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# 2022 – the year to spread the word

Much has been made of the recent government policy announcements on off-gas grid heating. Rightly so, as the proposals will have a huge impact on our industry and rural consumers. But with the consultations now closed, is that the end of the story?



The answer is no. While those with an immediate interest will have given their views to government, most rural homeowners and businesses are blissfully unaware of how the changes will affect them. Unless we do something about that, they could be in for an unaffordable shock.

From 2024 for larger businesses, and 2026 for small businesses and homes, if your oil or LPG boiler needs replacing, you will be treated differently to those that use mains gas. According to the Government, in most cases you will be expected to fit a heat pump, providing it is deemed 'reasonably practical'. The problem is, the Government isn't clear what reasonably practical will actually mean, just that, according to their research, for over 80% of oil heated buildings, a heat pump should be fine.

Registered businesses have already told us that the Government is wrong about this, and OFTEC included this feedback in its consultation response. However, the Government is committed to heat pumps and is unlikely to change its plans unless we can persuade rural households and businesses to make their concerns known. If enough consumers complain about the plans, it's likely that MPs will listen.

This doesn't mean being anti-heat pump, it simply means ensuring that oil heating customers have good information about the Government's plans and are made aware that alternatives such as HVO exist. We're confident that, armed with that information, they'll be demanding that the decarbonisation plans are fair and affordable – and include HVO.

So please help us this year to get the word out – see page 5 for more details.

## Nick Hawkins

Chairman  
OFTEC

# OFTEC is moving

This spring, OFTEC will be moving from its long-term base on the outskirts of Ipswich to a new office development in nearby Melton. It's an exciting time for the company and will enable us to continue to provide services to our registered technicians, businesses, and the industry to our best ability.

The move will take place on 30 March 2022 and it is likely that the normal registration and technical services will need to be suspended for a short period while the move takes place. However, every effort will be made to minimise disruption and inconvenience to customers.

From 4 April, OFTEC's new address will be:  
OFTEC, Unit 25 Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Suffolk, IP12 1QT.

Fittingly, given the drive to reduce the emissions from buildings, the move is to a new energy efficient, low carbon heated office, making it an ideal base for the trade association and competent person scheme provider as we look towards a net zero future.

Look out for further updates in OFTEC's e-news.



## OFTEC compliance

OFTEC's compliance team works hard to ensure that all registered businesses and technicians uphold the highest standards. However, each quarter a few are suspended or have their registration revoked. This can be for various reasons and mean they no longer have the right to display themselves as OFTEC registered.

From the 1st of October 2021 – 28th February 2022 there was a total of 124 suspended and three businesses had their membership revoked\*.

The revoked businesses are:

- C11536 – 4 Heat Ltd
- C103790 – Mike Jones Plumbing and Heating
- C102356 – 2 Group Services Ltd

\*Businesses do have the right to appeal decisions regarding their status made by OFTEC.

## Changes to OFTEC Direct

You may have noticed that the range of stock available through OFTEC Direct has reduced in recent months.

Having reviewed this element of our business ahead of the move to our new building, we have decided to reduce the items available through the shop and focus exclusively on core branded products such as books, control documents and warning stickers/labels, etc. A further factor in this decision is ever-increasing competition by large online retailers that are specifically geared up to serve the mass heating market.

To visit the OFTEC Direct shop, go to the OFTEC website and login to the technician area where you will find products relevant to your scopes of registration. We would like to thank all our OFTEC Direct customers for their support and patience whilst we move through this transition.



# OFTEC and UKIFDA submit robust responses to BEIS Heat in Buildings consultations

OFTEC's head of public affairs, Malcolm Farrow, summarises the joint response to the recent government policy consultations on decarbonising off-gas grid heating in homes and businesses.

When the UK Government published its Heat in Buildings Strategy last October, it also published three consultation documents of critical importance to our industry. These covered policy proposals for off-gas homes and businesses, and what was called a 'market mechanism' designed to increase heat pump production.

The key element of the proposals is a plan to phase out the installation of high carbon fossil fuel heating – BEIS code for oil, LPG and coal – from 2024 in large commercial buildings, and 2026 in small non-domestic buildings and homes. New regulations will instead favour a heat pump first approach where "reasonably practical" as part of the natural appliance replacement cycle. This approach builds on academic research, commissioned by BEIS, that the Government says shows that 80% of existing oil-heated homes can be converted to low temperature heat pumps without major modifications to insulation and wiring.

OFTEC, working jointly with UKIFDA, submitted a robust, detailed response to all the consultations, highlighting our concerns and the positive benefits of supporting renewable liquid fuels such as HVO to make more rapid decarbonisation progress during the 2020s.

Our key points of concern were:

- Because off-gas grid households will be treated differently from those on gas, they will be disadvantaged, making the policy unfair and potentially discriminatory.
- There is significant uncertainty over whether the anticipated heat pump cost reductions or recruitment of sufficient skilled and qualified heat pump installers can be achieved.
- The focus on appliance replacement is unnecessary, costly and is not the quickest way to reduce carbon emissions.
- The data used to support the claim that 80% of oil-heated homes are 'heat pump ready' is unconvincing and

has contributed to unrealistic policy proposals.

- While key to success, there is no definition of "reasonably practicable" – instead it has been left to consultees to propose one.
- The policy does not reflect how appliances are purchased – in particular, it doesn't take adequate account of distress purchases which make up over half of all installs.

We agree that heat pumps will be suitable for some off grid homes, but that:

- A broader range of technologies need to be supported to:
  - reflect the types of homes people live in
  - avoid delays in distress purchase situations
  - achieve the best carbon reduction potential
  - avoid unnecessary cost and disruption
  - encourage competition
  - ensure fundamental fairness to all consumers.
- Significant progress can be made quickly by promoting renewable liquid fuels and harmonising existing incentive programmes – currently, these fuels are subsidised in transport but not heating.
- Less well-insulated off-grid homes should be prioritised for conversion to a renewable liquid fuel because of the lack of a viable solutions that can meet a definition of 'reasonably practical'.

The Government already accepts that some off-gas grid homes will not be suitable for heat pumps and that renewable liquid fuels such as HVO are an option. OFTEC and UKIFDA will work with BEIS and the other devolved governments in the UK to ensure that HVO is supported in policy. We are confident that this will be achieved and that there will continue to be an installation market for boilers and tanks beyond 2024/26. We would also like to thank the 229 installers who responded to our questionnaire, which added very useful 'real world' evidence to our response.

## Upcoming OFTEC webinar presents: What the L changes in June?



OFTEC is hosting a webinar on 30 March 2022, run by Joe Bath, OFTEC's technical manager, that will present an overview of the significant changes to building regulations that will affect all heating engineers working in England.

Part L changes come into effect on 15 June 2022 and will have a substantial impact on the daily life of engineers.

The webinar will discuss the implications of the changes, how it will directly affect and impact engineers and what it all means for the future of the heating industry.

Further details will be announced nearer the time via OFTEC's e-news, however, keep the 30 March 2022 in your diaries. The webinar will be a specific offering for OFTEC registered technicians only.

To find out all about the Part L changes read more on pages 35 and 36.

# HVO demonstration project going from strength to strength

As announced in the last issue of Oil Installer, an expanded HVO demonstration project has been taking place over winter. In all, 15 fuel distributors have been involved and 93 homes and businesses have been successfully converted, with a further 33 scheduled. The sites chosen are right across the UK and reflect the wide range of situations where oil heating is used.

The demonstration project builds on the successful smaller scale trial run the previous winter. The appliances converted include modern condensing boilers, older standard efficiency boilers, a hybrid boiler/heat pump system and an Aga.

The aim was to simulate the real-world deployment of HVO, so the installations have not been subject to the kind of extensive monitoring that would occur in a trial where the outcome was in doubt. Positive outcomes were expected and that's exactly what has happened. All the conversions have been entirely successful, and no significant problems have occurred.

The current project has confirmed what we expected – that HVO is an ideal replacement for kerosene. The owners of the systems have all been extremely happy about the experience and as you'd expect, there's been a strong feel-good factor. That's hardly surprising, it's rewarding to know that you're heating your home or business efficiently and reducing your emissions by almost 90% without any hassle or disruption!

The project team will review the next steps for the project in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, unlike the Government-funded electrification of heat demonstration project, industry has paid the full cost of the HVO work. It's unlikely that we will be able to fully support the project at the current scale going forward. However, we hope to continue to demonstrate the benefits of HVO at a number of sites to enable politicians to see the fuel in action. There's nothing like seeing a boiler running on HVO and speaking to a happy owner to understand why this is such a brilliant low carbon solution.

Here are a couple of examples of sites that have been converted.



## Raise a toast to a net zero pub!

A pub in South Lincolnshire is raising a glass after becoming the first rural establishment in the country to achieve net-zero emissions with HVO.

The Five Horseshoes Inn in the village of Barholm reduced its carbon emissions by nearly 90% by adopting HVO as part of its heating solution. The fossil-free fuel, sustainably sourced from waste cooking oil, works in the pub's existing oil heating system as a 'drop-in' replacement for kerosene. The pub then offset its remaining emissions with a tree planting scheme.



## HVO passes second winter milestone with flying colours

In November 2020, a bungalow in the small village of Scorrier, near Redruth in Cornwall, was the first home

to be converted to HVO as part of the current field trial and demonstration project. The property, which had previously relied on oil for heating, has now completed its second winter on HVO with no problems reported. The occupants are understandably very happy with the result and the success of conversions like this provide considerable confidence that HVO is a reliable kerosene replacement.

## OFTEC to offer a new air source heat pump training course

It is estimated by the Government that by 2028 the UK will need 600,000 heat pump installations each year to meet home heating decarbonisation targets, and the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) will need around 30,000 certified businesses to meet this demand – a massive increase on the current number.

To help meet this need, OFTEC is working to develop a range of heat pump assessments and training courses, working with manufacturers, certification bodies, technicians, training centres, and MCS.

There will be three options available:

- Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) installation.
- Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) installation.
- Design of Heat Pump systems.

Due to the modular nature of the course being designed, these will be able to be taken as stand-alone assessments or combined as required. It is anticipated that they will follow the same structure as the existing oil and solid fuel assessments, currently offered by OFTEC and by working closely with

MCS they will be able to be used for MCS registration.

