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The silent revolution in livestock ventilation

ErP 2026: a new era for professional livestock ventilation

Ventilation has become one of the strategic factors shaping profitability, sustainability and animal welfare on modern livestock farms. Against a backdrop of rising energy costs, increasingly stringent environmental requirements and the need to optimise production performance, the quality of ventilation systems is becoming ever more important. As a result, the new European ErP 2026 requirements represent a significant change for manufacturers, integrators and end users across the sector.
Against this backdrop, ZIEHL-ABEGG is recognised as one of the world's leading names in ventilation technology. With an international presence and decades of experience in developing high-efficiency fans for a wide range of market segments, the company has pioneered solutions based on EC technology, advanced aerodynamic design and control systems specifically developed for these applications.

From component efficiency to system efficiency

The new Ecodesign legislation, Regulation (EU) 2024/1834, applicable from 24 July 2026, fundamentally changes the way a fan is defined and assessed. Until now, much of the market has focused primarily on the performance of the motor-impeller assembly. With ErP 2026, the concept evolves towards a holistic view of the system.
From now on, a fan is understood as an assembly comprising all elements that have a significant influence on its energy performance. This includes not only the motor and impeller, but also components such as inlet cones, housings, adapters, motor supports, diffusers and protective guards. In other words, efficiency is no longer measured solely at individual component level but is assessed on the real-world performance of the complete system.
This development also reflects the trend seen on the most modern livestock farms, where ventilation is not regarded as an isolated element anymore, but as part of an overall environmental management system based on automation and continuous monitoring.

The specific case of livestock ventilation chimneys

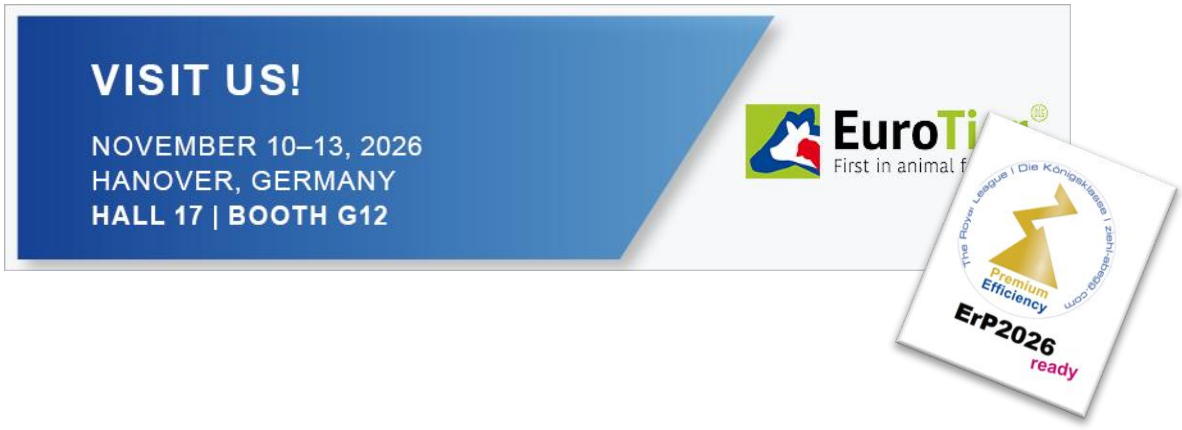
One area where this change will have a particularly significant impact is the ventilation of pig and poultry farms using extraction chimneys.
Traditionally, a livestock ventilation chimney is built from different components supplied by different companies. The fan manufacturer supplies the motorised impeller and its support structure, while the integrator, or a specialist third party, supplies the duct or chimney body. Once assembled and installed on the farm, all these elements operate as a single ventilation unit.
Until now, this division of responsibilities has been widely accepted in the market. However, ErP 2026 introduces a new reality: the company that completes the assembly and places it on the market is legally regarded as the fan manufacturer.
This means assuming obligations relating to performance declaration, CE marking, technical documentation, compliance with efficiency requirements, information for users, future availability of spare parts and other aspects linked to the circular economy.

Correctly identifying who assumes the role of manufacturer therefore ceases to be merely an administrative matter and becomes an essential aspect of regulatory compliance.

What options does the market have?

In this new landscape, the sector essentially has two routes to compliance.
The first is to purchase a complete ErP 2026-compliant fan directly from a specialist manufacturer with the technical expertise, test facilities, certification and experience required to ensure regulatory compliance. Companies such as ZIEHL-ABEGG offer complete solutions whose performance has been verified as a system, considerably simplifying the process for integrators and end users.
The second option is to purchase a complete chimney solution supplied by an integrator or specialist manufacturer. In this case, it is essential to ensure that the supplier has formally assumed the role of fan manufacturer and fulfils all the obligations arising from the legislation.
Both options are valid, but they require clarity regarding the technical and legal responsibilities associated with each product.

Beyond regulatory compliance

Although ErP 2026 is often associated primarily with energy-efficiency requirements, its scope goes much further. The new regulation promotes a more comprehensive approach to ventilation, in which efficiency, sustainability, data traceability and manufacturer responsibility form part of a single concept.
Ultimately, the new rules make it essential to know who is responsible for the complete ventilation system. Clearly defined responsibilities and the use of compliant solutions will help farmers, integrators and manufacturers meet regulatory requirements, optimise energy consumption and continue improving animal welfare and farm productivity.

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