

Oil Installer

News and views from an evolving heating world



In association with
www.oftec.org



Great Prices • Fantastic Service
Delivery next-day, every day, including weekends*



New 2021 Spares Catalogue Available Now

www.hwos.co.uk • 01388 760 333 • sales@hwos.co.uk

Summer 2021 Volume 15 No 2

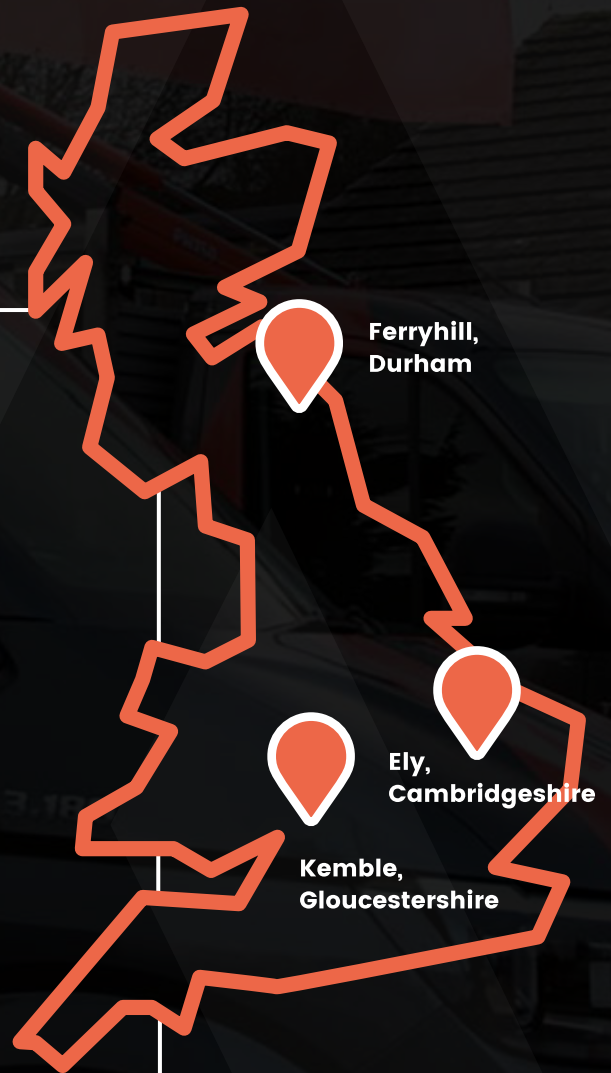
* Subject to location and availability, weekend deliveries not available in all locations, certain bank holidays excluded, order cut-off times vary by courier and day of the week, see website for details.

Fastest lead times in the industry?

From top to bottom, we have the UK covered with fast delivery for your oil tank requirements.

Why choose Atlantis

- ✓ Wide range of tanks available
- ✓ Made in the UK
- ✓ Fully stocked
- ✓ Direct-to-site delivery
- ✓ Cost effective
- ✓ Market leading warranties
- ✓ Collect from depot



View our full range of oil storage tank solutions on our trade-only website!



Tel: 0330 999 1100

Email: sales@atlantistanks.co.uk

www.atlantistanks.co.uk

 **atlantis**



OFTEC Comment & Industry News
4-6, 8-10



HVO News
12, 14-15, 17,19

**Table
of
Contents**

**NEW OFTEC Online
Portal – Pull Out &
Keep Guide**



23,24,25,26



Boiler News
21,28,31,32



Irish News
34-35



Tank News
37-38



Tech News
39,41-42



Training News
43



Gallery
45



Pricing Page
46



Ashley & Dumville Publishing
Caledonian House, Tatton Street,
Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6AG

Tel: +44 (0)1565 653283
mail@oilinstaller.co.uk

Advertising

Commercial manager: Margaret Major
Media pack on request: margaret@oilinstaller.co.uk

News Desk

Liz Boardman: liz@oilinstaller.co.uk

The publishers gratefully acknowledge the support of those firms whose advertisements appear throughout this publication. As a reciprocal gesture we have pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to their announcements. It is necessary however for it to be made clear that, whilst every care has been taken in compiling this publication and the statements it contains, the publishers cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies, or the products or services advertised.

Printed by Stephens & George Print Group. Tel. 01685 388888

Summer 2021 Volume 15 No 2

ISSN 1755 – 3490

It's time to back HVO in the race to net zero

In the forward to the last issue of Oil Installer OFTEC CEO, Paul Rose, talked about the importance of collaboration within industry. In this issue we will be showcasing how joint working between trade bodies, manufacturers and fuel distributors across the liquid fuel sector is driving forward the project to deliver HVO as a low carbon replacement for heating oil.



This is an important initiative and it's vital that we, as an industry, grasp exactly why we need this to succeed. One answer is that it keeps the liquid fuel sector going, preserving existing businesses and creating jobs for decades to come. However, if we were to only act out of self-interest, it is doubtful whether our ideas would be attractive to government.

The bigger picture here really matters. Achieving net zero emissions by 2050 is a legal target in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Heating is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, so we have a collective responsibility to clean up our act. However, ensuring that extra cost and disruption is minimised for our consumers as much as possible is also vital.

The governments in the UK and RoI plan to focus on oil heated homes as an early priority. The solution currently proposed – heat pumps – will work for some, but could be very expensive for others. Because the cash available to support the transition is pitifully small, there's a real risk that some oil heating customers will be major losers.

It's essential that the transition to our low carbon future is fair and that's a key reason why our industry needs to step up and offer a better alternative. But having an alternative solution is no good unless our customers know about it. To achieve that, we're planning a major campaign to get the message out about HVO – and we would welcome your help. Find out what you can do on page 12.

Laurance Coey

Chairman
OFTEC

Staff changes at OFTEC

OFTEC is delighted to announce that several new staff have joined the team in key roles.

Lead technical officer – Kevin Steadman



Kevin has a wealth of industry knowledge and experience, having been an OFTEC registered technician for 25 years. Kevin has previously worked for Scottish Fuels, BP, GB Oils and Certas Energy. While Kevin's most recent role was as an engineer supervisor (North UK) he has remained very much hands-on – on the morning of his interview was up to his elbows in soot servicing an oil vaporising cooker!

In addition to holding the full suite of OFTEC oil qualifications, Kevin has an HNC/HND in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering and holds domestic and commercial gas; UHWSS; and Part P electrical qualifications. He is very enthusiastic about developing his knowledge further into solid fuel and renewable technologies.

Inspection services manager – John Vinter



John Vinter has recently taken up the position of inspection services manager. John has enjoyed a long career in the heating industry, with experience of quality assurance audits resulting in improving safety and setting high standards. His coaching and communication skills will stand him in good stead as he leads and expands OFTEC's field inspection team. John, who lives in Essex, will divide his time between OFTEC HQ, operating from a home office and being out with inspectors in the field.

Regional inspector Scotland (contracted) – Andrew Borland



Andrew Borland has joined the OFTEC inspection team. Andrew, who lives in Kelso in the Scottish Borders, has previously been an OFTEC registered technician with vast experience in commercial and domestic gas and oil installations, repairs, and servicing. He also has experience of auditing, both privately and under social housing contracts. Having worked nationally to undertake auditing work, travel is second nature for Andrew – which is just as well given some of the remote locations he will be covering across Scotland and the Islands. Andrew holds his assessor's qualification and has recently undertaken extensive renewable energy training, which will enhance his knowledge and proficiency to OFTEC.

Jean Sutherland – Obituary

OFTEC is sad to report that Jean Sutherland, the much-loved wife of Colin Sutherland, and an important contributor to the foundation of OFTEC, has passed away.

The couple had been together for almost 70 years and, without Jean, there would not have been an OFTEC. In 1991, Colin was developing his own building services consultancy company and Jean undertook all the work of turning Colin's ideas for OFTEC into practical actions. She arranged meetings, produced minutes and enabled the many documents that he was turning out, such as the constitution, technical books



Jean Sutherland

and examination papers, to become parts of a co-ordinated real-life organisation. She also helped with the technical advice line and general office management.

Jean knew all the principal OFTEC personalities involved during the early days and they knew that they could rely on her to keep the things that mattered to them moving forward.

She will be sadly missed.

Recognition of the OFTEC Solid Fuel Assessment Scheme

The OFTEC Solid Fuel training and assessment courses have become the first, and only, solid fuel scheme to be recognised by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) as suitable for accredited conformity assessment under ISO/IEC 17024.

UKAS is responsible for determining the technical competence and integrity of organisations offering certification services.

Recognition by UKAS demonstrates that the courses meet the competencies required, and that the way the scheme is designed and assessed ensures impartiality.

Partly because of this, OFTEC was approached by the Stove Industry Alliance (SIA) to promote both the

OFTEC Solid Fuel registration scheme, and work carried out by the SIA.

The SIA was formed in 2008 to promote the benefits of wood-burning stoves and biomass appliances. The SIA is an association of stove, flue and glass manufacturers, distributors, retailers, fuel suppliers and test approval bodies.

With an ever-expanding list of members, the SIA is able to represent the stove industry with government departments such as Defra and BEIS, the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Government. These government departments, local authorities and other regulatory bodies recognise the SIA as an important voice in the industry, and regularly contact the SIA for the industry's viewpoint.

Open the door to better consumer information

Did you know that LABC offers an excellent online resource for householders that answers many of the most common questions asked about work in and around the home? Called LABC Front Door (labcfreontdoor.co.uk), the site answers questions like whether planning permission is needed, how to choose a reputable tradesperson and what standards should be expected. It's worth remembering the site in case any particularly tricky questions crop up!

Heating and plumbing work is included, and it also explains the benefits of using a tradesperson registered with a competent person scheme – with information about each scheme provider, contact details and links to its website.

Update to the Minimum Technical Competencies

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is in the process of re-writing the Minimum Technical Competencies (MTCs) across a wide range of areas. MTCs – now to be known as Mandatory Technical Competences – have been around for a while in various trades, for example insulation, combustion appliances, electrical installation, heating and hot water systems, air conditioning, plumbing etc.

MHCLG has invited OFTEC to work on the MTCs for oil appliance installation work to ensure that these are fully up to date with current and forthcoming technology, and it is hoped that these will be approved and published by the end of the year.

OFTEC Heat Pump Assessment Scheme (ISO IEC 17024)

At the recent OFTEC Scheme Committee meeting, it was agreed that OFTEC should develop a Heat Pump Assessment Scheme to be accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024. This will require the involvement of various industry sectors and representatives.

Currently, the UK building services engineering sector has a network of providers offering both training and assessment facilities. These are normally either further education colleges that tend to operate vocational qualifications, or private training providers that mainly serve the wider building services engineering sector.

The private training and assessment providers now account for a high proportion of the delivery sector. Many hundreds of these providers have gained approval to deliver a range of certifications of competence and work together with certification bodies and schemes, such as OFTEC and Gas Safe, to continually raise delivery standards.