It is hoped that the Air Source Heat Pump assessments will be available during the second quarter of 2022, with the others following shortly after.

Once complete, the assessments will be put forward to the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for confirmation that they meet the requirements of BS-EN ISO 17024, so keep an eye out for more details to follow.

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# OFTEC has a new technical director



Andrew Mathews

We are very pleased to welcome Andrew Mathews as our new technical director.

Andrew has over 30 years of on-site technical and professional experience within the

construction industry. Starting his career as a plumbing and heating engineer, he later developed a successful plumbing and heating business. After 12 years he sold the business and went on to complete a degree in building surveying, and then to specialise in residential building services.

He has extensive technical experience of the heating industry and a comprehensive understanding of training and certification of installers for conventional and low-carbon heating technologies. He has developed many bespoke on and off-gas grid training courses for the automotive and food processing industries and worked with energy and utility skills sectors to assist with technical matters and develop training.

When Andrew is not working, he enjoys motorcycling, travel and walking, and is working towards a RoSPA motorcycling observer qualification.

**OFTEC would like to welcome two new inspectors, Tim Lock and Stewart Buckland.**



Tim Lock

**Tim Lock**  
Tim brings considerable experience to the role, having worked in the heating industry for some 25 years, Tim previously was the technical director at OFTEC and, after a short period away,

has decided to re-join OFTEC in a new capacity, taking on the role as

an inspector for the East Coast of England.

Prior to originally joining OFTEC, Tim worked for 18 years as an installer of oil, gas and solid fuel heating and hot water systems for a Lincolnshire-based family business, before moving to a national installation company where he worked as a technical surveyor/supervisor of both traditional and renewable systems.

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Stewart Buckland

## Stewart Buckland

Stewart, who is based in East Sussex, has recently come off the tools following about 13 years' experience in oil and gas heating, and has an eye for progression into renewable

technologies. Having also previously worked as a carpenter and joiner, Stewart will also be joining OFTEC as a new inspector, focusing on his area of the South East of England.

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**OFTEC has also welcomed Georgina Newson as our new office manager and directors' assistant.**



Georgina Newson

Georgina Newson has also joined OFTEC as the new office manager and directors' assistant and is responsible for everyday administration, procurement and HR. She will also be concentrating on ensuring

systems are in place for health and safety, GDPR, security, staff welfare and recruitment, working closely with all departments and OFTEC's CEO and directors to ensure all services are delivered efficiently.

## Government electrification of heat demonstration project report "a lot of hot air"



In December 2021, the Energy Systems Catapult released a report on the electrification of heat UK demonstration project, a scheme it is managing on behalf of the Government.

The aim of the project is to better understand the technical and practical feasibility of a large-scale rollout of heat pumps into existing British homes.

The headline from the report trumpeted that "all housing types are suitable for heat pumps". This should come as no surprise, after all, almost any building can theoretically be fitted with a heat pump, the question is whether it is sensible and cost effective to do so. Unfortunately, the report shed no light on this point because it didn't include any of the financial information relating to the project.

OFTEC's head of public affairs, Malcolm Farrow commented: "The report was published while the Government was consulting on its 'heat pump first' decarbonisation plans, so the lack of any financial information is troubling. The timing of the publication suggests it was intended was to bolster confidence in the Government's heat pump plans and influence consultation responses. However, it only told half the story. The lack of financial information – for example how much each conversion cost – suggests potentially less favourable information may have been deliberately excluded".

OFTEC and UKIFDA contacted both Energy System Catapult and the Government, asking that this information be published, but the request was refused, with the trade associations told the data was not available, although it is expected to be published eventually.

Malcolm Farrow continued "The organisers of the trial will already know the key financial facts associated with the project. This is crucial information that should have been made available during the consultation process. For householders, one of the most important concerns associated with installing a heat pump is the cost, so it's extremely unsatisfactory that this information was withheld. Instead, what we got was basically just a lot of hot air".



# Changes to MCS heat pump installation standard coming

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) is a mark of quality that demonstrates adherence to recognised industry standards, highlighting quality, competency and compliance. MCS enables the certification of low-carbon products, installers and the installations used to produce heat from renewable sources.

Certification for installers of renewable technologies is available through an accredited certification body like OFTEC and, as the heating world decarbonises, the public will be seeking the services of more and more MCS certified installers in the future. Heat pumps and biomass installations will be attracting government funding later this year via Ofgem's Boiler Upgrade Scheme which is a three-year scheme with £150 million allocated each year. While there is some discussion over whether this fund will be enough, it will create some demand from the public for these technologies so competent installers will be needed.

MCS installer registration is based around an overarching installer contractor standard, MCS 001-1, and then a particular technology standard. For heat pumps this is MIS 3005 which covers the supply, design, installation, set to work, commissioning and handover of heat pump installations. This standard is set to change and MCS have announced that, from

1st April, the installation standard for heat pumps is being split into two, reflecting the two distinct skill sets that exist within the sector, with system design separated from installation.

**MIS 3005-D (issue 1)** will cover the design of new installations (including heating and hot water systems), permitted development rights (England) and notification to the Distribution Network Operator (DNO).

**MIS 3005-I (issue 1)** will cover the installation, metering requirements, commissioning procedure and commissioning checklist, documentation to be provided to the end user, and handover packs.

The thought behind separating the heat pump standard is to accommodate an expected significant increase in technicians wishing to install heat pumps, and allow for an installer to focus on installation work only, supported by an independent designer and, conversely, a designer to support one or many certified installers. The separate standards will allow for new installers without heat pump design capability to enter the heat pump market and benefit from the skills of a certified heat pump designer.

The good news is that if you are already registered on the OFTEC

heat pump scheme then, from the 1st April, as long as you continue with your registration status, you will be automatically enrolled for both design and installation as you were under the previous standard. New heat pump applications after the 1st April will have a choice to register for the installation standard (MIS 3005-I), the design standard (MIS 3005-D), or both.

A word of caution is that if you are only registered for installation, then it is a condition of MIS 3005-I that the design of any installation you undertake for MCS shall be in accordance with the design standard (MIS 3005-D) **and** by someone who is certified against that standard. At the time of going to press it is not clear how this will be managed by MCS when installations are uploaded to the MCS Installation Database (MID). OFTEC will provide further details through our monthly e-newsletters when this is known.

You can download all MCS installation standards free of charge from the MCS website [www.mcscertified.com](http://www.mcscertified.com)

OFTEC offer renewable registration for solar thermal, biomass and heat pumps and more information on these technologies and MCS registration can be found on the OFTEC website [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org)

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## Government advisor recommends lifting HVO import restrictions

In an unexpected benefit of Brexit, the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) has recommended the removal of restrictions on imports of HVO into the UK. The UK TRA proposed that existing measures on imports of FAME biodiesel are kept, but that measures that restrict imports of HVO biodiesel are removed.

The restrictions had been put in place by the EU to prevent a practice known as fuel dumping, where cheaper imported fuels undermine the competitiveness of fuels manufactured in the EU. Since the UK has now left the EU, and no HVO is manufactured here, there is no need to restrict HVO imports.

The TRA's investigations found UK-based producers of FAME biodiesel needed to be protected from subsidised imports. However, imports of HVO would not damage domestic manufacturers as there is no HVO industry in the UK, and it will not displace UK-produced FAME because HVO is more expensive.

Of particular importance for our industry, the TRA stated that a reason for its recommendation was that there is demand for HVO in the UK for use in heating buildings, and that it offers a cost-effective and more environmentally friendly alternative to existing heating fuels.

Following a short consultation, which has already finished, the TRA will send its final recommendations to the Secretary of State for International Trade, who will make the final decision on whether to uphold the TRA's recommendations. We expect the final decision later this year.

OFTEC supports the TRA's recommendation which could give the UK an advantage within Europe when buying HVO on the world market, easing concern about the availability of HVO and encouraging competition which may help to lower prices.

# Welcome to January 2026!

OFTEC's head of public affairs, Malcolm Farrow, looks into his crystal ball to see what life in 2026 might be like

Imagine for a moment we can travel forward in time. It's January 2026, it's a freezing cold morning, there's snow on the ground and you've just received a call from a long-standing customer. Their boiler has failed. You drive out through the frozen countryside, check it and find needs to be replaced. You break the bad news to the customer, and they ask what the options are.

This is where it gets a bit tricky. The regulations have changed, and you can no longer fit a new oil boiler automatically. First, you need to work out whether it is reasonably practical to fit a heat pump. The customer's house was built in the 1920s, it's got some insulation, but it's not fully up to modern standards. As well as removing the existing appliance and storage tank, all the radiators will need replacing to enable low temperature heating to be used and, because they had a combi boiler, a new hot water storage cylinder will also need to be fitted.

You go through the checklist and, although it's a borderline case, according to the regulations a heat pump must be fitted. Your customer is actually lucky because you at least now fit these appliances, many installers still don't, leading to a skills shortage in some areas.

However, because of supply chain problems following the regulation changes, most heat pumps are back ordered, so are radiators and cylinders. The cost reductions promised by the government haven't really materialised either, so your customer is in for a shock. Quite a lot of changes

will be needed to fit the new system so it will be a time-consuming job.

You work out a rough estimate and give them the bad news – It will cost around £12,000 and they'll have to wait about a month – maybe longer – and there's no guarantee they'll qualify for any grant funding. Even without a crystal ball it is easy to imagine the expression on their face.

## This doesn't have to be the future

Fortunately, this isn't yet reality. But it's an example of what could happen if the Government's policy proposals for decarbonising the heating in off-gas grid homes are too heat pump focused and implemented in a way that doesn't offer enough choice and flexibility.

It's vital that we alert customers to the Government's plans. Most are completely unaware of how the changes will affect them. The Government is committed to its heat pump first policy and pressure from off-gas grid households is the key way to persuade it to modify its plans. We need thousands of customers to make their voices heard.

## It's time to support the Future Ready Fuel campaign

### What do we want?

In our response to the Government's recent consultation, we highlighted our concerns and some actions the Government must take. You can read our response on p5.



