TightVent

May 2026

Newsletter

No 30

Foreword

Welcome to the May 2026 edition of our biannual newsletter!

In this issue, we announce the opening of registration for the 2026 AIVC – TightVent – venticool joint Conference in Incheon, Republic of Korea, and introduce our upcoming webinar dedicated to airtightness tester qualification practices in different countries.

We also invite you to revisit two recent webinars now available online, covering topics ranging from indoor air quality databases to long-term airtightness performance and innovative leak detection methods. In addition, this issue presents an overview of the ongoing revision of EN 16798-17, which is expected to significantly influence future ventilation inspection practices and IAQ assessment approaches.

Finally, we are delighted to share recent product developments from our partners.

Please visit our website, follow us on Bluesky and LinkedIn, and read our monthly newspaper "Energy Efficiency and Indoor Climate in Buildings" to find out more about our activities.

We hope you enjoy this issue and stay connected with all that's ahead!

The TightVent team

Registration Open: 2026 AIVC – TightVent – venticool Conference in Incheon, South Korea!

We are excited to announce that registration is officially open for the 46th AIVC – TightVent – venticool joint Conference, taking place from September 30 to October 1, 2026, at the Songdo International District in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

This year's theme, "Innovations in Smart Ventilation and IEQ for Resilient and Adaptive Buildings," brings together global experts for this international event organized by INIVE on behalf of the AIVC, TightVent and venticool and held in collaboration with the Korean Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology (KICT) and the Korean Institute of Architectural Sustainable Environment and Building Systems (KIAEBS).

Why Attend?

- Comprehensive Programme: A dynamic mix of peer and non-peer reviewed presentations, expert-led topical sessions, and invited contributions aligned with the core themes of the conference.
- Integrated Topics: Benefit from a combined programme that links the specialized focus of the AIVC, TightVent, and venticool.
- Industry Exhibition: Network with partners and explore a dedicated exhibition showcasing new technical solutions and building technologies.

Early Bird Discount: Register before June 30, 2026, to take advantage of early bird rates and secure the lowest registration fee.

- Secure your spot: Register here: https://aivc2026conference.org/registration/ .
- Learn more: Visit the Official Conference Website: https://aivc2026conference.org/.

In this issue

EN 16798-17 Revision to Introduce Mandatory Measurements for Ventilation Inspection

Valérie Leprince, Cerema, France

The revision of EN 16798-17 officially started in February 2026. This new revision is closely linked to one of the major evolutions introduced by the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD): the strengthening of requirements related to ventilation inspection and indoor environmental quality (IEQ).

The revision therefore comes at a pivotal moment. Buildings are becoming increasingly energy efficient and increasingly smart, while at the same time expectations regarding indoor air quality (IAQ) continue to grow. In this context, traditional inspection approaches based only on visual checks and occasional airflow measurements are no longer sufficient.

Furthermore, field observations suggest that fewer than half of ventilation systems operate as originally intended, which seriously undermines the credibility of relying on installed systems alone to ensure indoor air quality, since even a well-designed ventilation system cannot deliver acceptable IAQ if it is not correctly commissioned, verified and regularly inspected; promoting ventilation systems must therefore go hand in hand with promoting systematic and relevant inspection throughout their operational life.

The future EN 16798-17 aims to provide a modern framework capable of assessing the real performance of ventilation systems, including smart, demand-controlled, hybrid and natural ventilation systems.

Why is EN 16798-17 being revised?

EN 16798-17 was first published in 2017 to support Member States in implementing the previous EPBD requirements regarding the inspection of air-conditioning and ventilation systems. The standard mainly focused on inspection methodologies from an energy perspective, while also addressing some indoor climate issues linked to ventilation systems.

The publication of the new EPBD in 2024 significantly changed the landscape.

The new directive now requires Member States to ensure regular inspection of ventilation systems in certain large buildings every three or five years, depending on the type of system and building. However, the EPBD also introduces an important alternative: inspections may be simplified when buildings are equipped with proper monitoring functionalities of IEQ.

Another major novelty of the EPBD is the explicit requirement to consider indoor environmental quality together with energy performance. This is particularly important for ventilation systems, which directly influence the level of pollutants (inc. particles), CO_2, humidity and thermal comfort.