Increasingly, approved centres are now requesting that a Heat Pump Assessment Scheme is developed under ISO/IEC 17024. This will allow them to preserve their existing customer base and maintain high standards, while increasing the delivery of heat pump training and assessment via an extensive network of providers across the UK.

To meet the Government's ambitious target of 600,000 heat pump installations annually by 2028, it is anticipated that the large number of competent installers required to carry out these installations will come from within the current oil and gas workforce that already hold ISO/IEC 17024 accredited certificates of competence. OFTEC hopes to progress this as an urgent priority, so look out for further updates in the coming months.

The inclusion of a UKAS accredited ISO/IEC 17024 route for heat pumps would provide the extra flexibility to upskill these operatives and will provide both operatives and businesses with a choice of route to gain the relevant qualifications, providing the country with the workforce necessary to deliver on government targets.

Initial discussions are being held with MCS regarding the development of such an ISO/IEC 17024 scheme and what role MCS can play in support of this initiative.

Protect the environment and get new customers too

Environment Agency, Portsmouth Water and OFTEC

You may have seen articles in our e-newsletter over recent months inviting technicians in Hampshire and West Sussex to register for an exciting trial we are involved in with the Environment Agency (EA) and Portsmouth Water.

This local campaign is working with OFTEC registered technicians to urge householders to check and replace failing tanks to protect the environment and reduce the risk of potentially large financial losses. As an incentive, Portsmouth Water will subsidise a free inspection and 50% grant towards replacement works. They need more local technicians to join to meet customer demand.

G. RIXON LTD, a small family run business, has already signed up to the campaign: "We have been working with the Portsmouth Water Domestic Heating Oil Care Campaign in the Meon Valley area since 2017. We have carried out in excess of 40 oil storage tank inspections and subsequent replacements within our own catchment area.

"Bethany Fairley has been our point of contact at Portsmouth Water since the start of the scheme and has been very easy to deal with. The initial registration and contract process was very simple and straight forward.

"Customers are either directed to us by Portsmouth Water or we have been able to advise our own customers that they may be eligible for the grant. Eligibility is confirmed with a quick call to Bethany.

"Once eligibility is confirmed it is then for the client to instruct and, on completion of the works, the client and Portsmouth Water are invoiced for their respective contributions. Payment from Portsmouth Water has always been well within the 30-day terms agreed.

"The scheme has been a mutually beneficial arrangement and we have been able to include numerous existing customers within the scheme which has significantly increased our sales."

Why does it matter?

In the last three years there have been 801 pollution incidents in England caused by leaking or spilt heating oil.

Dawn O'Neill, Environment Agency groundwater technical specialist, is part of the Hampshire and West Sussex campaign: "Oil pollution is one of the most common incidents I deal with. Heating oil losses can have a major impact on our rivers and streams, harming fish, birds and aquatic life. However, people are often unaware of the sensitivity of the underlying groundwater to pollution. In the area where I work, groundwater supplies 75% of our drinking water, as well as supporting flows in our world-renowned Chalk rivers.

"Heating oil leaks can be expensive for householders, who are often not covered by their insurance¹. If the oil enters the ground or a local river, stream or lake, clean-up costs are regularly more than £20,000. If groundwater or drinking



Environment Agency officer using oil absorbents to clear spill in river (source: Environment Agency)

water is affected, these costs can quickly escalate to six figures, and involve property being dug up to find and remove the oil before it causes too much pollution".

Like many water companies, Portsmouth Water extracts drinking water from groundwater contained within the chalk rock of the South Downs. This water has to meet strict water quality standards.

Over the last eight years, it has experienced increasing numbers of pollution incidents caused by faulty or poorly maintained fuel oil storage tanks and pipework.

Simon Deacon, catchment and environment manager at Portsmouth Water explains: "If a heating oil spill happens, we take a precautionary approach and shut down the local public water supply source while clean-up and remedial works take place. In the worst case scenario the drinking water source may have to be abandoned, resulting in reduced water supplies in the local area."

Sadly, many tank owners don't realise that they:

- have a legal responsibility to make sure their oil doesn't cause pollution and that they comply with building regulations;
- face liability to clean up in the event of a spill or leak that causes (or is likely to cause) damage to the environment; and
- face an unlimited fine and a criminal prosecution if their oil causes pollution of a river, stream, lake or groundwater.

What can you do?

If you work in Hampshire and West Sussex contact Beth Fairley on 07872 108992 or Bethany.Fairley@portsmouthwater.co.uk to get involved. It is an easy way of reaching new customers. You can find out more at www.portsmouthwater.co.uk/about-us/water-quality/heating-oil/.

If you are elsewhere in the country, please urge your customers to check their oil tanks for leaks to protect the environment and their pocket. You can direct them to www.oilcare.org.uk for more information.

To report an oil spill or leak, contact the Environment Agency's 24-hour emergency hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

¹ See Judy Hadden's oil spill insurance article in our winter issue to find out more

1000%

Blue Flame

The Navien LCB700 oil boiler range... when only future-proofed will do

Reduced running costs, ultra-low NOx emissions and ErP A+ energy efficiency capabilities; these are just some of reasons why we only manufacture blue flame oil boilers. You don't have to wait for the next generation of oil boilers to arrive. It's already here. Find the LCB700 at your nearest merchant.

LIGHTWEIGHT • LOW NO_x • FUTURE-PROOFED

To find your nearest stockist:
info@navienuk.com

Discover more about our range:
www.navien.co.uk



RRP from
£1182.00 ^{+VAT}
Available from your
nearest merchant

Grant staff take over 12 million steps for charity

Staff at Grant UK took part in Marching March, a step-count challenge raising funds for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. In total, the staff took over 12 million steps during March and raised £320 for the local charity.

Although many of Grant UK's employees have continued to work remotely during the pandemic, this did not stop them from taking part in a fundraising initiative which aimed to not only raise money for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance charity, but also to give employees the opportunity to do something together, despite being apart. The Marching March step-count challenge was created, inviting staff to log their daily steps using phones or watches and to enter into some friendly competition with each other to see who could take the most steps during the month.

Throughout the month, interest in



Grant marches for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Marching March heated up with all participants doing their best to reach their personal daily step-count targets. Thirty-one days later, a total of 12,180,949 steps were taken and a healthy sum of donations totaled £320 for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Three front runners were declared whose high step-count totals earned them podium

positions and a prize donated by Grant. First place went to Charlotte Davey in the training department, second place went to Kevin Fossey, one of Grant's area sales managers, and third place went to Paul Applewhite from the technical team.

"It has been great to see everyone at Grant UK get involved with the Marching March step-count challenge," says Anna Wakefield, Grant UK's head of marketing. "Not only did it give staff the chance to raise some money for our chosen charity, but it was an initiative that aimed to get staff on their feet and take some time to focus on their own wellbeing, both physically and mentally. All participants received a wellness box of goodies from Grant UK and after seeing the number of steps taken, the amount of money raised and the conversation amongst staff, Marching March has been a success on many levels." www.grantuk.com

Worcester Bosch launches a new children's book on World Earth Day

Worcester Bosch launched a new children's storybook on World Earth Day. 'A Robot Called B4' is a brand-new adventure book for children aged 7-11 and is available as a hard copy or an audiobook, narrated by TV and radio presenter, Angellica Bell.

A Robot Called B4 tells the story of Alfie and Ava, two children who discover a robot. The robot can travel through time and takes them on an epic adventure to the prehistoric era. Marvelling at the natural beauty of the prehistoric landscape, Alfie and Ava realise what we have lost and the harm we are now doing to our planet. Upon returning to the present, the children pledge to look after our planet better to preserve all its wonders for future generations to come.

Worcester Bosch hopes that by telling Alfie and Ava's story, children across the country can learn about the importance of sustainability in a fun, creative, and engaging way, and think of ways in which they can make a difference in their own homes and communities.



The new storybook from Worcester Bosch

Victoria Billings, director of marketing at Worcester Bosch, said: "We hope that 'A Robot Called B4' will provide some fun and enjoyment for the young reader as well as reinforce what they learn at school and encourage them to think about how they can improve sustainability at home.

"We've all experienced in these last 12 months how important family time and education at home has been, and our wish is to make the sustainability topic more fun and accessible for families to share. Whether you select the hard copy to read, or listen to the audio book, we hope that our brand purpose of Warming Lives and Protecting our Future shines through the adventures of Alfie, Ava and B4."

The book forms part of a new campaign by Worcester Bosch which is designed to bring families closer together through reading and help to educate children on the importance of caring for the planet. This mirrors the brand's purpose of Warming Lives and Protecting our Future through Worcester Bosch's strong commitment to sustainability.

As part of the campaign, Worcester Bosch has also launched a children's writing competition with the winner's entry being developed into a second book later in 2021. www.Worcesterbosch.co.uk/storybook

Charity fuelled by Firebird's expertise



On site at Sea Sanctuary

A unique UK-based mental health charity has praised Firebird for helping it to continue its invaluable work, while fulfilling its goal to strengthen its environmental practices.

Sea Sanctuary is a mental health charity and one of the world's leading exponents of blue health – the concept that 'blue spaces', such as the sea, are beneficial for people's mental and emotional wellbeing.

The charity faced a significant dilemma recently when the old boiler, which fuelled its boat jeopardised its ability to combine psychological support with maritime activities. Luckily, the support, expertise, and efficient service from Firebird meant that its work was not impacted.

Gary Davies, national sales manager from Firebird commented: "It was clear that the existing boiler was beyond the point of repair. Not only did they need a replacement urgently, but they were very keen to ensure that the new boiler would be more energy efficient and environmentally friendly."

With a clear focus on renewables and sustainability, Firebird has dedicated significant resources and invested heavily in developing products with increased fuel efficiency, reduced emissions and that use more renewable

and sustainable fuel sources. The company manufactures boilers with 97.5% efficiency and NOx emissions as low as 60mg/kWhr, half the EU limits.

"It was a non-specialist requirement that would be a difficult installation," continued Gary. "The charity needed a condensing boiler that is unique to Firebird and were confident that we could deliver the versatile and multi-directional flue arrangements to overcome the installation difficulties."



A new energy efficient and environmentally friendly boiler

Long-standing Firebird installer, Adam Baker provided his expertise and was eager to contribute to the project despite being located hundreds of miles from Sea Sanctuary's Cornwall base. Firebird worked with Adam to identify the best appliance in terms of size and suitability and the project was delivered in less than two days.

"We supplied a boiler from our new Low NOx Envirogreen range which is incredibly popular with installers," explained Gary. "With outputs of 100kW, the boiler is also future-proofed for HVO, which will help Sea Sanctuary achieve its environmental goals."