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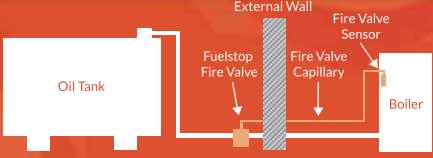
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**We want government to:**

- Adopt a more technology-inclusive approach to encourage competition and choice, and ensure off-gas grid consumers are treated as fairly as possible
- Implement a consistent support framework for HVO, irrespective of the intended use. This would enable HVO to be supplied for use in heating for the same price as it is for transport.
- Prioritise older, less well-insulated oil heated homes for conversion to HVO when it is not considered 'reasonably practical' to install a heat pump.

**It's time to finish the job – let's get this over the line!**

The campaign is thriving. There's already strong support for HVO from our customers but government is not yet convinced. Decisions will be made in the next 18 months so it's now or never for liquid fuels.

**How you can help us**

- Give the Future Ready Fuel campaign flyers to all your customers (copies are available as free hard copies or email-friendly PDF files).
- Include information and links to the Future Ready Fuel campaign on your website and social media pages (we have logos and information ready for you to use).
- If you use social media, follow Future Ready Fuels on Facebook and twitter, and 'like' the campaign posts.
- Write to your own MP and add your voice to the campaign (we have a letter ready for you to use).



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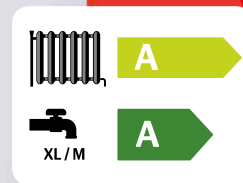
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# Grant reacts to changes to Part L of the Building Regulations

With OFTEC taking a detailed look at the changes to guidance on Part L of the Building Regulations on pages 35 and 36, we hear how Grant UK has reacted.

In December 2021, the UK Government issued the latest Approved Documents that make up the Building Regulations, incorporating the first major changes in almost a decade. The changes are part of government policy decisions highlighted in the Future Homes Standard (FHS) that is currently due to be implemented in 2025.

The FHS will mandate that homes will produce at least a 75% reduction of CO2 emissions. The recently released Part L will offer an average reduction of 27% to 30% in CO2 emissions relative to the 2013 version of the document. The changes to Part L are therefore a stepping stone to get us to the bigger ask of the Future Homes Standard.

"From Grant's perspective, we will be looking into the finer detail of the documents over the coming months but as it stands today, these changes form a very real beginning for the decarbonisation of heat and takes away any doubt over what the future looks like," explains Neil Sawers, Grant's commercial technical manager.

"Starting now, there are real



Neil Sawers

Grant will also await further clarification from the Government on some of the new elements included in the Regulations.

"On initial reading, when a wet heating system has either been newly installed or fully replaced in an existing building (this has still to be clarified but we believe this will include the heating appliance, emitters and associated pipework), it should be sized to allow the space heating system to meet the heating needs of the dwelling but at a maximum flow temperature of 55°C or lower," continues Neil.

"If this is not possible, the space heating system should be designed to the lowest design temperature possible that will still meet the heating needs of the dwelling. An appendix has also been added which sets out a 'Good Practice' specification for a new home design to be heated by a heat pump."

challenges ahead – like upskilling the workforce to ensure our industry have the numbers of highly trained individuals required to deliver a lower carbon heating solution to our customers."

For existing homes, uplifts to both Part L and F have new minimum efficiency standards. This includes a new way of calculating whole house heat losses for new extensions. A transition period now starts, which will end in June 2022 when these new regulations will come into effect.

Late 2021 also saw the release of several other important industry consultations and documents. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy released its extensive Q&A on the Heat Pump Ready programme. In October 2021, the Government response to Clean Heat Grant proposals within the 'Future support for low carbon heat' consultation named Ofgem as the intended administrator of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS). Ofgem consequently launched a consultation, seeking views on its proposed administration of the BUS.

"This is an extremely busy time as the industry absorbs the ramifications of all these changes. What is for certain is that everyone; manufacturers, merchants and installers will need to adapt to the new regulations very quickly. The good news is that Grant has significant plans in place to meet the challenges ahead and be with them on the journey that lies ahead," says Neil. [www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com)

## Wolseley acquisition

Wolseley UK has entered into binding agreements with Saint-Gobain for the acquisition of Neville Lumb, DHS and Bassetts. It has also entered into exclusive negotiations for the acquisition of Ideal Bathrooms.

It is expected that the acquisition of the plumbing and heating focussed businesses will be completed in the first half of this year and will be a seamless transition with the outlets operating as normal and no change for customers.

Together the four brands represent approximately 485 employees and in 2020 generated a turnover of approximately €130M.

Keith Dorling, managing director for Wolseley Plumbing and Heating

commented: "Business acquisition is a key aspect of our ambitious growth strategy. The deal with Saint-Gobain to acquire Neville Lumb, DHS and Bassetts will strengthen our ability to provide the local, personal service and expertise for which we're renowned.

"What's more, we are proud to welcome the three businesses and their employees to the Wolseley family, with Ideal to follow close behind. We believe our employees make our business what it is, and our new recruits are joining an exciting forward-thinking business with a gold standard workplace culture, an award-winning talent strategy, and industry-leading employee incentives and benefits. The plumbing and heating management team is considered one of the strongest in the sector and I know we



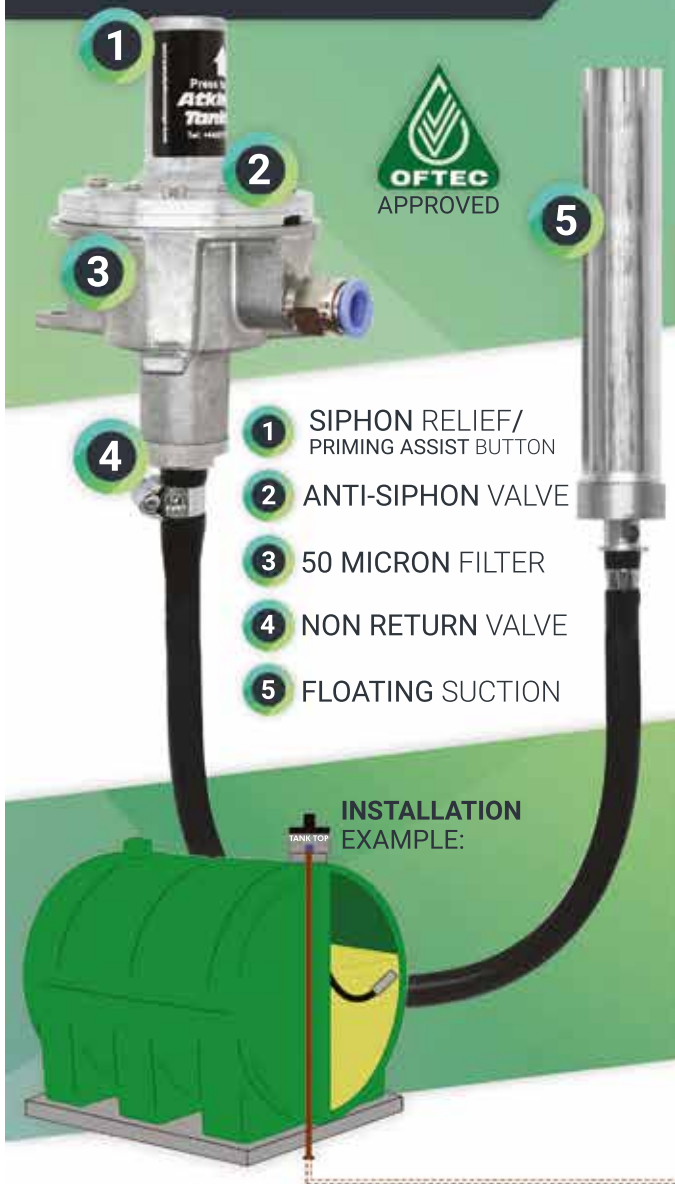
will share knowledge and best practice between us to ensure we get the optimum result.

"Through our expansion into new and existing markets and our commitment to providing opportunities for career growth, it is our ambition to combine the best components of our new acquisitions to further reinforce our position as a market leader in subject matter expertise, customer service, product range and reliability. Ultimately, our goal is to provide a sustainable service for our customers and our customers' customers – and this is significant step towards that."

# TANK TOP



## TOP OFF TAKE VALVE



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- 2 ANTI-SIPHON VALVE
- 3 50 MICRON FILTER
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- 5 FLOATING SUCTION

INSTALLATION  
EXAMPLE:

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## Grant UK welcomes new area sales manager for East Anglia

The start of 2022 has seen Grant UK welcome Steve Farrow to its sales team. Steve is the new area sales manager for East Anglia and he will be providing support to installers, engineers and merchants on all of Grant's heating products and services.



New areas sales manager, Steve Farrow

The Grant sales team, which comprises of area sales managers, national and regional sales managers and renewables experts, provides customer support on the road and out in the field. Steve will be covering the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire and will be the main contact for

heating engineers, installers and merchants in these areas if they require sales and technical support on any of Grant's boiler and renewable ranges.

Steve has been working in the heating sector for over 25 years, undertaking roles within merchants and a manufacturer throughout his career. Steve's first roles were with a plumbers merchant, where he spent nearly a decade working as branch manager in three separate branches. He later joined another merchant network, where he worked for 12 years as branch manager, before becoming a business development manager. Steve then joined a heating manufacturer where he was an area sales manager for five years. His extensive experience from working in merchants and out in the field means that Steve has a thorough and in-depth understanding of what merchants and their installer customers need.

"I am very much looking forward to meeting with new and old faces in my role with Grant," comments Steve. "I have worked in East Anglia and the surrounding counties all of my life so I have built up great relationships with the engineers in this area over the years. I look forward to meeting and working closely with these and new customers, providing support on Grant products and helping customers transition their businesses into heat pumps and renewables."

[www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com).

## Grant sponsors local mini and junior rugby teams

Grant UK is now the main sponsor of Melksham RFC's mini and junior section rugby teams for the 2021/22 season.

The Melksham RFC was formed in 1978 and has become a permanent fixture within the town at its home ground of Oakfields. In 1991, the club expanded with the formation of its minis section, and this has led to the development of young players and home-grown talent. Today, there are eleven junior teams as well as the senior men's and women's teams.