As a consequence, the revision of EN 16798-17 must now address several new challenges:

- How to inspect increasingly smart and demand-controlled ventilation systems (with no constant flowrate).
- How to assess the actual performance of ventilation systems rather than only their design intent.
- How monitoring may simplify inspections.
- How to integrate IAQ considerations into inspection procedures.

From visual checks to measured performance

One of the main evolutions currently discussed within CEN TC156/WG23 is the introduction of mandatory measurements during ventilation inspections. Historically, inspections mainly relied on visual checks, document verification and occasional airflow measurements, which was generally sufficient for conventional constant-air-volume systems. However, ventilation technologies have evolved rapidly. Demand-controlled, hybrid and natural ventilation systems now continuously adapt their operation according to occupancy, CO_2 levels, humidity, pressure or weather conditions. In such systems, a simple airflow measurement at a given moment is no longer enough to assess whether the system actually performs as intended.

The revision of EN 16798-17 therefore aims to introduce more operational and performance-oriented inspection approaches. Depending on the type of system and its design philosophy, inspections could include airflow or proxy measurements, verification of control strategies, assessment of IAQ indicators, energy use analysis and consistency checks between monitored data and expected system behaviour. While the objective is not to impose heavy measurement campaigns in all buildings, the principle emerging from the discussions is that inspections should increasingly rely on objective operational evidence rather than only visual observations.

The discussions within CEN TC156/WG23 currently explore several complementary approaches.

IAQ monitoring and the link with EN 16798-1

The possibility to assess ventilation performance partly through indoor air quality measurements is currently discussed in the revision of EN 16798-17. If a building continuously demonstrates acceptable IAQ conditions, this could provide strong evidence that the ventilation system performs correctly. This aligns closely with the philosophy of the new EPBD, which allows simplified inspections or exemptions when adequate monitoring is implemented.

However, using IAQ measurements as an inspection tool raises an important challenge: defining what “acceptable IAQ” actually means. Today, European countries still rely on very different indicators, thresholds and assessment methodologies. Some mainly use CO_2 concentration, while others also include particles, humidity, VOCs or formaldehyde, etc., often with different averaging methods and limit values. Without clearer and more harmonised IAQ criteria, it remains difficult to use IAQ measurements as a robust basis for inspection.

This is where the parallel revision of EN 16798-1 becomes particularly important. The revised standard is expected to provide methodologies helping national decision-makers define relevant IAQ indicators, threshold values, performance

categories and assessment methods. It should also introduce a more performance-based approach focused on the actual indoor environmental conditions achieved in buildings rather than only on design airflow rates. The alignment between EN 16798-1 and EN 16798-17 will therefore be essential: EN 16798-1 would define what constitutes acceptable IEQ performance, while EN 16798-17 would define how inspectors can verify that ventilation systems effectively deliver this performance in operation.

Towards a new generation of ventilation inspection

Ventilation systems are becoming increasingly smart, connected and adaptive, with growing use of demand-controlled, hybrid and natural ventilation strategies in both residential and non-residential buildings. At the same time, expectations regarding indoor air quality, health and operational energy performance continue to rise. Inspection methodologies must therefore evolve accordingly. The revised standard aims to provide more robust and operational approaches adapted to these new systems, including clearer guidance on measurements and monitored data, while remaining focused on regular inspections during operation rather than handing-over procedures (already covered by EN 12599 and EN 14134). The revision work officially started in February 2026 within CEN TC156/WG23 and is expected to continue over the coming years, with a first draft of EN 16798-17 expected by the end of 2028 and a first draft of the revised version of EN 16798-1 potentially available around 2027. Although discussions are still at an early stage, one conclusion is already clear: ventilation inspection is undergoing a significant transformation in which measurements, operational evidence and indoor environmental quality shall play a central role.

Upcoming webinar – June 16: "Ensuring Reliable Airtightness Measurement"

The qualification of airtightness testers plays a key role in ensuring the reliability, consistency, and credibility of building airtightness measurements, which are essential for energy performance assessment, indoor environmental quality, and compliance with building regulations. Over the past decades, several countries and professional organizations have developed qualification and certification schemes for airtightness testers in order to improve measurement quality and increase confidence in reported results.

In some countries, qualification schemes are closely linked to regulatory requirements and mandatory testing procedures. In France, for example, the implementation of building energy regulations has been accompanied by approved qualification schemes for testers, certification procedures, and national databases collecting airtightness test results to support quality control and statistical analysis.