Joseph Sabien, Sea Sanctuary CEO added: "As a charity we are grateful for kind acts and great levels of customer care that help keep our services operating smoothly. On behalf of Sea Sanctuary, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Firebird for its invaluable help in resolving our long-standing heating issue. Not only did Firebird resolve the issue, including a discounted system, but it effectively managed the issue and introduced us to a fitter who travelled down from the North to undertake the work. It's extremely rare to find this level of customer service and kindness, and we are all extremely grateful – Firebird is truly a five-star rated business."
www.firebird.uk.com

A future for oil?

Martyn Bridges, director of technical communication and product management at Worcester Bosch, discusses the place of oil and bio-oil on the path to net-zero 2050 and beyond...

The future of oil in the UK is in question, as we remain unsure as to what the Government plans to do with it.

Oil-fired boilers are a minority in the UK. About 1.3 million homes operate on oil-fired heating compared to 23 million homes using with gas-fired heating, but from a climate-urgency perspective, targets concerning oil-fired boilers are first in the BEIS department's sights.

As most oil-heated homes are off the main gas grid, the Government hopes that heat pumps can offer a solution. However, given the disruptive nature of heat pump installation, especially in older, more difficult to renovate properties with oil-fired boilers, this will not be as simple as they might wish.

In fact, perhaps surprisingly, oil may well have a role to play on the road to net zero and beyond. But how can oil be decarbonised and why should the Government consider it an important alternative?

To ban or not to ban

The last three or four years have seen indications made by government to ban oil in its current form, but we have not seen any roadmap of how it intends to achieve this.

Oil-fired heating systems in new builds rarely occur as the Target Emission Rating of the property is virtually impossible to achieve with the higher carbon intensity of oil. The problem posed by existing homes continues to go unsolved as the publication of the Future Homes Strategy has just been delayed.

Furthermore, government's hope that heat pumps will save the day was always going to be challenging without significant investment and disruption to the typical off-gas grid home.

The recent BEIS trial to install 750 heat pumps has also met these challenges. The trial's intention was to replace 750 boilers in existing homes with a heat pump, 15% of which were homes off gas grid – mainly oil.

Now, due to a number of reasons, we're unaware of a single oil boiler that has been replaced by a heat pump during this trial, reinforcing my own belief that this is a very difficult thing to implement.

Bio-oil's role

Consequently, bio-oil is a consideration that the Government might open its mind to a little more.

Only a few weeks ago the Northern Irish Government called on industry to produce a credible plan to show how sustainable bio-oil could replace the current oil-fired systems which heat many thousands of homes across Ireland.

In addition, recent OFTEC trials are building up a bank of evidence to prove the safety and suitability of bio-oil in existing homes, with around 18 boilers currently converted to run on HVO.

An application has already been made by OFTEC and UKIFDA for a 60% grant funding of a £455,000 project to convert a further 100 homes to HVO in time for winter 21/22.

The 18 boilers on trial presently have worked perfectly, and the addition of a further 100 boilers (if the project's application succeeds) would provide substantive proof confirming what we already know – that HVO is a suitable low-carbon alternative to kerosene.

A preference for oil

Other than the disruption caused by heat pump installations, previous experiences have seen a preference for oil-fired systems even following installation.

Ten years ago, a number of oil users took the Government subsidy to swap their oil boiler for a biomass boiler or heat pump. Following installation, several of these homeowners switched back to oil.

Heat pumps are a great technology and suit homes that are newly built and have included the extra space requirements that the components



Martyn Bridges

of a heat pump require or conversely, homeowners who are substantially renovating their properties and again can create the right space and heating system requirements.

I suspect once we try and force a heat pump onto people who have been used to a boiler, we will receive a large amount of 'kick back' which is not good for the homeowner or the industry.

Transparent understanding is necessary

Heat pumps are a great technology which will undoubtedly provide a low-carbon solution in many properties across the UK. However, fitting a heat pump into an existing home where the fabric, the heating system, and an array of other factors make the home unsuitable for installation, results in a disruptive and expensive process.

If homeowners are aware of this and choose to go ahead, then that's great. My worry is that there is not enough information flowing from the Government around what must be done in oil-fired homes to prepare them for heat pump replacement.

I hope that the current trial for heat pumps will see a positive report published, but I am also a realist.

The report may not be quite as complimentary as government expects, in which case it should turn its attention to HVO as a viable alternative to kerosene.
www.worcester-bosch.co.uk

Navien's **NEW** loyalty scheme

NAV **navien**
CHOICE



Bank points or redeem immediately

Best value points in the sector

Huge choice of rewards

Gets you straight to the points!

Installers can now receive great rewards on every oil and gas boiler registered through the Navien Choice App. From grabbing a snack on the go, through to the latest tech and gadgets, our points always give you the best prizes...

Bank them or redeem them, it's your choice!

www.navienchoice.com



NAV **navien**

It's time to tell the world about the benefits of HVO

Help us to tell oil heating customers about the new fuel and how it can dramatically reduce carbon emissions from existing oil heated homes

In the next few years, oil heated households will hear a lot about the Government's decarbonisation plans. It may encourage them to think about their home heating differently, or to wonder whether they should buy a new boiler. It's vital that they receive good advice, understand the facts, and know about the choices that are, or could be, available.

To help them make informed choices, existing oil heating customers need to know about the potential of HVO, and your help will be vital to get the word out. OFTEC and UKIFDA have joined forces on a new communication project in Great Britain to increase awareness that a new low carbon liquid fuel is in the final stages of testing – and could soon be commercially available.

At the heart of the project is a new information website called futurereadyfuel.info, which explains the benefits of HVO and why it is needed. It also invites householders to register their interest to receive updates as the work to test and introduce the new fuel progresses.

The website won't get much traffic unless we tell people about it, so other activities and support material are being prepared, and this is really where we need your help. Through the relationships that fuel distributors and heating engineers have with customers, we have a priceless opportunity to give information directly to households

Future ready!
A renewable fuel for your boiler
Works just like heating oil, but much better for the environment

- ✓ Cleaner and greener – reduces your carbon emissions by almost 90% compared to existing heating oil
- ✓ Simple conversion process that can be conveniently done when your boiler is serviced or upgraded
- ✓ Usual cost of conversion around £500 (exact cost depends on system)
- ✓ Made from fossil free, certified sustainable waste materials
- ✓ You won't notice the difference – runs just as efficiently as heating oil in your existing system and it's odourless too

Find out more visit www.futurereadyfuel.info

that already use oil. Doing this is far more effective than advertising or writing newspaper articles, although we'll be doing that too.

What can you do?

Simply hand over a flyer whenever you carry out an installation or servicing visit. We have created a simple A5 flyer that is free to order – if you are based in the UK you should have found a copy enclosed with your Oil Installer – and we can supply it with a space for your company's details if required. We can also supply it to you as an electronic copy, should you wish to email it to customers – for example with a quote or invoice – or make it available for download from your website.

Working together to spread the word about HVO could help our customers avoid making an expensive mistake. It will also help to drive forward decarbonisation in a fair and affordable way, and secure a future for the liquid fuel industry, so we hope you will be willing to help.

We have also set up new social media accounts on Twitter or Facebook. If you use either of these platforms, please link to these new accounts, so that both you and your customers can receive the latest updates. We would also really appreciate it if you could link to the website futurereadyfuel.info – we can provide you with some text and images to use if you need them.

Request your FREE leaflets from OFTEC's marketing team by emailing marketing@oftec.org – please allow two weeks for delivery. A similar campaign for Northern Ireland and Rol is in development.

To find out more about our plans to introduce HVO, see the special report on page 14.

Future Ready Fuel

Future ready!
A renewable fuel for your boiler
Works just like heating oil, but much better for the environment

A simple solution for greener heating

For over 50 years heating oil has been a popular choice for homes off the gas grid.

To tackle climate change and achieve the UK's net zero target, we need to switch from fossil fuels to renewable heating.

The good news is you don't need to buy an expensive new heating system to do that – dramatic reductions in your household emissions can be achieved simply by changing the type of fuel you use.

The liquid fuel heating industry is currently trialling a new product called Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) to replace heating oil.

The renewable liquid fuel works well in all existing oil heating systems following a simple, cost-effective conversion process.

GET INVOLVED

REGIN Report Pads & Stickers

Completely rewritten in line with BS 5410

Liquid Fuel Report Pads



Domestic Liquid Fuel Fired Pressure Jet Appliance Service, Commissioning & Inspection Record Pad

- Contains the key elements necessary to demonstrate compliance with BS 5410 Part 1 2019 when servicing or commissioning domestic oil and liquid fuel fired boilers.
- Can be used to formally record and notify customer of any immediate or potential risks identified.

REGP011



Non-Domestic Liquid Fuel Fired Single Combustion Appliance Service & Inspection Record Pad

- Contains the key elements necessary to demonstrate compliance with BS 5410 Part 2 2018 when servicing or commissioning non-domestic oil and liquid fuel fired appliances with 2 stage burners.
- Can be used to formally record and notify your client of any immediate or potential risks identified.

REGP021



Domestic Liquid Fuel Storage (up to 3,500 litres) & Supply Inspection Record Pad

- Essential document used to demonstrate compliance with BS 5410 Part 1 2019 when inspecting domestic oil and liquid fuel storage and supply systems as part of an appliance service or commissioning visit.
- Can be used to formally record and notify customer of any immediate or potential risks identified.

REGP013



Non-Domestic Liquid Fuel Storage (up to 10,000 litres) & Supply Inspection Record Pad

- Essential document used to demonstrate compliance with BS 5410 Part 2 2018 when inspecting non-domestic oil and liquid fuel storage and supply systems.
- Can be used to formally record and notify your client of any immediate or potential risks identified.

REGP023



Domestic Central Heating & Hot Water System Inspection / Commissioning Report Pad

- Essential document designed to demonstrate compliance when commissioning wet central heating systems.
- Use to create a physical record of service and inspection works to wet central heating systems.
- Provides key check points to follow.
- Can be used to formally record and notify customer of any immediate or potential risks identified.

REGP010

- All pads feature pre-printed *Industry Specific Terms & Conditions* on reverse to *advise, inform and protect you and your customer*
- All pads feature *triplicate copy certificates*

HVO / Kerosene Tank Stickers

REGPL09



- Clearly identify the contents of the Tank.
- Complete with Warning Symbols and clear messages and instructions.

REGPL08



Liquid Fuel Stickers/Tags



REGPL01

- For application to oil and liquid fuel storage tanks where immediate, Fire, Safety and/or Environmental Risks are identified.
- Clear message and instruction to owners and custodians of storage tanks and fuel delivery drivers.



REGPL02

- For application to oil and liquid fuel fired appliances and equipment where immediate, Fire, Safety and/or Environmental Risks are identified.
- Clear message and instruction to owners and custodians of storage tanks and fuel delivery drivers.



REGPL03

- For application to oil and liquid fuel storage tanks, appliances and equipment where potential, Fire, Safety and/or Environmental Risks are identified.
- Clear message and instruction to owners and custodians of storage tanks and fuel delivery drivers.



