In order to comply with the Part L of the Building Regulations the Dwelling Emission Rate (DER) must be less than the Target Emission Rate (TER).

In order to show compliance calculations showing the DER, TER and a list of specifications must be submitted to the local planning authority prior to commencement on site. Notice of completion on site must also be given and any changes to the specification noted.

The TER is calculated using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) 2009. It is calculated in two parts. Firstly the space heating and lighting factors are calculated using the data in Appendix R and are for a notional dwelling of the same size and type constructed to 2002 specifications. Secondly, these factors are incorporated into the TER2010 equation to obtain the CO2 emissions whilst incorporating the 25 per cent reduction required over the 2006 Part L requirements. Within the 2002 TER calculations the allowance for linear thermal transmittance is 0.11 multiplied by the total exposed surface area.

The DER is calculated using SAP 2009 and incorporates three possibilities for linear thermal transmittance.

1) All detailing conforms with Accredited or Enhanced Construction Details or another government-approved source involving independent assessment of the construction method. In this case use the values provided by the approved source along with the length of each junction.

2) Psi (Ψ) values have been calculated by a person with suitable expertise and experience but have not been subject to independent assessment of the construction method. In this case the Ψ values are increased by 0.02 or 25% (whichever is the larger) and used along with the length of each junction.

3) If neither of the above applies use y = 0.15 multiplied by the total exposed surface area.

See figure 1 which shows a flow chart highlighting the main steps that are required to show compliance with Part L.
Figure 1 – Flow chart showing process required to comply with Part L