During this season, Grant's logo will be positioned on the shirt fronts and shorts of all the players who form the junior

# The importance of mental health for young installers

Worcester Bosch has partnered with wellbeing expert, Neil Laybourn to help educate young installers about the importance of speaking out about mental health struggles, as part of its ongoing Future Talent Initiative (FTI).

The FTI was launched in September and aims to support young installers, apprentices and those new to the sector. As part of the initiative, the manufacturer has developed a robust content series, which includes third-party experts discussing different topics related to the heating industry and beyond.

This includes 'Life in the Fast Lane|Mental Health Advice' produced by Neil Laybourn (<https://youtu.be/ucU86la3x2c>), a well-known wellbeing consultant and 2021 LinkedIn changemaker. As Neil explains, his journey and passion in mental health and wellbeing stems from his own profound experience of instigating a suicide intervention after witnessing a stranger attempt to take their life in 2008. Since then, Neil has dedicated his life to advocating the importance of speaking up and about your mental health.

Neil's 25-minute FTI video details to installers the importance of speaking up and speaking out about their mental health struggles, while signposting them to the available resources.

Neil comments: "Being involved in this campaign has been a great way to help raise awareness of the struggles that young installers could be facing in their day-to-day. I hope by sharing my story with them, they will now have the



Neil Laybourn

courage to speak up if going through a challenging time with their mental health."

Conor Evans, head of future talent at Worcester Bosch, said: "We're delighted that Neil has got involved with the FTI by sharing his incredibly moving story. Neil's contribution explores an important issue and we hope his words resonate with the young installers and apprentices who tune in."

For additional information, or to speak to someone that can help if you are struggling with your mental health, please visit [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org).

[www.worcester-bosch.co.uk](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk)



and mini section teams, totaling 195 boys and girls. Between now and May 2022, these children will be busy training and playing rugby to their highest standards, proudly wearing their navy and mid-blue kits. As a headline sponsor, Grant also has perimeter

boarding around the grounds.

"Grant is proud to sponsor another grassroots sports club, which is supporting children in the local area near to our head office in Wiltshire," writes Anna Wakefield, head of marketing.

"Melksham RFC has a strong set of teams which are all ready for the rugby season and we are excited to be one of the headline sponsors supporting the young players. Grant's commercial technical manager, Neil Sawers, is a coach for the club so we will be cheering them all on at their games this season." [www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com)



## Top employer status for Wolseley

The 2022 Top Employers have been announced and Wolseley UK is one of them. Being certified as a Top Employer demonstrates an organisation's dedication to building a better world of work as exhibited through excellent HR policies and people practices.

The Top Employers Institute programme certifies organisations based on the participation and results of their HR Best Practices Survey. The survey covers six key HR areas consisting of 20 topics including: people strategy, work environment, talent acquisition, learning, wellbeing, diversity and inclusion, and more.

Top Employers Institute CEO David Plink says: "Reflecting on the demanding year that has, like the year before it, impacted organisations across the world, Wolseley UK has continued to show that it prioritises maintaining excellent people practices in the workplace. They continue to meet the challenges of the changing world of work while working tirelessly to make a positive impact on the lives of their workforce. We are pleased to celebrate and applaud the organisations that have been certified as Top Employers in their respective countries this year."

The Top Employers Institute is the global authority on recognising excellence in people practices and the programme has certified and recognised more than 1,857 Top Employers in 123 countries/regions across five continents.

Jane Connor, HR director at Wolseley adds: "This is an outstanding achievement for our business. We're delighted to be certified as a Top Employer 2022 and be recognised as an employer of choice. It highlights that we place our people at the heart of our business and the leadership team is passionate to keep improving to make Wolseley UK an even better place to work for all our colleagues." [www.wolseley.co.uk](http://www.wolseley.co.uk)

# TIGERLOOP DE-AERATOR

## HVO READY TIGERLOOP BIO DE-AERATORS

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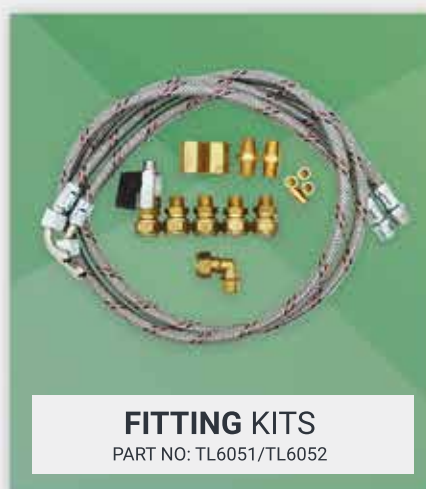
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- REDUCED FUEL CONSUMPTION
- EXTENDS LIFE OF FILTER ELEMENT
- CLEANER FUEL BURN

## OUR RANGE:





# H&A leads the way

Everyone in the heating sector across NI will recognise the name, H&A. The company is a major player in both the commercial and domestic sectors, installing heating systems, kitchens, bathrooms, refurbishment, external cyclical maintenance, electrical and renewable energy in private and local authority homes.

Based in Draperstown, H&A has grown from a small family business of six people in 1993 to a major local employer, with over 200 employees.

H&A has always prided itself in its work ethos and adopts the 'getting it right first time' approach as a fundamental approach to its business.

Sean McBride, H&A contracts manager said: "The NI Government recently consulted on a new NI Energy Strategy and has suggested that a mix of no carbon and low-carbon solutions will be required to meet our commitments under the UK net zero provisions. We are already installing low and no-carbon renewable technologies but recognise that any future government funding will likely be subject to accreditation to a recognised certification body and, being registered with OFTEC, we were keen to see what the trade body could do for us".

The company was audited by Adrian Lightwood, OFTEC's registration director, who said:

"The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) was developed to ensure technicians installing renewable technologies are suitably qualified and carry out installations in a professional and safe manner. The scheme also ensures that the products themselves are developed to a high industry standard. Certification of both the product and installer will be required to claim payments through any future grant scheme developed for the NI market and we are aware that the NI Government is already in discussions with MCS.

"H&A already had management systems BS 9001/14001 and 18001 in place which really assists with the certification, but there are also provisions for sole traders and small businesses via subscription-based online quality systems, so do not be put off if you don't have a ISO management system in place and you are interested in OFTEC/MCS certification."

By joining OFTEC's MCS certification scheme, companies can demonstrate to customers that they are a competent installer, which will give them confidence that the work carried out has been completed to a high standard. This will help to develop your reputation and support the growth of your business in this increasingly competitive field.



H&A delighted to join the OFTEC MCS certification scheme

In order to join OFTEC's MCS scheme, technicians must already be a registered competent person and are required to follow the MCS Installer Standards. OFTEC offers certification for technicians installing solar thermal, biomass and heat pump systems. To find out more about joining the MCS registration scheme see the OFTEC website [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org)

David Blevings, OFTEC Ireland manager commented: "It's great to see H&A leading the way and going through the audit process for acceptance for registration for renewable technologies. Customers are slowly accepting that we need to change the way we heat our homes and we see a wide range of technologies being adopted to assist meeting decarbonisation targets. Heat pumps are great for a new or thermally efficient home, but biofuels and other solutions will be needed if we are to see meaningful carbon reductions, especially in off-grid homes."

## OFTEC and Alliance for Zero Carbon Heating partnership

OFTEC is a founding member of the newly launched Alliance for Zero Carbon Heating, alongside Fuels for Ireland and UKIFDA. The Alliance was founded with the goal of decarbonising the Irish home heating sector as quickly and efficiently as possible, as part of the overall effort to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Alliance recently commissioned a report by world-leading consultancy firm AECOM, which shows how switching to biofuels for home heating could drastically reduce both carbon emissions and energy bills. The report received widespread attention in national and local media as it highlighted how the 700,000 Irish homes that are heated by oil-fired systems could benefit from making the simple switch to biofuels.

Until now, the Government's decarbonisation strategy has focused on installing heat pumps as part of a deep retrofitting programme. However, with the average cost of the deep retrofitting process amounting to €56,000, the heat pump option is beyond the reach of many families.

As the AECOM report shows clearly,



alternative fuels have been shown to cut emissions by as much as 86%, and the cost of modifying boilers to use these biofuels is affordable for the great majority of consumers. With OFTEC working to ensure that industry professionals have the expertise to make the minor modifications needed for existing boilers to function using biofuels, these options will constitute an extremely cost-effective alternative to other emissions-saving technologies.

If the Government is prepared to facilitate the shift toward biofuels in home heating, OFTEC and the Alliance are prepared to ensure that every family has the opportunity to keep their house warm, at an affordable price, while making a real contribution to cutting emissions.



# FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT WITH GRANT

All new Grant Vortex oil-fired boilers are HVO compatible.\* Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) can be a 'drop-in fuel' so it is a suitable replacement for existing fossil fuels, providing a 100% biofuel option. Significantly lowering carbon emissions of home heating systems, HVO has a part to play in the transition to Net Zero.



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\*recommissioning required



[www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com)

# The importance of liquid fuel hose replacement

EOGB is reminding heating engineers of the importance of replacing oil hoses during annual servicing to maintain efficiency and prevent avoidable accidents.

Home insurers may try to put the cost on to the engineer who services the appliance where a fuel spill has originated from a flexible fuel line.

Every oil spill is different, and the impact of a fuel leak can vary from site to site. Heating oil leaks and spillages in a house could result in strong odours or fumes forming. These fumes can cause headaches, sore throats and nausea and irritate eyes. All oil leaks or significant spillages should be investigated as they are expensive and potentially harmful to health and of course the property structure.

Flexible oil hoses should be examined during every service visit and for safety reasons, changed at regular intervals, as per OFTEC guidelines in Technical Book 2. There are several types of flexible oil hoses available and guarantee periods can sometimes be as short as one year. Where flexible hoses have a date stamp, the age of the oil hose should be recognised and if it is out of its guarantee period, switched straight away.

If the date stamp is not visible or where an oil hose is in poor condition, severely kinked or any doubt exists as to its integrity until the next service visit, it is recommended that it is replaced at the time of the service.