REGPL04

- Great for repeat business and recommendations.
- Reminds your customers who you are and the work you've done.
- Reminds customers of the importance of regular servicing and inspection.

Available from your local Merchant

Regin Products Ltd.
8/13 Tower Square, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE29 7DT
Tel: 01480 412415
sales@regin.co.uk
www.regin.co.uk

@reginproducts

HVO – a renewable low carbon fuel

OFTEC reports on the current HVO field trial and explains the potential of this fuel in heating

HVO fuel trial update

Last issue we reported that field trials had commenced using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a replacement for kerosene. The total number of sites up and running has grown steadily to 18 and covers a range of equipment types including:

- Condensing and non-condensing boilers with varying burner types and flueing configurations
- A pressure jet cooker
- A pressure jet cooker with integral boiler
- A vaporising cooker where the sleeve burner has been replaced with a pot burner conversion.

So far, the performance has been uniformly excellent with no significant problems reported. Even at this early stage, the results suggest HVO will work with virtually any existing oil heating or cooking appliance, once some simple modifications have been made.

The field trial sites are located right across the UK. Some have been funded by OFTEC while others are privately sponsored installations, with some set up by local fuel distributors. All the sites are being regularly monitored and the results evaluated by a central oversight team. The information gleaned from the trials will be used to establish any areas of concern, whether any product modifications are required, what installation and servicing guidance is necessary and, more broadly, to convince government that HVO is a reliable product, worthy of support.

However, the current trial is only the first stage. OFTEC and UKIFDA have made a joint application under Phase 8a of the Energy Entrepreneurs Fund, for 60% grant funding towards a major project which will see 100 homes converted to HVO in time for the 2021/22 winter heating season. The plan will expand considerably on the current trial, and twenty homes in five different locations will be converted and fueled to capture a fully representative spread of climatic conditions, building types and installed equipment.



On site in Cornwall at an HVO trial set up by Mitchell and Webber

The application is currently being evaluated and feedback on submissions is expected in mid-May. Successful bids will be awarded funding to commence projects from 1st July.

What exactly is HVO and why is it so important to the future of liquid fuel heating?

HVO is a renewable liquid fuel made from certified waste fats and oils and manufactured by a synthesised process with hydrogen. Up to now it has been used mainly as a transport fuel but that is beginning to change. Because HVO is paraffinic, it behaves the same as kerosene and does not suffer from the storage problems associated with some other biofuels, making it ideal for use as a heating fuel. The ISCC (International Sustainability and Carbon Certification) confirms HVO is a sustainable fuel that is made from waste products or crops and doesn't contribute to deforestation.

Switching to 100% HVO brings an immediate reduction in carbon emissions of almost 90%, compared to kerosene. Because the conversion process is cheap and easy, it has the potential to offer a cheaper and easier way for existing oil heating customers to reduce carbon emissions than switching to a completely different heating system.

When will the new fuel be available?

We hope to introduce the new fuel in 2022, subject to the completion of successful trials and obtaining government approval to use HVO as a heating fuel. Our aim is to then enable existing oil heating users to convert to the new fuel gradually during the 2020s and 2030s.

What hurdles need to be overcome to enable this to happen?

The Government still needs to be convinced that it is right to use HVO for heating. HVO was originally developed as a transport fuel and its main concern is that there may not be enough available. However, manufacturing capacity is increasing rapidly – it is forecast to rise by over 300% in Europe alone between 2020 and 2025 – and we are confident that if government signaled its support, further investment in production would be made, including in the UK where no HVO is currently produced.

At present, HVO is more expensive than heating oil in the UK, so we are discussing with government how changes to duty, tax and renewable incentives could be used to make the fuel attractive to households. We anticipate that a scheme similar to the one used for green road transport fuels could be used so that HVO could be offered at an affordable price. However, even if HVO is more expensive, it is still likely to be cheaper than switching to a completely different heating system.

We are confident that HVO is a low carbon solution that households will be keen to accept. However, overcoming these hurdles won't guarantee success. HVO is no different to any other new product, we still need to tell potential customers it's coming and convince them this is the right choice for their home. In the next article, we report on the project to do just that – and explain what you can do to help.

UK heat in buildings strategy

Long awaited policies to decarbonise heating will need to be fair and affordable if we are to achieve the net zero target

As Oil Installer was going to print, the long awaited UK heat in buildings strategy had still not been published.

We know that when it comes it's unlikely to make pleasant reading for the oil heating industry because the UK Clean Growth Strategy (2017) has already made it clear that the Government plans to phase out the installation of high carbon fossil fuel heating systems off the gas grid, including oil, coal and LPG, during the 2020s. However, this won't happen immediately, and households will be able to continue to use existing systems.

Since the Clean Growth Strategy was published, the Government has been undertaking research to inform its thinking. We know that a key part of this thinking is to expand heat pump installations, from less than 30,000 each year now to a target of a massive 600,000 each year by 2028. The strategy is also expected to say more about the use of district heating and hydrogen, both of which are stated to be part of the Government's future plans.

Whether any of this is achievable will depend on what policies underpin the heat in buildings strategy. These will include a mix of carrots and sticks – grants, incentives, taxes, and regulations – all designed to encourage households to fit heat pumps, or other low carbon or energy efficient measures, and remove fossil fuel systems. Some of these ideas could come as

quite a shock to consumers. For example, you may find you're soon not allowed to sell your home if it doesn't achieve EPC band C.

The Government's track record on heat policy is mixed at best, so the ideas in the new strategy will be carefully scrutinised, particularly as funding support is likely to be limited. There will be a consultation on the strategy, and a chance to comment. A key test of the proposals will be how fair the policies are, and whether they will expose households to unreasonable cost. OFTEC's view is that off-grid consumers will want greater choice and more lower cost options, and that's why alternatives such as HVO are so important.

Read more about our plans to introduce HVO, a new renewable liquid fuel, on page 14.



BES
We've got it!

Plumbing, oil, heating and gas supplies... FAST!

Call free **0800 80 10 90**
Order online **bes.co.uk**

Over **45 YEARS**
Expert Service Since 1975

NEW CATALOGUE OUT NOW!

- LOW prices
- Quality products
- Over 15,000 products
- FREE next day delivery*

100s of PRICE REDUCTIONS

TIGERLOOP DE-AERATOR

HVO READY TIGERLOOP BIO DE-AERATORS

As an authorised UK importer of Tigerloops, we are working along side SPX Flow Tigerholm to ensure the HVO ready Tigerloop Bio range is available from us Ex Works.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Receive **15% off all Tigerloop De-aerators and accessories** on our online store! Use the below promo code.

Visit www.fueldump.co.uk or scan QR code.



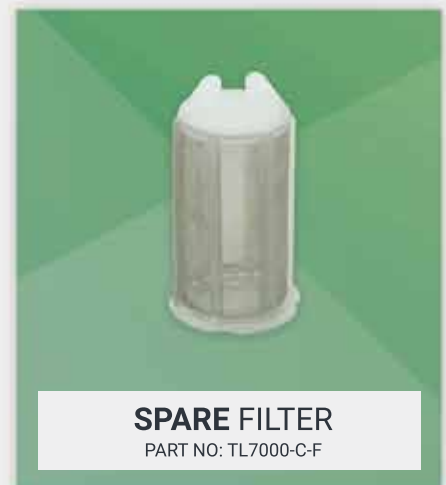
*offer only available on our online store
*promo code valid until 30/09/2021

PROMO CODE: TIGERLOOP15

FEATURES OF A TIGERLOOP:

- GAS FREE FUEL SUPPLIED TO BURNER
- LESS SOOT BUILD UP
- HIGHER EFFICIENCY
- BETTER FUEL FILTRATION (COMBI MODELS)
- REDUCED FUEL CONSUMPTION
- EXTENDS LIFE OF FILTER ELEMENT
- CLEANER FUEL BURN

OUR RANGE:





Danfoss introduces HVO nozzle range

Danfoss is a company known for engineering solutions and has stepped up once again by developing a range of nozzles that are suitable for use with HVO. Already tested and approved for use with the trials project, they are the only manufacturer so far to have done so.

"We are constantly looking at developing products to suit market requirements, so we are more than happy to be a part of the project. We will continue to work with customers and associates to find the right solutions for energy challenges," says Mark McElroy, key account manager for Danfoss Burner Components.

With a wide range of products always available for traditional heating systems, Danfoss is also looking to play its part in driving the sustainable transformation of tomorrow and will continue to engineer solutions that allows the world to use resources in smarter ways.

For more information on these HVO ready nozzles or other products please contact your supplier or visit burner.danfoss.com

Tigerloop BIO is HVO ready

The Tigerloop has been an industry leading oil de-aerator since it was invented by Tigerholm in 1971. Rigorous quality control and testing are keys to the success of the Tigerloop. Each and every Tigerloop is functionally tested prior to delivery. Also, each Tigerloop is pressure tested for 10 hours to ensure the integrity of its seals for a safe installation.

SPX Flow Tigerholm is supporting OFTEC, having been given the opportunity to supply the HVO pilot demonstrator sites with its HVO ready Tigerloop BIO, fuel de-aerator. The Tigerloop BIO has been extensively tested for use with HVO and carries the OFCERT License No. 2181080902.

Further testing and calculations have been undertaken to determine suction supply line sizing for HVO installations using HVO ready Tigerloop de-aerators. This will help OFTEC to provide guidance on the industry conversion to HVO. These suction line sizing charts will be published in the OFTEC HVO handbook.

SPX Flow continues to develop the Tigerloop brand that has been a leader in the HVAC industry for 50 years. www.spflow.com



As the main UK distributor of Tigerloops, Atkinson Equipment is pleased to support Tigerholm and OFTEC with supplying HVO-ready equipment. A company spokesman said: "We are committed to the change and are actively contributing to help reduce CO2 emissions within the industry and will be striving to make more of our own products HVO ready in the future."

The HVO-ready BIO range is available from Atkinson Ex Works, get in touch with them directly for a quote.

www.atkinsonequipment.com

Warmflow launches new heat pump

As various solutions are considered in the decarbonisation of the heating sector, oil-fired boiler manufacturer Warmflow has launched a new range of inverter-driven air source heat pumps. The Zeno range is one of the most intelligent and advanced heating systems available and is reported to offer unparalleled efficiency and be more eco-friendly while also being extremely effective. Requiring only electricity and water connections, the outdoor unit is easy to install and can be situated discreetly outside a home or in a garden. With excellent SCOPs, the new Zeno air source heat pumps boast an ErP A++ rating helping homeowners to reduce their annual home heating bills whilst being environmentally friendly.

