating that the materials used contain few hazardous or endocrine-disrupting substances. When a building with Miljöbyggnad certification is designed, a Life Cycle Assessment, LCA, is carried out on both the foundation and the frame to determine what level of carbon dioxide equivalents will be generated.

What should I do if I have any questions about the Miljöbyggnad system?

If you have any questions about the Miljöbyggnad certification scheme, you can contact the Sweden Green Building Council (SGBC). The easiest way to do this is by simply sending an email to *miljobyggnad@sgbc.se*

If you have a question about your workplace, you should ask the property owner at the first instance.