It is impossible to establish the internal condition of the hose to decipher if any degradation has taken place. It is highly recommended to adhere to OFTEC guidelines where it is stipulated that hoses are changed during the annual service and/or no more than one year after the warranty expiry date, which should be visibly



stamped on the hose crimp.

Spills originating from flexible oil hoses are often problematic and the clean-up will gradually become more complex if it is left untreated and can lead to land contamination and possible mass excavation work, which could result in huge legal claims.

The use of innovative technology available for flexible hoses can make a positive step towards the prevention of oil spills originating from flexible hoses. Dual containment hoses are a perfect solution for this.

"A Dual Containment flexible, PTFE tube, stainless steel over-braid flexible hose offers the absolute best solution for your oil-fired boiler," says Reece Summerfield, EOGB's technical manager. "They have a unique assembly construction, making them leak-free thanks to the fuel containment feature in the event of a hose leakage. They also offer the best resistance to all heating oils and HVO."

[www.eogb.co.uk](http://www.eogb.co.uk)



## Worcester Bosch launches new instant video calling platform

Worcester Bosch has launched Virtual Tech, its new video calling platform, which enables installers to virtually speak to the company's technical support team in real time.

The platform is simple to use, with installers inputting their specialist installer number to create a link. The installer then receives a text, enabling them to access the platform.

From there, a video stream is generated between the installer and tech support where the installer is virtually able to move the screen around the boiler or product in question to show the issue.

Thomas Robinson, technical support manager, said: "The launch of Virtual Tech will offer installers the backup they need when out in the field, while also helping to answer and resolve any product or servicing queries within moments. We hope this will help installers save time when with customers with our advisors identifying what the issue may be in real time."

Virtual Tech is a free platform open to all installers that call Worcester's Tech support line and is available on both Android and IOS devices [www.worcester-bosch.co.uk](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk)

## Danfoss service handbook goes digital

A new digital version of the Danfoss Burner Components' service handbook is now available to download. Installers can have this very useful tool to hand whenever they need to find the latest products available or source a Danfoss equivalent from another brand of burner components.

It is available to download via the Danfoss Installer Life website link below or by scanning the QR code:

<https://bit.ly/3FKr9yM>



# The future's bright – the future's blue and green!



Sean Keleher

With all the grand statements made at COP26 and the search for carbon neutrality and reduction in greenhouse gases, the focus often falls on heating with gas and electricity.

However, we mustn't forget the 1.5 million homes across the UK which use liquid-fuel fired central heating and hot water. The future is looking good for them too, writes Sean Keleher, national technical manager at Navien.

At first glance, the future for oil heating and hot water might seem rather bleak. After all, the Government's aim is to reduce all carbon emissions down to net zero by 2050. Plus, it wants all new build properties to be warmed with low carbon heating and exceptional levels of energy efficiency. So, you might be forgiven for thinking that it may be a little doom and gloom for off-gas homes and the oil heating sector – but you'd be wrong.

Now in 2022, there are some good reasons to feel hopeful and excited for the future of our industry. The incredible research and development we're seeing – and at Navien, strongly investing in – to decarbonise liquid fuel-fired heating is carrying on at speed and demonstrating some excellent results. For those homes heated by liquid fuel-fired appliances, there are alternative fuels and highly

efficient boilers coming to the market, which will allow homeowners to almost completely eliminate harmful emissions from their heating and hot water systems.

There are a couple of areas where we're seeing the most change. The first, and where Navien has been pioneering over many years, is in the realm of blue flame technology. Although it's been around for a couple of years, blue flame technology is different from standard yellow flame burners, because it allows combustion gases to blend atomised droplets of fuel with oxygen (from fresh air), to produce a clean blue flame with much lower NOx emissions. In the case of our LCB700 Blue Flame boilers, emissions are just 57mg/kWh.

It's a highly effective way to burn fuel and has allowed us to engineer blue flame boilers which have efficiencies of up to 104%. In fact, blue flame technology has enabled us to manufacture the only domestic liquid fuel boiler capable of achieving an ErP A+ energy rating – something we're rightly proud of. Now the sector is looking forward to further innovations in 2022, that will continue the drive towards even cleaner and more efficient appliances.

The second area where we're seeing great innovation is that of alternative fuels, specifically, HVO – a fossil-fuel-free, sustainably produced, renewable paraffin that comes from used cooking oil and vegetable oil processing waste. It's already being trialled in the UK, where it has been used in



the transport industry. However, as the move to electric vehicles gathers momentum, there is a shift away from it as a fuel for transport – and that could be good news for the liquid fuel heating industry.

HVO makes a very good replacement for heating oil (e.g. kerosene) – requiring relatively simple and inexpensive changes to heating systems. Unlike kerosene, it's much safer to handle due to its lower flashpoint and the fact that it's biodegradable – which could enable it to be categorised as a non-pollutant. Thanks to the ease of adapting existing systems, as well as expected lower carbon emissions, HVO should be an attractive proposition for the industry – and government – to get on board with. It's also great news for those with older, poorly insulated off-gas homes, where renewable technologies like heat pumps wouldn't be an effective or ideal alternative.

As 2021, with all its challenges and issues, recedes into memory, there is real opportunity for the oil heating sector in the form of alternative liquid fuels. We can face the future with hope and expectation – knowing that not only is climate change being taken seriously, but real-world solutions are being created by manufacturers, engineers and installers alike. So, here's to a future that's bright and blue and green!

## More rewards for Grant's G1+ Points programme

The range of items available for installers to order through Grant UK's G1+ Points rewards programme has been expanded, with a new selection of goods on offer for eligible installers.

The G1 Installer Scheme is Grant's loyalty programme for heating engineers who fit Grant oil boilers and renewable technologies. G1+ Points is a rewards tier within the scheme that installers progress to after installing the required number of products within a 12-month period. First launched in 2018, this tier enables eligible members to accrue points



against their Grant boiler installations and redeem these for items listed in the online G1 Portal Shop.

The G1 Shop is already home to a selection of branded merchandise and the range of items available

has significantly expanded with lots of new and exciting goods now available to order, including electricals, homeware and other gifts from Apple technologies and kitchen appliances to RayBan sunglasses and luxury luggage.

"The addition of these new rewards will give greater choice for installers wanting to use their Points" writes Anna Wakefield, head of marketing at Grant. "Since launching in 2011, G1 has continued to evolve and offer even more support to our customers." [www.grantuk.com/professional/g1-scheme](http://www.grantuk.com/professional/g1-scheme).

# Sapphire



The Future of Liquid Fuel Heating



[www.sapphireboilers.co.uk](http://www.sapphireboilers.co.uk)



## Join the energy revolution

With the transition towards low carbon technologies now underway, renewable heating systems are inevitably part of the future. So join the energy revolution by becoming an MCS certified heat pump installer with NIBE Pro and working towards a more sustainable future.

Find out more at [nibe.co.uk](http://nibe.co.uk)

 [@NIBEEnergy](https://twitter.com/NIBEEnergy)





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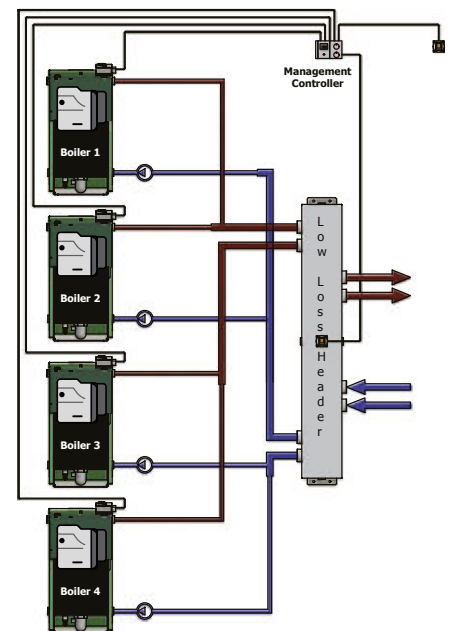
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# Aerona<sup>3</sup> heat pump helps Colchester FC go green

Colchester Football Club has been a vaccination centre during the pandemic and when a new heating system was required for the vaccination area, a Grant Aerona<sup>3</sup> air source heat pump was installed to keep this essential resource up to temperature.

Initially, the NHS set up a temporary tent at the Club to enable nurses and volunteers to deliver vaccines, but the decision was later made to transfer the vaccine centre to a more permanent area inside the concourse area of the ground, which had previously been used for food outlets and did not have its own heating system. A solution was needed to provide heating to this area.

Local G1 Installers, Blueflame Colchester, were approached to identify and install a suitable and sustainable heating system.



“Colchester Football Club is trying to be as green as possible,” explains James Mealing, director at Blueflame Colchester. “The concourse didn’t have its own heating system before so it made sense to install a completely new heating system to this area, independent of the rest of the stadium, that would meet the temperature requirements of the NHS, while also being as green and efficient as possible.”

A renewable system featuring an Aerona<sup>3</sup> 17kW air source heat pump

was designed and installed. For this installation, the heat pump has been set up to provide heating only, partnering with new radiators to ensure that the concourse area was kept warm to the desired temperature.

“We also had a custom header and decoupler made for setting the correct flow rates and water volume within the system,” comments James.

The 17kW Aerona<sup>3</sup> is a twin fan heat pump and is the largest model in Grant’s air to water heat pump range. It has an ErP rating of A+++ and is highly efficient so ideally matched to meet the heating requirements of the concourse vaccination area. Furthermore, as the unit was installed by a G1 Air Source Heat Pump Installer, the Club’s new heat pump also has a seven-year guarantee.

“Blueflame has been selecting more and more Grant heat pumps due to their ease of installation, reliability and high SCOPs,” continues James. “The Aerona<sup>3</sup> heat pump we installed at the Club is working faultlessly and we are really impressed with the end product.”

The new heat pump was installed in the early autumn and has since been operating to ensure that the concourse area and its vaccination hub remains warm. [www.grantuk.com/products/air-source-heat-pumps](http://www.grantuk.com/products/air-source-heat-pumps).



## Navien reminds installers to get set for 2023 and UKCA

Navien has issued a reminder to installers and heating engineers across the UK to be prepared for the final transition in product marking from CE to UKCA for domestic boilers and water heaters, which will be completed in 2023.