The Zeno range has been developed with quality in mind, with components

including a Mitsubishi inverter driven compressor and a Grundfos circulating pump. The range comes with all the features installation engineers have come accustomed to in a Warmflow product such as an easy-to-use touch screen controller and simple wiring centre, which will reduce installation time. An in-house design team is on hand to advise and support engineers on planning their installation should that service be required.

Consisting of three single phase models – 6kW, 11kW and 17kW – the Zeno heat pumps cost-effectively and efficiently provide heating and hot water for properties. Each unit comes in a no-maintenance, weather proof, anthracite grey casing with a range of accessories included as standard. These accessories include a heated drip tray, Y strainer, flexi hoses,



isolating valves plus additional fittings to ensure ease and speed of installation. Featuring a unique 'Tube In Shell' heat exchanger, which

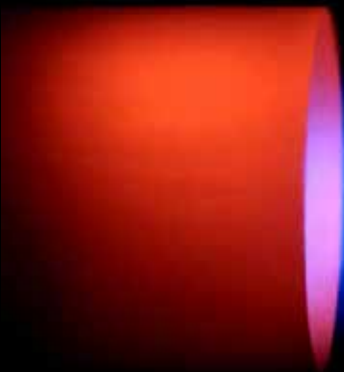
provides efficient heat transfer while allowing maximum lubrication of the refrigerant circuit. This provides maximum efficiency and ensures a long operational life of the unit.

The range is available now and comes with a five-year parts & labour warranty* providing engineers and homeowners alike with peace of mind.

The Future of Liquid Fuel Heating

Sapphire[®]

Fully modulating HVO low NOx boiler for liquid fuel heating

- 
- 🔥 HVO Ready – certified net zero carbon fuel, fuel of the future
 - 🔥 Stainless steel heat exchanger with a 10-year warranty
 - 🔥 Touchscreen combustion control
 - 🔥 No dirty baffles
 - 🔥 15-25% fuel reduction
 - 🔥 68% reduced electrical consumption
 - 🔥 The only OpenTherm certified liquid fuel boiler on the market compatible with OpenTherm Smart controls

Fully modulating boiler & burner control system that integrates perfectly with OpenTherm multi zone installations to reduce carbon and running costs significantly



Head over to our website for Specialist HVO Training

EOGB 
Reliable energy. Flexible approach.

info@eogb.co.uk
01480 477066
www.eogb.co.uk

The future of liquid fuel heating

Martin Cooke, managing director of EOGB Energy Products, looks ahead to exciting times for the liquid fuel industry.



It's time for the liquid fuel industry to stand up and be counted with HVO as a totally viable solution to off-gas grid heating.

Our industry has been bashed by competitors for many years and the 'dirty oil' stigma has stuck with many customers. False advertising purporting untruths that oil heating is being banned and that customers can save hundreds of pounds by converting to alternative energy systems, certainly doesn't help when it's time to get the old boiler replaced in favour of a modern, efficient system.

Let's look at the positives and the practical aspects of retaining liquid fuel heating at customer properties and also understand the various environmental improvements that we as manufacturers, installers and service technicians can offer to homeowners, who are looking for advice about which heating system is going to be right for them moving forward.

We should be shouting from the rooftops that we have a suitable, environmentally friendly, renewable liquid fuel, that can be used with their existing systems and that by doing so they can instantly reduce their carbon emissions by 88% compared to kerosene, 32% compared to biomass and 74% compared to electricity.

Statements and benefits for technicians to convey to customers

- Oil boilers are **not** being banned and many can be converted to HVO.
- Alternative energies are not cheaper to run.

- There will be minimum/zero disruption to property.
- Customers can retain their existing heating system, radiators, etc.
- Customers can retain their existing tank and/or boiler (subject to a survey).
- Peace of mind from retaining their current system.
- Huge cost saving when compared to having an alternative property upgrade and new technology installed.

Along with HVO, boiler technology is also developing to improve system efficiencies even further. Significant savings can be achieved at a fraction of the cost of changing energy sources and with the correct controls, our industry can offer far greater carbon and fuel savings than other more invasive options.

Verified independent test house data concluded that a fully modulating liquid fuel boiler controlled by OpenTherm controls, reduced fuel consumption by 15% when compared to a modern condensing boiler running at identical outputs and identical heat loads. This was achieved using only a single room thermostat. By adding multizone systems into the controls mix, fuel consumption could be reduced by more than 25%. Only using the minimum efficiency savings of 15% fuel reduction, we worked with industry data and Sutherland Tables on comparative carbon emission data for other fuel sources.

A typical three-bedroom house in Scotland was the basis for this CO₂e annual emission data which revealed that:

- A standard non-condensing kerosene boiler produced 7.65 tonnes.

- A condensing kerosene boiler with on/off burner produced 5.44 tonnes.
- A modulating kerosene boiler with OpenTherm and weather compensation produced 3.39 tonnes.
- ASHP on a radiator system produced 2.10 tonnes.
- HVO on a condensing kerosene boiler with on/off burner produced 0.65 tonnes.
- A fully modulating HVO boiler with OpenTherm and weather compensation produced 0.41 tonnes.

This modelling was based on a generic HVO at 0.036 kg CO₂e per KWh. The emission factor can be reduced even further by implementing an Industry Sustainability Standard, which sets the parameter for producing fuel from waste sources. These figures show that we do have a sustainable future that we can all get behind.

What is our industry doing and what is available now?

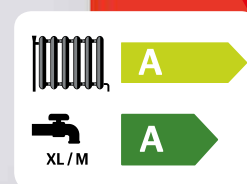
- We have fully modulating HVO OpenTherm ready boilers <https://www.opentherm.eu/products/>.
- Specific calibrated HVO atomising nozzles are stocked in the UK.
- HVO conversion kits have been created, stocked and distributed to trial sites.
- An HVO handbook has been created and distributed to explain the differences between the fuels and their possible impacts.
- Demonstration sites are operating around the UK and Ireland.
- HVO conversion training is to be included in industry training updates.

www.eogb.co.uk

THE NEXT GENERATION OF OIL BOILERS

WARMFLOW
Agentis
High Efficiency Oil Boiler

50 YEARS
KEEPING FAMILIES WARM



★ Trustpilot



Save up to 5 litres of fuel per week



The UK & Ireland's only AAA-rated oil boiler

24

Litre hinged expansion vessel

£150+

Over £150 worth of factory fitted extras included – saving 2 hours installation time



Domestic hot water mini expansion vessel and pressure reducing & pressure relief valve factory fitted



Integrated 7-day programmer

Warmflow heats up boiler market with the NEW Agentis range

Warmflow has launched its new Agentis oil boiler range. Available in four models, Agentis represents new levels of craftsmanship and innovation from Warmflow, which has recently been awarded five-star ratings on Trustpilot.

Sales director, Brian Beattie, comments: "For almost 50 years, Warmflow has been heating homes throughout Ireland, the UK and further afield. We wouldn't be where we are today without our customers, which is why we've listened closely to what they've needed in a modern heating appliance and have worked hard to deliver an entirely new product range which meets those needs precisely.

"We're delighted with the launch of our new and improved product offering and have been busy introducing existing and new customers to its innovative design features and benefits over the past year, many of which are entirely new to the oil-fired sector."

The Boilerhouse model offers many of the range's premium features and benefits in an appliance which is appropriate for outbuilding applications: "Highly versatile and a dream to install the Boilerhouse offers the same uncompromising performance and operating efficiency as the other models in the range, in a cost-competitive package," explains Brian.



The new Internal model is slim and compact, making it ideal for kitchens and utility rooms where space is at a premium. The sizing of this model also makes it the perfect solution for replacement installations.

"Inwardly, a radical rethinking of internal plumbing and hot water circuitry produces a premium quality product with easily de-mountable components and improved ease of installation and maintenance," says Brian. "Combine this with the pre-wired, pumped, system and combination product options and there's an Agentis model appropriate to every installation situation."

The External model offers the same design features and benefits as the Internal model, but is housed within an IP45-rated, maintenance-free, robust weatherproof casing, which

will withstand inclement weather. The Agentis External provides the perfect heating solution where installation space within the living environment is limited.

Both models are available in the unique Professional product variant, which includes an Adey Magnaclean Pro, Teddington fire valve, Crossland fuel filter, an improved condensate drain installation kit and two bottles of inhibitor.

The entire range features the latest Riello low NOx technology and is supported by a five-year parts and labour warranty, subject to terms and conditions.

Brian adds: "The Agentis combi boiler maintains our position as the manufacturer of the first AA-rated oil boiler in the market, giving Warmflow customers significant financial savings on annual energy costs."

Supplementing the new product range, and exclusive to existing and new installers, the new Warmflow Connect Installer Rewards Scheme offers points for every boiler registered. These points can be exchanged for a range of benefits including free tools and instruments, training, extended warranties and other Warmflow products and accessories.

www.warmflow.co.uk

New heat pump videos now available on Grant's YouTube channel

Grant UK has released a new series of air source heat pump videos which are now available to view on its YouTube channel. Comprising of 18 videos divided into three playlists, the videos have been developed to assist both heating engineers and end-users.

Air source heat pumps are growing in popularity, with both consumers and installers selecting this technology to achieve sustainable heating systems in homes. To help customers develop their understanding of heat pumps, how they work and what factors help them to perform at their best, Grant has developed a series of video tutorials. Each video addresses a particular question to provide clear, concise and informative answers, allowing viewers to select and watch

the content which is most relevant to them.

The short videos are split across three playlists and viewers can either watch a complete playlist or just refer to single videos to access the product information they require.

"We are very excited to reveal these new heat pump video playlists," comments Kevin Ellis, the company's renewables sales manager. "They should prove to be a useful resource for end-users and installers. The tutorials are presented by John Morris, one of our renewable business development managers, who explores each topic in thorough detail and in a way that is easy to understand. In addition to these three playlists, Grant UK is also



Heat pump playlists from Grant

working on additional heat pump video content which will be available later in the year, further expanding the range of resources and support we are delivering to customers."

www.youtube.com/MyGrantUK

The right parts. The right partner.

Your local **parts specialists** and **dedicated oil spares team** are always on-hand to give you expert advice and help you find the part you need.

With more spares than anyone else, backed by our **national network** and parts from all the **leading manufacturers**, the **same-day** range in our oil specialist branches covers a minimum of **80%** of your needs, and the **next-day** range covers **99%** of demand.