In other contexts, qualification schemes are developed and managed by professional associations. Examples include ATTMA (Air Tightness Testing & Measurement Association) in the United Kingdom and ABAA (Air Barrier Association of America) in the U.S., which promote technical competence, harmonized practices, and third-party quality assurance. These qualification frameworks are also used and referenced internationally.

This webinar will present and compare these different approaches to the qualification of airtightness testers.

This webinar is organized by the AIVC and TightVent. Both initiatives are facilitated by INIVE.

Agenda (CEST)

- 14:00 | Introduction on the qualification of airtightness testers across 16 countries, Nolwenn Hurel (Cerema, France)
- 14:05 | Qualification process for airtightness testers in the UK, Paul Carling (BCTA, UK)
- 14:20 | Questions and answers
- 14:30 | Qualification of airtightness testers in the USA – The ABAA experience, Laverne Dalgleish (ABAA, USA)
- 14:45 | Questions and answers
- 14:55 | Qualification of airtightness testers in France - Feedback after 15 years, Valérie Leprince (Cerema, France)
- 15:10 | Questions and answers
- 15:30 | End of webinar

Attendance to the webinar is free of charge, but registration is required.

For further information please download the flyer

Webinar Recordings & Slides Now Available

We are pleased to announce that the full recordings and presentation slides from our two recent webinars are now available for viewing and download.

1. From Inspections to IAQ Measurement: Exploring Databases for Better Indoor Environments
(Originally held November 25, 2025)

This session explored national databases and monitoring projects aimed at improving indoor air quality (IAQ).

Access the November 25 Recordings & Slides

2. Airtightness in Practice: Long-term Performance, Field Evidence, and Innovative Detection Methods
(Originally held March 17, 2026)

This session followed up on contributions presented at the Buildair 2025 Symposium in Hannover bringing these insights to a wider international audience.

Access the March 17 Recordings & Slides

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel to get updates when new technical recordings are published.

TightVent Partners

Product news as provided by our partners

Retrotec's DM32 Trade-In Program — Upgrade Your Gauge

Retrotec is offering a limited-time trade-in promotion for DM32 owners, giving you a straightforward path to upgrading to the DM32X Digital Manometer for blower door and duct testing.

The DM32X brings enhanced accuracy, new features, and improved reliability, making it a powerful tool for any building diagnostics professional. Trade in your functioning DM32 and receive a rebate toward your new instrument.

This is a limited-time offer, so don't miss your chance to step up to the next generation of precision testing.

Learn more at www.retrotec.com

Contact Retrotec EU | +31 (0) 522 282941 | salesEU@retrotec.com:

Clearer insight into ventilation performance — Lindab launches OneSync in Sweden and Denmark

Lindab is proud to announce the launch of **OneSync** in **Sweden and Denmark**.

OneSync is a **cloud-based** platform that makes ventilation and indoor climate performance visible in real time and over time, with room-level visibility.

Designed to complement **Lindab's demand-controlled ventilation system, Pascal System Management**, OneSync gives property owners, facility managers and consultants a clear overview of how the system actually performs in daily operation. With plan visualisation, historical data and trend analysis, it becomes easier to understand deviations, follow up performance and make **better-informed** decisions related to comfort, energy and operation.

OneSync works with or without Building Management Systems (BMS) and is developed to meet European requirements for data security and governance.

To learn more, visit https://www.lindab.se/onesync

BCCA is offering a new process certification for the treatment of rising damp in masonry

This certification confirms that your organisation follows standardised and controlled procedures. It therefore guarantees a high standard of quality and the rigorous execution of your work.

This certification scheme was developed by a working group bringing together all relevant stakeholders (specifiers, contractors, experts, and public authorities) and is based on 4 pillars:

1. Approved products (ATG)
2. Documented procedures
3. Compliant execution techniques
4. Training and skills (BCCA Academy)

More info on our website and find all the training courses on the BCCA Academy.

DIAMOND PARTNERS

Lindab

retrotec

GOLD PARTNERS

ACIN instrumenten

BCCA

BlowerDoor GmbH

dooApp

SILVER PARTNERS

BUILD TEST SOLUTIONS

eurima

gonal

SIGA

ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

ASOCIACE BLOWER DOOR_CZ

BPIE

PLATFORM FACILITATOR

INIVE