The change in regulations means that all appliances installed in England, Wales and Scotland must have a UKCA marking, rather than the CE certification which previously applied. Originally the transition was scheduled to be completed in 2022; however, following industry and government consultation, it has now been delayed to 1 January 2023.

Coming into effect following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU at the end of 2020, the UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) marking is the new UK product marking that is used for goods – including domestic boilers and water heaters – being placed on



the market in Great Britain.\* It covers most goods which previously required the CE marking.

Sean Keleher, national technical manager said: “When Brexit happened, we knew there would be changes ahead for our industry – and this transition from CE marking to UKCA marking is one of them.

The good news is that, despite the change in marking, both installers and homeowners can be reassured that all Navien products will still be manufactured to stringent standards, remaining highly reliable and safe.

“At Navien, we harness the latest technology to ensure our appliances not only meet all regulations in Great Britain, but are incredibly energy efficient and deliver value for money throughout their lifespan. We have over 40 years of experience meeting rigorous standards across the world and have ensured that all our boilers – whether gas or oil – will boast the UKCA mark (as well as the UKNI mark for Northern Ireland) by January 2023. So, installers can rest easy in the knowledge that by choosing Navien, they’ll already be in compliance.” [www.navien.co.uk](http://www.navien.co.uk).

\* Northern Ireland is covered by separate regulations

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# The importance of regular oil boiler servicing

Annual servicing is essential for ensuring a boiler is working safely and efficiently. Navien is emphasising the importance of servicing its LCB700 Blue Flame oil boilers every year, not only to ensure reliability but also prevent warranties from becoming invalid. Regular servicing will keep boilers operating efficiently, thereby reducing end users' fuel bills.

Navien – and OFTEC – recommend that liquid fuel-fired boilers are serviced at least once a year, otherwise the efficiency can be affected. For example, servicing prevents soot forming on the heat exchanger, which can then restrict the amount of heat being transferred into the system water. Flexible oil hoses and nozzles also need to be replaced, otherwise they can cause the heat exchanger to 'soot up' due to too much fuel passing through the burner.

When servicing a Navien LCB700 Blue Flame oil boiler, engineers should look for any signs of water leaks inside the case during the visual inspection, as Sean Keleher, national technical manager, explains: "It's important to check there are no small signs of distress or possible water, oil or flue condensate leaks; particular attention should be given to key components such as the diverter valves, plate-



to-plate heat exchanger, main heat exchanger, pump and pipework. Close inspection of these parts will help identify any potential issues at an early stage."

Navien also recommends checking the condensate trap and filling it with fresh water, as well as verifying the flue and air lines are in good condition and sealed tight. System piping and control settings should also be checked, along with the ignition and control sensor, which should be cleaned and repositioned as necessary.

Installers should also check flue termination and the flue route for its

entire length (including the joints) from the boiler to the outside of the property. Any obstructions must be removed from the terminals and the flue should obviously be safely fitted.

Sean adds: "Checking the flue integrity ensures the boiler is working correctly and that no exhaust gases are escaping. Wiring and controls should also be inspected, as they are integral to the overall workings of the heating system. Making sure all key components are cleaned and in top condition certainly goes a long way in maintaining safe and efficient boiler operation."

[www.navien.co.uk](http://www.navien.co.uk)

## Hounsfield Boilers launches online training videos

Hounsfield Boilers has launched a suite of online training videos to support installers.

The series of films provides step-by-step instruction on an oil boiler, as well as maintenance and servicing.

The videos also offer an easy and convenient way to access training without the time and inconvenience of attending seminars and workshops.

The videos range from short clips, outlining some of the boilers special features such as whisper quiet operation, the plug and play electrics, flue entry points and visible neon indicators, to longer films detailing the boiler's burner, the redesigned heat exchanger and information on

The screenshot shows the Hounsfield Boilers website. At the top, there are social media icons, contact information (enquiries@hounsfieldboilers.co.uk, 01449 722461), and buttons for 'NEWSLETTER' and 'FREE INFO PACK'. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads 'Here's Why You Should Choose a Hounsfield Boiler? WATCH & LEARN'. A grid of eight video thumbnails is displayed, each with a title and a checkmark icon. The titles are: 'Why Choose Hounsfield Boilers', 'The HFN Hounsfield Burner by Eco', 'Fully Insulated for whisper Quiet Operation', 'Modern Heat Exchanger Design', 'Practical Design for hassle free Servicing & Installation', 'Visible Neon Indicators', 'Plug & Play Electrics', and 'BF1 Burner'.

how to install and service the boilers.

Managing director, Andrew Hounsfield, said: "If an engineer has never installed or serviced one of our boilers before, or requires a refresh, the videos will quickly tell them everything they need to know in plain English. They're also great reference guides for when an installer is onsite too."

The videos are also an excellent marketing tool for heating engineers, with short films that demonstrate the many customer-friendly features of the boilers, including their very high efficiency, quality parts that result in low-running costs, and detail on the five-year no quibble warranty.

<https://hounsfieldboilers.co.uk/technical/videos/>



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# Worcester Bosch gets greener

Worcester Bosch has launched the low-carbon 7001iAW air to water heat pump and the Hybrid 7000iAW heat pump and boiler – two new models to make UK homes greener.

The manufacturer is further diversifying its product range so it can offer a full range of technologies for evolving user needs, as greener technologies continue to pave the way for the future of home heating.

The 7001iAW and Hybrid 7000iAW are two such examples. The former is a sophisticated air to water heat pump that can provide both cooling and heating for homeowners, and the latter a hybrid system compatible with a range of heat pumps and combi boilers, using the best of both worlds to efficiently heat the home.

Suitable for renovation and new build projects, these products have been developed to utilise high efficiency, low carbon technology to deliver all the benefits of using ambient air as the primary energy source for space heating and hot water.

The 7001iAW air to water heat pump has a monobloc design to house all refrigeration circuit components to keep maintenance low, a pre-configured AWE indoor unit for easy installation, an optional standalone Green Storage WB Range Heat Pump cylinders from 150 to 300 litres to provide solutions for even the most demanding lifestyles, and more.

The Hybrid 7000iAW allows the integration of a high efficiency low-carbon heat pump with the benefits of a gas combi boiler, suitable for small to medium properties.

Key features include simple installation through easy access, monitoring of temperatures to operate either the heat pump or the boiler for best overall efficiency, and no requirement for additional DHW storage due to hot water being generated by the boiler alone. Therefore, the product meets the requirements of customers who have traditionally used a gas boiler.

Martyn Bridges, director of



The new air to water heat pump from Worcester Bosch

technical communication & product management, said: "Although many know us as the UK's leading boiler manufacturer, we do in fact offer a full suite of heating and cooling technologies, including heat pumps and hybrid solutions. As the country continues to look towards a greener future, we are pleased to introduce further sustainable products to give users more choice than ever on how they can heat their homes.

"The 7001iAW air to water heat pump and the Hybrid 7000iAW will also be a welcome product for installers, who are able to increase their product offering to customers requiring more sophisticated, high-tech options at home."

[www.worcester-bosch.co.uk](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk)

## Pipe seals officially mandated in new Part L of the Building Regulations

Changes to Part L of the Building Regulations came into force in December 2021, with a period of adaptation for the industry until June 2022. The new regulations now specify the need for pipe seals and grommets on pipe penetrations.

"The days of sealing around pipes with messy or porous mixtures and chemicals are now over," says Alex Lever, PipeSnug director. "Pipe seals have been mandated for a reason; to prevent warm air escaping a home and also to keep cold air out, where brickwork or the fabric of the building has been removed to allow pipework or other services in. This is a big change for those installing pipework."

Fitted in seconds, PipeSnug is the only pipe seal that provides an all-in-one solution which meets Part L's requirement to seal around pipework inside and outside a building, without the need for sealant, mortar or expensive air sealing tape.

Before PipeSnug, holes around pipes would normally be sealed by mixing mortar or applying sealant which is time consuming and doesn't always look good. This method doesn't produce the best energy efficient seal and means that the penetrations are



liable to water and insect ingress too. The new Part L has now tackled these issues, at a stroke enhancing the energy efficiency of our new homes, not to mention giving a cleaner, more professional finish around pipework.

PipeSnug and FlueSnug form an airtight seal against the wall where pipes enter and exit a building. Because they do not require any mortar to be mixed or sealant to be squeezed, they not only save plumbers time, money and mess, but they also keep warmth in and energy costs down for homeowners.

"The new Part L also requires photographic evidence that the work has been carried out to the

designated standard. For Local Authority Building Control officers, PipeSnug is an easily recognisable product, which does not need to be covered by tape or sealant," continues Alex.

PipeSnug is available in 32mm and 40mm for solvent-weld waste pipes and to fit a 52mm core drilled hole. The 110mm version fits a 152mm core drilled hole and fits all push-fit and solvent weld soil pipe fittings.

FlueSnug works for all 100mm boiler flues and fits a 152mm core drilled hole. It is endorsed by the major boiler manufacturers and is already being used by major housebuilders to comply with Part L.

Additionally, the 110mm PipeSnug and the FlueSnug can be installed at height, without the need for ladders or scaffolding.

"PipeSnug has ambitious plans to invest and launch new versions to cover different sizes and applications in the coming months as demand rises due to the changes to Part L. We firmly believe PipeSnug will become the de facto method of sealing around service penetrations," says Alex. [www.pipesnug.co.uk](http://www.pipesnug.co.uk)

# Tuffa manufactures pitch perfect oil tank for Leeds United

*Andrew Dobson, Tuffa Tanks' digital marketing co-ordinator, explains how one of the company's oil tanks is helping to keep Leeds United on track for Premiership success as part of an underground heating installation by specialists, Pitch Heating Ltd.*

During the 1970s Pitch Heating's Ken Pryor worked as a heating plumber for a sub-contractor servicing commercial glasshouses. One of Ken's roles was laying underfloor heating to keep the giant greenhouses at a steady temperature. At this time, undersoil heated pitches were a relatively new invention, but they used electric cables to heat the pitch, which were made from soil. While the electric cables were successful at melting any frost and snow, they had the huge drawback of baking the pitch.