For more information please contact oil.support@wolseley.co.uk

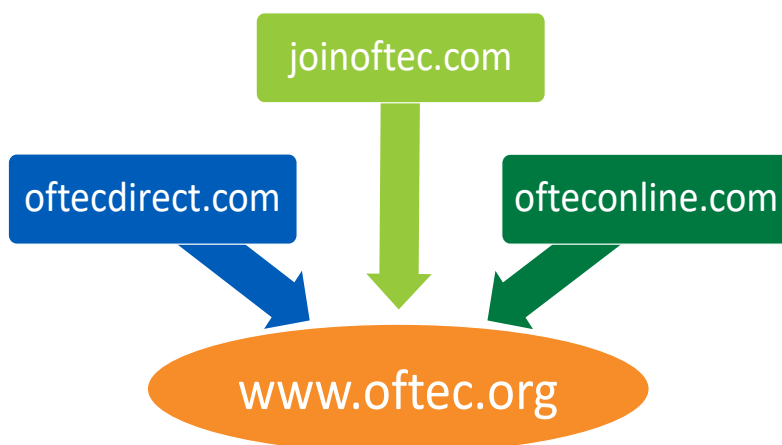


Another way to
win with Wolseley



OFTEC's new website and online portal will be going live very soon

Pull out and keep this handy 4 page guide to the new online services



We are excited to announce that our new website and online portal will be going live very soon. While we implement the changes, there will be a couple of days when **all our websites will be unavailable** – we will email you a few days in advance to give you plenty of time to complete any outstanding work notifications, renewals, shop purchases or technical book updates.

It's a massive change for OFTEC – the separate websites for the shop, registration account functions, technical book updates, scheme information and applications will all be merged into one website – including the works notification portal. In future, you'll only have one website and one login to remember, making everything much simpler to use.

OFTEC's new website and portal user guide

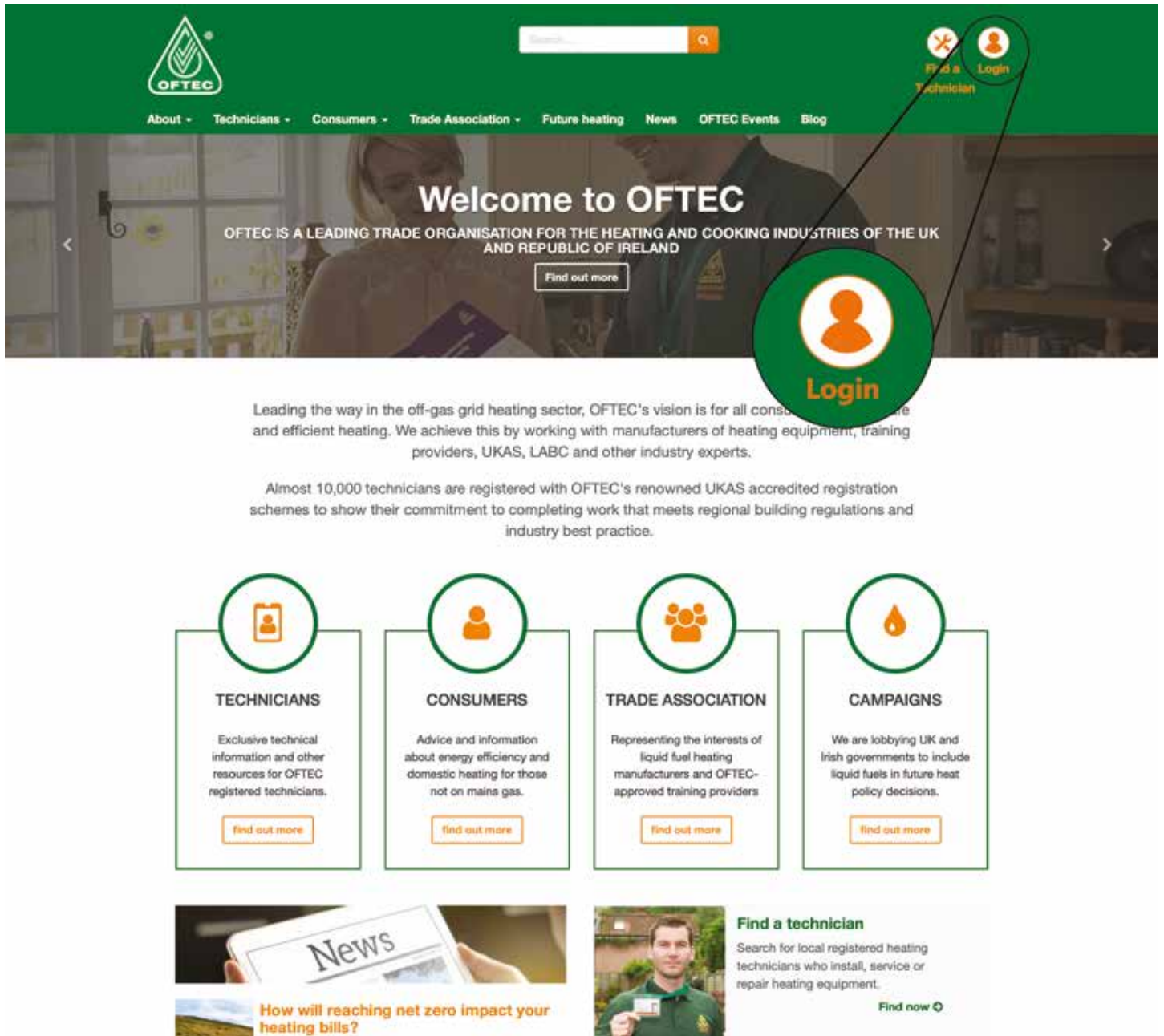
How to access the new website and portal

When the new systems go live, you will receive an email containing an invitation to create a new user account. This invitation is personal to you and will contain a unique link to the website, click on the link and create your own password **to activate your account.**

Once you've created your account, logging in is easy – simply click on the login icon top right and enter your details, you'll then see a landing page with quick links to the most popular sections of the website. You'll also notice links to the OFTEC portal and OFTEC Direct appear next to the Find a Technician search in the top right of the website.

Important things to remember:

- your current logins will not work on the new system
- every user will need a unique email address to create a website/portal account
- It's important that you act on the account invitation straight away as the link will expire
- The new system is not compatible with Internet Explorer – Microsoft recommends upgrading to Edge, or you may prefer to use Firefox or Google Chrome.



What's new on the website?

The first phase in our project is to ensure all the services you have now are available and working as they should. You will notice a few changes though:

- Consumer certificates will be delivered by email not post – simply add your customer's email address when you notify work in the OFTEC portal.
- In the OFTEC Direct shop you will only see the products

that your scope of registration permits you to purchase – no more scrolling through hundreds of products to find the one you want.

- OFTEC inspectors will use a bespoke app and you will receive a copy of the inspection report by email.
- Application forms for new scopes of registration and to add a technician are all in the Technician's hub instead of spread between two websites.

OFTEC Portal

The portal contains the functions that were previously available on OFTECOnline.com – including:

Contact details
Technicians
Work Notifications
Work Notification Invoices
Renew Registrations
Portal Account
Addresses

Add Work Notification **Pay** You have 12 unprocessed work notifications pending payment

Search by ID: [dropdown] type name: [input] Date: Install [dropdown] from: dd/mm/yyyy to: dd/mm/yyyy **Go**

ID	Your Ref.	# Jobs	Address	Contact	Install Date	Entry Date	LA Notified
1000002	Test 1	2	IP5 2QQ	Mr Smith	12/01/2021	18/12/2020	22/01/2021
1000005	Test 2	2	IP5 2QQ	Mr Smith	18/01/2021	08/01/2021	22/01/2021
1000006	Test 3	3	IP5 2QQ	Mr Smith	08/01/2021	08/01/2021	Not notified
10001	Test 4	6	IP5 2QQ	Mr Smith	28/05/2010	15/08/2010	19/06/2010
10003	Test 5	1	IP5 2QQ	Mr Smith	11/11/2010	16/11/2010	20/11/2010
10002	Test 6	1	IP5 2QQ	Mr Smith	24/09/2010	16/11/2010	20/11/2010

The new work notification portal

Work notifications

You'll find clear instructions on the work notification page in the portal to help you self-certify your work online. The portal will be available 24/7 and is the only way to self-certify your work. As before, once the local authority has been notified, you'll be able to click on an ID number to view the details. If you need a copy certificate for your own records, click on the document symbol to email yourself a copy.

If you supply an email address for your customer, they will receive their compliance certificate by email, which will make delivery much quicker (and more environmentally friendly) than the old postal system. It also means your customer can save the certificate digitally or print out and store with the installation handover paperwork. Make sure you have your customers' email address when you

add their details. Please note, you cannot substitute your customer's email address with yours as the initial delivery under Building Regulations requirements should be to the occupier of the property. If the property is empty, or no consumer email address is available, OFTEC will still post a printed version **but it's something we hope will be a rarity.**

Renewals and updating account details

Simply select the element you need to view or update – whether it's a technician's contact details or qualifications, checking renewals or updating your business contact details. You'll find handy tips on each page to help you get used to the new system.

OFTEC logo

Search [input] [Q]

Find a Technician OFTEC Portal OFTEC Direct

About - Technicians - Consumers - Trade Association - Future heating News OFTEC Events Blog

Home > OFTEC Portal > Account Home > Technicians

Your registered technicians

You'll find a list below of all the technicians registered to your account with the date their registration expires and the scopes they are registered for. If you need to update their contact details, please click on the pencil button to start editing. You can add a technician by completing [form R593](#).

If one of your existing technicians gains an additional qualification and you would like to add this to your registration, please complete an [R526 extension to scope form](#).

If you need to remove a technician from your registration please email our [registration team](#) - don't forget to include your business registration number, the technician details you wish to have removed and the date of leaving.

Tech	Reg No.	Name	Payment Expiry	Installation	Commission/Service/Repair
	123458	Test Technician 1	21/03/22	Oil-fired appliance Oil storage tank and/or oil supply pipework Solar thermal panels	Oil-fired boiler or warm air heater Oil storage tank Solar thermal panels
	123457	Test Technician 2	21/03/22	Oil-fired appliance Oil storage tank and/or oil supply pipework	Oil-fired boiler or warm air heater Oil storage tank
	123458	Test Technician 3	21/03/23	Oil-fired appliance Oil storage tank and/or oil supply pipework	Oil-fired boiler or warm air heater Oil storage tank

Don't forget, it's cheaper and quicker to renew online and you can access the system 24/7.

OFTEC's new website and portal user guide

OFTEC Direct online shop

A big difference is that you'll no longer be able to view our online shop unless you are already logged in to the website. But this will enable you to add any products you need straight away without having to log in again.

As before, you can only order products if you have the appropriate scopes of registration. You can update delivery details in the 'Addresses' section of the portal or when you check out.

Home > OFTEC Direct Shopping cart 0 item(s)

OFTEC Direct online shop

A range of essential products exclusively available to OFTEC registered heating technicians. Don't forget to check for our latest special offers in the Ollie's Offers section.

- Please note, placing an order indicates your agreement to our [Terms and Conditions](#).
- Check our [postage rates](#) here.

Control Documentation

Certificates to ensure compliance with building regulations; CD/10, CD/11, warning notices and more.

Go >>

Technical Books

Technical books and guides providing essential information to help with your day to day work

Go >>

Installation

Essentials for installation work, includes tiger loops, fire valves, oil line warning tape and more.

Go >>

Service and Commissioning

Specialist tools, equipment and accessories for servicing and commissioning

Go >>

Workwear

OFTEC branded workwear to promote your professional status; polo shirts, fleeces and more.

Go >>

Ollie's Offers

Save money on selected products - check now for our current offers.

Go >>

Signed in as: Company name [Sign out](#)

Search

Find a Technician OFTEC Portal OFTEC Direct

About Technicians Consumers Trade Association Future heating News OFTEC Events Blog

Technicians Hub

- OFTECdirect
- Technical resources
- Marketing and business support
- Compliance
- Your registration

Industry news and training

- Training for heating technicians
- Training courses & assessments
- Find your nearest training centre
- Covid-19 information
- Technician news
- OFTEC webinars

Join OFTEC

- Why register with OFTEC?
- How to become registered
- Price calculator
- Benefits of registration
- Applying for OFTEC registration

Areas of registration

- Oil Registration
- Renewables & MCS registration
- Solid fuel registration
- Electrical (Part P) registration
- TrustMark Registration
- PAS 2030 registration
- Non Operative Registration

Technician's section

This now combines scheme and training information from joinoftec.com and the technician hub content from the current www.oftec.org. Most of the content – including the 'find a training course' search is viewable by everyone, however, there are some pages that can only be accessed by those who are logged into the website. These are in the 'Hub' and include:

- Technical book updates
- Technical notices
- Logo downloads
- Registration account update forms and much more

This now means that everything you could possibly need to know about OFTEC registration is in one place rather than split between two websites.

Inspections – NEW

When you have an initial audit or a periodic inspection, your OFTEC inspector will input the details directly into a bespoke app. You will receive a copy of the report by email. This should speed up the inspections process as well as being more environmentally sound.

What's next?

Over the next few months, we'll introduce more online services but in the meantime we hope you find the new systems easier to manage. There are bound to be teething problems so please bear with us while we resolve them. Feedback or issues can be reported to marketing@oftec.org. Please look out for the email notification and your account activation invitation.



SETTING NEW STANDARDS FOR LOW NOx BURNER TECHNOLOGY



Low NOx EKL LN



Ultra-Low NOx EKL BLUE

CUTTING-EDGE BURNERS FOR HEATING
AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS. FROM 11 KW TO 80 MW



Thanks to more than 90 years of experience in the design and production of burners ELCO, part of the Ariston Thermo Group, is a leading brand in the development of innovative, efficient and reliable burner technologies with a consolidated presence in the field of low NOx emissions. Wherever a small, medium or high power burner is required, ELCO is the best partner you can rely on.

elcoburners.uk@aristonthermo.com

elco



Grant oil boilers endorsed by Energy Saving Trust for over 15 years

For over 15 years, Grant oil boilers have been endorsed by the Energy Saving Trust (EST), an independent organisation that strives to help householders make informed decisions about their energy choices by identifying efficient solutions and products to fulfil their needs.

All 63 models within the Vortex and VortexBlue oil-fired boiler ranges are highly efficient, achieving up to 94.5% space heating efficiencies. When replacing an older oil-fired appliance, homeowners who choose a Grant boiler can be assured that their new boiler will use less fuel and perform at greater operating efficiencies, helping to reduce their energy bills and household emissions.

Established in 1992, the EST provides support to householders, governments and businesses, helping them to acknowledge the need for energy efficiency and a reduction in carbon emissions. Products that carry its Endored Product logo have been checked to ensure that they meet industry agreed performance criteria, UK regulatory requirements and its own energy efficiency standards. All Grant boilers have fulfilled the EST's requirements for over fifteen years with the range proudly displaying the Endored Product logo.

"Developing efficient heating products has been at the heart of everything we do here at Grant

for over forty years," writes Paul Wakefield, Grant UK's managing director. "Whether it is our latest renewable technologies or our comprehensive range of oil-fired boilers, we always strive to make our products the most efficient they can be and we achieve this through continuous product development. All our oil boilers use the latest low NOx burner technology with the VortexBlue models featuring the ultra-low NOx burner which has even lower emissions levels. We are incredibly pleased that the reliable, efficient operation of our boilers has been acknowledged by the EST for so many years."

www.grantuk.com

Riello to introduce ionisation probes

Riello is launching an upgraded version of its RDB kerosene burners with flame-detection ionisation probes. The probes will be available on the company's RDB BG Low NOx (low nitrogen oxides) blue flame kerosene burner range in the UK and Ireland, replacing the ultra-violet (UV) flame sensors currently used to provide a simpler, longer-lasting safety solution.

Ionisation probes are a simpler means of flame supervision, with a defined life expectancy of approximately 20,000 hours – double the expected life of a UV flame sensor. Located within the flame itself, ionisation probes detect the charged ions that result from the combustion of a hydrocarbon,

allowing a small electrical current to be conducted across the flame when applied. If no such current is detected, the burner is forced into a safety shutdown.

The probes are a proven means of flame detection installed in a vast array of combustion equipment and will soon be available for the RDB BG low NOx kerosene burner range. This latest development is in line with Riello's focus on simplicity and familiarisation of components for engineers, many of whom have worked with ionisation probes on other equipment for many years.

www.rielloburners.co.uk



Riello is adding ionisation probes to its RDB kerosene burners

RIELLO THE FUTURE IS HERE..



Riello RDB BG Low-NOx BLU flame burners - compliant to the most stringent emission requirements, - with advancing developments to include:

- New Innovative Flame Sensing System.
- Reduced Emissions
- Improved Efficiencies
- Reduced Electrical Consumption.
- Majority of Standard RDB Frontline Spares
- Proven RDB Platform
- Easy Set-Up, Installation & Commissioning

**The Genuine Riello RDB burner...
No.1 Installers Choice**



Leaders in Burner technology for over 90 years

The RDB burner is the **No.1 installers choice**, it is trusted by **thousands of installers** with **over 2 million burners** sold into the UK and Ireland. The new ERP compliant Low-NOx BLU flame version ensures that Riello continues to offer the perfect match for all installers.

Call us today on **01480 432 144**



RIELLO RDB

www.rielloburners.co.uk

1. According to expected future ERP regulations
2. New flame sensing system launching in 2021
3. For models with high efficiency electric motors

Efficiency is at the heart of all our heating products

and we are very pleased that our oil boilers have been endorsed by the Energy Saving Trust for over 15 years.

energy
saving
trust

endorsed
product

Claim a 5 year guarantee on the Vortex range and 10 years on VortexBlue when you join the G1 scheme*

*T&C's apply



Discover the range at www.grantuk.com

Exceeding customer expectations



Navien's Sean Keleher

Sean Keleher, national technical manager at Navien, explains that because there is more choice in the oil boiler market than ever before, it's important for installers to offer customers the very best technology without any additional cost.

Blue flame burner technology has been making its presence felt in the oil boiler market for a number of years, and is now considered the most energy efficient option. This type of burner has exceptionally low NOx emissions and allows oil installers to offer a truly futureproof means of heating.

Research shows the oil-fired boiler market is predicted to experience strong growth between 2021 and 2027, due to a combination of low oil prices, rising electricity tariffs and ease of installation.* At the same time, homeowners are always on the lookout for the most cost-effective products, to ensure their fuel bills are kept to a minimum.

Blue flame oil boilers stand out as the products of choice, as they are perfect on every level. The most progressive manufacturers are creating and building their latest boilers around the burner, rather than simply 'parachuting in' a modern burner into an antiquated shell.

Blue flame technology has been specifically engineered to turn heating oil into a vaporised spray. This is then premixed with the air required for combustion, before being drawn in through the burner, resulting in a blue flame with dramatically lower NOx emissions than traditional, yellow-flamed models.

The longer, slotted blast tube inside the combustion chamber allows gases to mix with the oxygen drawn in through the burner, so the flame produced is much cleaner. This means that oil installers can offer customers a more sustainable option when they are looking for a like-for-like replacement.



Essential information at the touch of a button

While the flame may be different in terms of colour, when it comes to commissioning and servicing, a blue flame burner follows the same procedures as its yellow flame counterpart.

In terms of cost, it no longer makes commercial sense to keep selling yellow flame boilers as standard, and only offering blue flame versions as a premium product. With legislation driving energy efficiency forward, the industry – and manufacturers – should be encouraging greater take up of the latest technology, as well as components such as stainless steel heat exchangers, which increase durability and extend a boiler's lifespan.

Blue flame burners are the future of oil heating, so should be considered as the go-to option. It does beg the question as to why other manufacturers continue to offer yellow

flame versions, considering the obvious benefits of the latest blue flame oil boilers, such as Navien's LCB700 range. Our blue flame models are comparable in price with yellow flame products, while all installation and servicing processes remain the same.

Of course, controllability still has a vital role to play in any oil heating system. It remains important to use the best controls alongside blue flame oil boilers to provide optimum levels of efficiency. Our boilers come with a smart display panel, allowing for ease of commissioning and servicing, with essential information available at the touch of a button. An air pressure sensor also helps maintain stable combustion and puts safety first. Plus, the latest high-quality units are either supplied with smart technology straight out of the box or can be easily upgraded.

Having the ability to remote access a heating and hot water system is certainly a useful feature from an end user's perspective, but what happens when someone forgets? Well, this is where geofencing comes to the fore, as it offers another level of convenience. This feature, available on Navien's range of LCB700 oil boilers, will switch the heating on or off, depending on how close they are to their home.

So, when looking to impress customers with the latest energy efficient and cost-effective oil heating technology, installers should be recommending blue flame boilers as the futureproofed choice. Not only do they ensure superior levels of sustainability and reliability, but they also offer end users significant savings on their energy bills – far exceeding their expectations.

* Source: Oil-Fired Boiler Market Size, Industry Analysis Report, Regional Outlook, Application Development Potential, Price Trend, Competitive Market Share & Forecast, 2021 – 2027



Navien's LCB700 Blue Flame oil boiler

Hounsfield Boilers provides reliability for Orwell View Barns

Hounsfield Boilers has come to the rescue of a landlord in Suffolk whose woodchip-burning system was proving inconsistent due to the demands of a substantial hot water and underfloor heating system.

Orwell View Barns is a collection of short-let cottages and a barn conversion on the banks of the Orwell River, Suffolk. The complex has a total of 14 bedrooms and the unreliable heating system was a real issue for landlord, Richard Wrinch.

Richard explains: "The 120Kw woodchip system was only 10-years old but was suffering from woodchip blockages, which resulted in heating issues for the tenants. We discussed possible solutions with our engineer, Nick Grimwood, managing director of Grimwood and Co, and we opted for two oil-fired boilers, which could work together to support the woodchip burner. Now when sensors pick up a drop in water temperature, the oil boilers kick in to ensure a constant supply of heat."