The contracting company Ken worked for at the time, had the idea of using the same water-based underfloor heating used in buildings but to heat a pitch, which worked with much better results. With a niche idea and the right skills, creativity and determination, Ken founded Pitch Heating in 1979. Forty-two years later and Ken now works with his son, Lee and a small team which has already installed underground heating for over 200 top-flight pitches across the UK and Europe.

With a full off-season this year, Leeds United took time to modernise the pitches at its Elland Road Stadium and Thorp Arch training grounds and elevate them to the club's Premier League standards. Ken explained that the new training ground's pitch is designed to replicate stadium conditions to ensure that training sessions give the players more familiarity with the same surface, size and dimensions of the pitch.

It is a legal requirement for all Premier League teams to have measures in place to adequately combat frost and snow on the stadium pitches. Football is a lucrative industry, with TV rights and ticket sales and Premier League Clubs like Leeds cannot afford to have a frozen pitch on a Saturday. Cancelling a match due to frost and snow would have huge financial implications.

Ed Chappelow, director at Chappelow Sports Turf Limited, was called in to provide a full pitch reconstruction at Thorp Arch with a new irrigation and drainage system. Ed explained that the construction of professional pitches has developed significantly since the days of simple soil pitches. Professional pitches like Leeds' training grounds are now made of 125mm of gravel which drains the water, topped with 200mm of sand, a 100mm sand/soil mix and a hybrid turf consisting of stitched synthetic fibres every interwoven 2cm<sup>2</sup> and combined with organic grass. This provides ideal playing conditions and helps to maintain the grass.



**Tuffa's 10,000 litre plastic banded oil tank connected to the adjacent boiler room**

Over the first layer of sand, Pitch Heating installed 36,500 meters of MDE piping running the length of the pitch at 250mm intervals – enough piping to carry around 140,000 litres of warm water around the pitch. This was connected to a self-contained boiler room which houses the circulation pumps, shunt pump, expansion vessels and boiler.

While gas is typically used to heat the water before being pumped around the pitch, the remote location of the training ground meant that connecting the installation to the gas grid wasn't a cost-effective option. Instead, Ken decided to use kerosene heating and calculated that a 10,000-litre oil tank would provide sufficient oil storage to heat the pitch for at least one week during cold weather. The boiler will use around 160 litres of oil per hour when flat out (compared to 175 cubic meters of gas) which provides 62.5 hours of heat. However, Ken recommends keeping the boiler ticking over and maintaining a constant

minimum pitch temperature of 10°C. Just like home boilers, maintaining a set temperature is often more efficient than fluctuating the temperature. Additionally, anything less than 10°C and the fertilisers for the grass do not work effectively.

With strict time constraints around the build and a necessity for reliable equipment that won't cause the players any downtime during training, Ken needed a tank he could trust.

Tuffa's heating oil tanks have a proven track record, with Pitch Heating having installed our tanks to heat pitches for Crystal Palace and Derby County. For the Thorp Arch pitch, Ken purchased our 10,000-litre plastic bunded oil tank fitted with a cabinet housing the fill point, battery bund and overflow alarm, Watchman Sonic and % hydrostatic gauge to give greater fuel level accuracy. The tank was then installed on a stand purpose-built by Ken to raise the tank, helping to feed the boiler and use a maximum amount of oil from the tank.

With the heating system already seeing action this winter, Ken explained why he chooses Tuffa for his tanks: "Tuffa makes large 10 and 15,000-litre oil tanks in plastic, meaning we can easily site the tanks which have a large storage capacity without the costs of steel. The quality of the tanks and the service from order to delivery is exceptional – if it wasn't I wouldn't keep coming back."

Construction of the stadium pitch is complete, and the Thorp Arch training pitch is a near copy. The addition of underground heating, fuelled by kerosene stored in a Tuffa tank, will give the players an advantage by allowing them to train and familiarise themselves all-year-round with the replica stadium pitch. [www.tuffa.co.uk](http://www.tuffa.co.uk)



A total of 36,500 meters of MDE piping transferring 140,000 litres of warm water around the pitch

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# We want you on our team

The heating industry is changing fast and OFTEC is looking for experienced heating engineers with wide-ranging skills and experience to join our expanding team of field-based contracted inspectors.

OFTEC inspectors carry out the valuable work of auditing heating business and checking individual competence through on-site visits. As well as registering oil and solid fuel heating businesses there is increasing demand from renewables installers, so our inspection team needs to meet this new demand.

We have immediate vacancies throughout Great Britain for applicants that have in-depth experience of off-gas grid heating technologies including renewables under the microgeneration certification scheme (MCS) . Working under a service level agreement this is a great opportunity to be your own boss but also represent a long-established registration scheme operator in your area and help maintain the high standards of work our registrants provide to consumers.

To discuss this opportunity, please contact John Vinter Inspection Services Manager on 01473 618 558 or email [jvinter@oftec.org](mailto:jvinter@oftec.org).

**[www.oftec.org/careers](http://www.oftec.org/careers)**



# Interactive training

Based in Llanishen near Cardiff, just off the M4, YTIC offers monthly OFTEC Oil courses 101, 105e and 600a, as well as OFTEC Solid Fuel (D/S/W) every other month. The Welsh training centre is also prepping for its first heat pump courses, certified through Cert-ain/OFTEC.

YTIC was established in 2017 by Paul Maddocks, who has worked in the industry for approximately 45 years, first for British Gas, and then his own companies since 1981.

"We have a lean team, of me, running the client relations, business development manager, Chris Balsdon as our in-house electrical trainer/ assessor, and three well-known sub-contracted trainers/assessors – Derek Downey, John Williams and Phil Hitchings – who have decades of experience between them," says group director, Jake Maddocks.

"Our centre doesn't offer online training, preferring the interactive nature of all our courses, even the H&S awareness training," explains Jake. "We're fairly priced for the



John Williams, Sean Roche of SR Plumbing & Heating and Jake Maddocks



The main YTIC training area

area (£630+VAT for renewals and £785+VAT for initial courses, with books at cost), but people mainly choose us because of our smooth customer experience and amazing teaching staff."

**YTIC is offering a 15% discount to Oil Installer readers for any courses booked in 2022. Email [info@ytic.co.uk](mailto:info@ytic.co.uk) quoting the code: oil2022.**

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 OFTEC 101- Domestic single stage service and commissioning for pressure jet appliances.  
OFTEC 102- Service and commissioning vapourising appliances.  
OFTEC 105e- Installation of Oil fired appliances.  
OFTEC 600a- Installation of Oil fuel storage and supply systems.  
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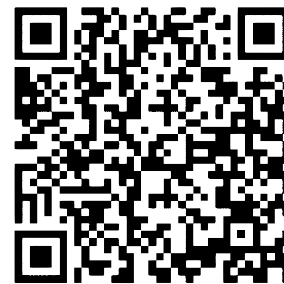
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MORE INFO

# What the L changes in June?



OFTEC's technical manager, Joe Bath presents an overview of significant changes to building regulations that will affect all heating engineers working in England.

Someone once told me: "Change is like manure – it stinks but it helps you grow". This sentiment neatly summarises upcoming changes to guidance on Part L of the Building Regulations. Changing guidance is a headache, as it forces us to work in new and unfamiliar ways. However, learning new ways of working is an excellent way to upskill.

We have known for some time that due to the Government's legal obligations to decarbonise all sectors, significant changes to the heating industry are coming. In England, these changes start on 15 June 2022. On this date, newly published 'Approved Documents' detailing enhanced energy efficiency requirements come into force. These changes are described as an 'uplift' in energy efficiency. This 'uplift' is a steppingstone to further far-reaching changes in 2025. There is no doubt that the newly published Approved Document L Volumes 1 & 2 will require all heating engineers to change and upskill. These documents are free to download from GOV.UK. The QR code on this page will take you to the webpage where you can access and download and/or print versions of the documents.

What are the significant changes you need to know about? The main changes affecting technicians working in dwellings are presented below.

## The end of Compliance Guides

Until now, most guidance for heating engineers has not been in Approved Documents themselves but in separate guides titled Domestic Building Services Compliance Guide and Non-Domestic Building Services Compliance Guide. From June, these documents no longer exist for use in England. All guidance is now contained in the Approved Documents (which is why you should get a copy).

## Low temperature heating

Newly installed heating systems and completely replaced heating systems (including the heating appliance, heat emitters and pipework) should be designed to run at a maximum flow temp of 55°C. This uplift is designed to ensure heating systems installed from June onwards are suitable for heat pumps later. This might require some upskilling for heating engineers, as pipe and radiator sizing will need to be carefully specified to ensure enough heat is provided to each room. I strongly recommend you dig out your copy of the Domestic Heating Design Guide to remind yourself on how to do this. OFTEC will endeavour to provide a calculator to aid radiator selection.

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*What you need to know about important new changes to building regulations*

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## Specification of services

Believe it or not, for the first time, Approved Documents state that heating systems should be based on building-specific heat loss calculations, and hot water storage should be based on anticipated demand. Neither should be oversized. On this basis, installers will need to ensure they keep records of such calculations to demonstrate compliance.

## Enhanced minimum efficiencies

Minimum efficiencies for oil-fired appliances	
Boiler type	Minimum efficiency
Regular boiler	91% (as defined in ErP)
Combi-boiler	86% (SEDBUK 2009)
Range cooker with integral boiler	80%

In exceptional circumstances, where the criteria of the 'Guide to condensing boiler installation assessment procedure for dwellings' is met, minimum efficiencies are 84% (SEDBUK 2009) for a regular boiler or 82% for a combi-boiler.

Minimum efficiencies for heat pumps	
Heat pump type	Minimum efficiency
Air to air < 12 kW	As per Ecodesign regulation 2016/2281
All other types – Space heating	COP 3.0
All other types – Heating domestic hot water	COP 2.0

## Appliance replacements

For some time, it has been a requirement that before replacing a domestic primary heating appliance with an appliance that runs on a different fuel, you should compare the carbon emissions of the new appliance to that of the existing appliance and then consider whether the appliance replacement is permissible. This process has been strengthened. A second calculation has been added to verify that the replacement appliance will not have a higher primary energy demand. This means that all the following must be true for a compliant appliance replacement:

- The appliance should be at least as efficient as the minimum seasonal efficiency required for that fuel
- The replacement appliance should not or produce more carbon emissions
- The replacement appliance should not have a higher primary energy demand

Heat pumps are exempt from this calculation if they meet the minimum efficiencies in the tables above. The Approved Documents explain how to compare emissions and primary energy using fuel factors and a mathematical calculation – it is not straightforward!

To assist technicians, OFTEC will be updating Technical Notice 033 and the calculation tool that does the maths for you, currently both hosted in the registered technicians' section of [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org).

Where replacing an appliance with one using the same fuel, the new appliance must be at least as efficient as the minimum efficiencies in the tables above and at least as efficient as the appliance being replaced.

## Solid fuel appliances

Guidance on the installation of appliance types B1,B2,B3 (open fires), C1,C2 (open fire and non-high output boiler), and J3,J4 (multifuel or anthracite boilers) are no longer listed as suitable to install. This represents any appliance that can burn mineral fuels. OFTEC is seeking clarification about whether this means such appliances cannot be installed or whether this is designed to steer installers away from such products.

## Heat pumps

Heat pumps should be selected to meet the full space heating requirement at the design condition chosen for heat loss calculations. Where there are other heat sources available in a building with a heat pump, each of these heat sources should be appropriately incorporated into a singular control system.

Heat pumps should not be sited adjacent to sleeping areas or on materials that can readily transmit vibrations. Additionally, the location of external fans and heat pump compressors should be appropriately selected to minimise disturbance to neighbours, while remaining in compliance with planning requirements.

Commissioning information for the ground arrays of a ground source heat pumps has been updated.

## Controls

Where a heating system is installed or a boiler replaced, in nearly every case, each room should be provided with thermostatic room controls. This can be achieved by one of the following:

- A thermostat in a room that the heating circuit serves and an individual thermostatic room control for each heat emitter, such as a thermostatic radiator valve, on all heat emitters outside the room that contains the thermostat. Thermostatic radiator valves should not be used in the same room as the thermostat.
- An individual room/heating zone thermostat or fan coil thermostat for each room or heating zone

- An individual networked heat emitter control for each emitter.

Secondary DHW circuits should be timed separately from space heating. Where working on an existing system, if domestic hot water and space heating are controlled by a single time controller, then these may continue to be controlled together after the work is complete.

## Simplified pipe insulation guidance

The table below show the minimum thickness of insulation required for heating and hot water pipework. Note that this is for insulation with a thermal conductivity of 0.025W/(m.K) or better. If insulation with worse performance is used, then BS 5422 will need to be consulted.

Minimum thickness of insulation for hot water and space heating pipework using insulation with a thermal conductivity of 0.025W/(m.K) or better.

### Minimum thickness of insulation for hot water and space heating pipework using insulation with a thermal conductivity of 0.025W/(m.K) or better

Nominal internal pipe diameter (mm)	Minimum insulation thickness (mm)
Less than or equal to 10	5
Less than or equal to 25	10
Less than or equal to 50	15
Less than or equal to 100	20

Underfloor heating pipework that does not contribute useful heat to a room should be insulated. The option to run in conduit is removed.

## Commissioning documentation

Guidance makes clear that installers and commissioning technicians need to issue and/or handover all relevant paperwork, such as installation completion reports, commissioning reports, manufacturer's instructions, product fiches, energy labels and ErP package labels whenever they install appliances or heating systems, change heating fuel, or extend/expand the capacity of a space heating system by more than 25%.

## Finally

Hopefully, this article has given you a flavour of the changes coming on 15 June 2022. I strongly recommend you download the new Approved Documents and use them as guides to assist you with quoting for work that will commence after this date. OFTEC's hardworking technical department will continue to review the new guidance and will issue helpful tools and Technical Notices to ensure technicians working at dwellings and buildings other than dwellings are well informed and compliant.

## What are Approved Documents?

Building regulations themselves contain little detail. As a result, it can be difficult for installers to know whether they have met the requirements of building regulations without further guidance.

Approved Documents are published by government and give practical guidance on common building situations about how to meet the requirements of the building regulations. From 15 June 2022 the newly published 'Approved Document L Volume 1: Dwellings' and 'Approved Document L Volume 2: Buildings Other Than Dwellings' provides the guidance that installers should follow to be confident they have met the requirements of building regulations. OFTEC requires installers to comply with the guidance in Approved Documents.

## A common problem!

This issue, we're sharing a photo that's sure to strike a chord with many of you out in the field. Please keep your photos coming. We love to see what you're up to on site, the problems you uncover and the ways you solve them. Please send your photos (high resolution if possible as they look much better in print) with a brief description of the problem, your name, company name and location to [liz@oilinstaller.co.uk](mailto:liz@oilinstaller.co.uk) and we will try and feature them in the next issue of Oil Installer.

## Nursing a boiler back to good health

Thanks to **John Wilson** of Nottingham-based Wilson Plumbing and Heating Services for sending this photo from a recent job at a nursing home. A commonly experienced problem, the photo shows an installation with failed seals, which led to the corrosion of the outer flue. John was originally booked in to replace the existing boiler as it had a leaking heat exchanger. He now has a further two flues to change on the other boilers servicing the home.



## InstallerSHOW announces major new features for 2022

InstallerSHOW opens in its new home at the NEC from 21-23 June. More than double in size, the UK's number one heating, plumbing and electrical trade show is increasing the number of special features on the show floor, as well as welcoming over 300 leading manufacturers and trade bodies – including OFTEC on stand A154.

As the show has grown, so has the number of special features offered to visitors. Attendees can get hands-on with heat pumps, solar panels, underfloor heating and PV storage in the interactive Future Installation

feature. Manufacturers of these technologies will be on hand to walk installers through how the products work and how they are fitted.

This year, InstallerSHOW welcomes elemental content theatres to the show floor. Featuring a comprehensive programme of seminars, debates and discussion, elemental and industry experts will unlock the potential of net-zero solutions in heat, water, air and energy.

Following on from the success of last year's bargain-busting, price-

slashing feature, The Great Industry CLEARANCE, returns. In association with Wolseley, visitors can walk away with some fantastic deals on tools, equipment, and supplies – most at well over 50% off the original price.

These are just a few of this year's new features – there are more to come. Many of the industry's leading manufacturers and bodies, including OFTEC, will be exhibiting at the show.

Registration is now open, get your free tickets today at <https://installer-2022.reg.buzz/oftec>

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# Fuel price commentary

It's perhaps stating the obvious to say that fuel prices only hit the headlines when they are either extremely high or low. We certainly don't need the latest Sutherland Tables data to know that they're currently very high; few of us can have failed to have seen the alarming headlines.

It's interesting to look at how the impact of energy price increases has played out. The highest rises have been in the wholesale cost of gas, which also affects electricity generation, but the price consumers pay has risen less than the headlines might suggest. This is because the full impact has yet to feed through into the data, and because a price cap

limits the price consumers pay. Instead, the energy suppliers have had to absorb huge losses, and some have gone bust as a consequence. In April, the price cap will be raised, and consumers of gas and electricity can expect big rises, although the full impact won't be felt until the next heating season.

Heating oil has no price cap and consumers have faced the full force of the price rises over the current winter. That's bad news for customers and, unfortunately, there's no immediate prospect that crude oil prices will fall substantially. We can hope that prices may be lower in the summer but, with supply failing to keep

up with increasing global demand and the ongoing impact from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we can probably expect high prices to continue into 2023. Interestingly, the price rises are less in the Republic of Ireland, so could other factors such as Brexit also be in play?

Will high prices weaken consumer enthusiasm for oil heating? Energy prices are just one of many inflationary pressures and it's likely we'll all be feeling the pinch this year. If it continues long term, some may begin looking at other heating options, particularly if government policy increases support for renewables such as heat pumps.

## Comparative space and water heating costs for a three-bedroom home In Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

### GREAT BRITAIN

	Four-year average cost	September 21	December 21	Price change	% difference
Electricity (Economy 7)	£2,104	£2,385	<b>£2,701</b>	316	13.25%
Gas	£932	£833	<b>£924</b>	91	10.92%
LPG - condensing	£1,537	£1,381	<b>£1,416</b>	35	2.53%
Oil - condensing	£971	£896	<b>£1,201</b>	305	34.04%
Wood pellets	£1,496	£1,484	<b>£1,460</b>	-24	-1.62%
Air source heat pump radiators	£1,818	£1,984	<b>£2,086</b>	102	5.14%
Air source heat pump underfloor	£1,459	£1,699	<b>£1,745</b>	46	2.71%

### NORTHERN IRELAND

	Four-year average cost	September 21	December 21	Price change	% difference
Electricity (Economy 7)	£1,845	£2,019	<b>£2,019</b>	0	0.00%
Gas	£945	£896	<b>£1,012</b>	116	12.95%
LPG - condensing	£2,035	£1,774	<b>£1,917</b>	143	8.06%
Oil - condensing	£943	£793	<b>£974</b>	181	22.82%
Wood pellets	£1,165	£1,132	<b>£1,149</b>	17	1.50%
Air source heat pump radiators	£1,649	£1,749	<b>£1,749</b>	0	0.00%
Air source heat pump underfloor	£1,321	£1,449	<b>£1,449</b>	0	0.00%

### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	Four-year average cost	September 21	December 21	Price change	% difference
Electricity (Economy 7)	€2,196	€2,404	<b>€2,600</b>	196	8.15%
Gas (Phoenix - condensing)	€1,337	€1,259	<b>€1,407</b>	148	11.76%
LPG - condensing	€2,374	€2,224	<b>€2,345</b>	121	5.44%
Oil - condensing	€1,332	€1,294	<b>€1,490</b>	196	15.15%
Wood pellets	€1,357	€1,282	<b>€1,291</b>	9	0.70%
Air source heat pump radiators	€1,915	€2,064	<b>€2,220</b>	156	7.56%
Air source heat pump underfloor	€1,570	€1,764	<b>€1,891</b>	127	7.20%

Notes. The tables above are based on quarterly data published by the Sutherland Tables. They show the annual average cost of a range of heating options for a typical pre-1980 three bedroomed semi-detached home with a heat requirement of approximately 16,000 kWh.

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