Nick had no hesitation in specifying Hounsfield Boilers for the job. He said: "I've been installing Hounsfield Boilers for 10 years and I know they are the best. They are the only boilers that are built with the installer in mind. You can tell an engineer designed it rather than a CAD drawer. All the parts



Orwell View Barns in Suffolk

are easy to access, and I can install a Hounsfield boiler in half the time it takes for any other boiler, thanks to their user-friendly design."

Although Richard admits that Hounsfield was a new name to him,

he is delighted with the boilers: "I was very happy to go with Hounsfield Boilers after Nick told me all about the product's reliability, attention to detail and ease of use. The high-quality parts and resulting long lifespan were also very attractive, as I want a boiler to last more than 10 or 15 years. I don't want be part of a throwaway society."

Nick, who also has a Hounsfield boiler at home, added: "I always get great service from Hounsfield Boilers. If I'm in a desperate need of a particular boiler or part, Hounsfield makes sure that I get what I need quickly. The delivery service is brilliant!"

www.hounsfieldboilers.co.uk



Hounsfield's oil-fired boilers

Grant Aeronas R32 heat pump shortlisted for Green Home Awards

Grant UK's Aeronas R32 air source heat pump range has been shortlisted in the 2021 Homebuilding & Renovating Green Home Awards. The judges, reviewed all entries on the criteria including uniqueness in the market, performance and efficiency, environmental accreditations, overall value, suitability for use and sustainable production methods.

The Aeronas R32 air source heat pumps are Grant's greenest and most efficient generation of heat

pump technology. Compact in size and highly efficient, the heat pumps provide homeowners with a renewable solution to fulfil their heating and hot water requirements.

Using the more environmentally friendly R32 refrigerant, an Aeronas heat pump achieves high performances to effectively keep properties warm while also helping households to lower their dependency on fossil fuels. The heat pumps also carry the Quiet Mark due to their low noise when operating.



"We are delighted to be shortlisted for the Green Home Awards, which commend manufacturers and suppliers that are leading the way in safeguarding the future of the construction industry, and contributing towards the net-zero carbon movement," explains Anna Wakefield, Grant's head of marketing and data protection.

www.grantuk.com

Firebird has been delivering world class products and training for the past 40 years, while setting new standards in quality, sustainability and innovation. We guarantee a stress free installation process and a backup service you can really trust - great for the installer and the customer!

Our Light Commercial Heating Solutions

For larger heat demands, our **Envirogreen Range**, the most efficient boilers on the market, can easily be multi cascaded (*modulated*) through the **Firebird Low Loss Header Management System**. This ensures that high levels of efficiency can be achieved all your round, even when demand for heat is low.



- Fossil fuel free ready.
- Up to 97.5% efficiency.
- 25-30% savings on Fuel bills.
- Easy to service & maintain.
- We have the most efficient 100kW boiler on the market.
- NOx emissions on most boilers are half the European limit at 60mg/kWhr.

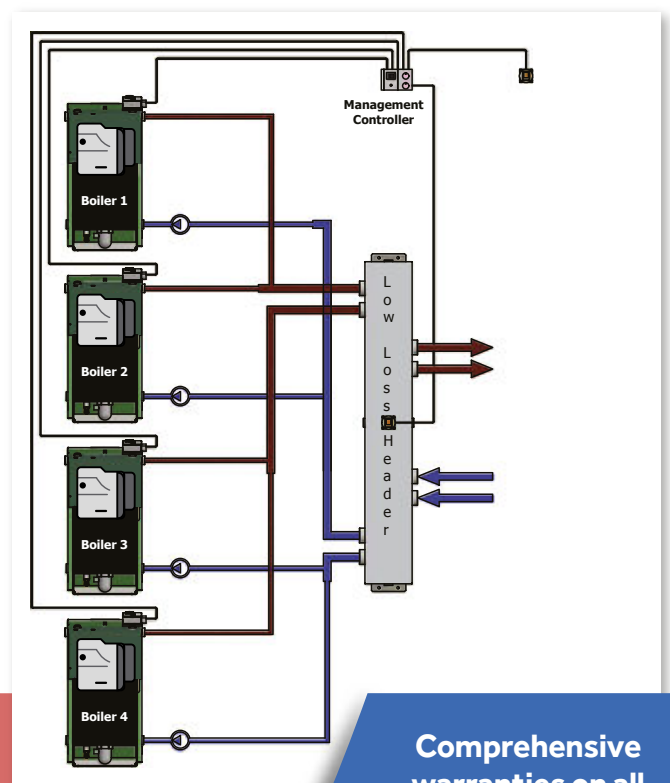
Free Design Consultation

Call or Email Today

When used in combination with the Low Loss Header, 2-4 Envirogreen boilers can easily be connected. With advice from our technical team, you can connect up to 8 boilers. These cascade units can provide a condensing output of up to **400kW** (600kW for larger set-ups), with the ability to reduce overall output down to a ratio of 1:4.

Low Loss Header Key Features

- Space saving & robust designs.
- Easy to install - 4 mounting points.
- Rotational to facilitate pipe work.
- Easily accessible draining tap.
- Achieves hydraulic separation between boilers and system.
- The correct temperature balance between the boiler flow and return is attained.
- Tappings for air vent/drain/expansion vessel and sensor pocket as standard.
- Off-the-shelf availability.



t: 01752 691177 | e: sales@firebird.uk.com

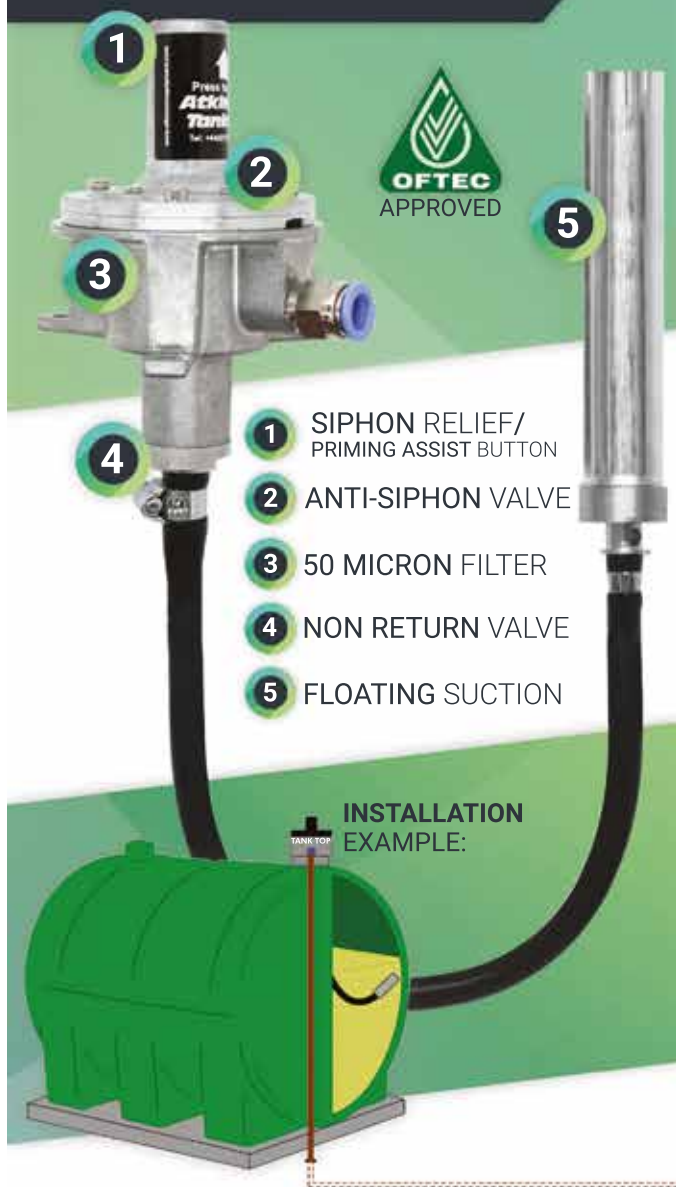
www.firebird.uk.com

Comprehensive warranties on all parts subject to T&Cs

TANK TOP

Atkinson
EQUIPMENT LTD

TOP OFF TAKE VALVE



- 1 SIPHON RELIEF/
PRIMING ASSIST BUTTON
- 2 ANTI-SIPHON VALVE
- 3 50 MICRON FILTER
- 4 NON RETURN VALVE
- 5 FLOATING SUCTION

INSTALLATION
EXAMPLE:

PREFERRED BY:



Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency



Scottish Environment
Protection Agency



Environment
Agency



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

DRAW OIL FROM THE TOP OF YOUR TANK

WITH JUST ONE CONNECTION

AVAILABLE READY FITTED TO YOUR TANK

Website: www.atkinsonequipment.com

Email: sales@atkinsonequipment.com

Telephone: 01373 822220

OFTEC promotes heating apprenticeships to young people in Northern Ireland

As part of Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week (26-30 April 2021) OFTEC Ireland put out a press release calling for young people in Northern Ireland to consider an apprenticeship or vocational training in the plumbing and heating sector.

OFTEC's drive to recruit more people into the heating industry follows a year of uncertainty in Northern Ireland for the under-25 age group, which, according to a briefing paper produced by Ulster University Economists, has experienced the largest falls in employment during the pandemic. This age group has been hard-hit due to the majority working in the retail and hospitality sectors, which have been heavily impacted during the crisis. Employment in the under-25 age group fell during the pandemic by 27,000 jobs according to Labour Market Statistics.

As part of Apprenticeship week, OFTEC teamed up with Northern Regional College's Peter Lynch to encourage young people to consider a career in the plumbing and heating sector, where demand for services remain steady.



David Blevings, OFTEC Ireland manager, said: "Now is a really exciting time to get into the plumbing and heating industry in Northern Ireland. There is a conscious effort to deliver on decarbonisation targets, which means we are seeing a range

of innovative technologies and solutions introduced to home heating. This generation of heating professionals will be working towards a carbon net zero future and that is exciting. The introduction of biofuels is a game changer for the liquid fuel sector and there is huge potential for someone wishing to start a career in the heating and plumbing – trusted and reliable OFTEC registered heating technicians are always in demand."

Northern Regional College's plumbing lecturer, Peter Lynch, commented: "It's been my experience that those who pass through these college doors don't regret it. We offer a high-quality training programme designed to meet OFTEC standards, resulting in apprentices and trainees who are prepared and confident to enter the workplace full-time.

"It is a very rewarding career. We have had some inspiring success stories, including Abigail Reilly, a plumbing apprentice who went on to win a gold medal at the annual Skillbuild NI competition. It would be fantastic to see a more diverse range of applicants this year."

The Level 2 Plumbing Course is offered on a Traineeship or Apprenticeship level. On completion of Level 2, there is the option to progress to a Level 3, where students can further their education in oil and renewable heating solutions.

Apprentices in Northern Ireland (aged 16-19) are paid a minimum of £4.15 per hour while they learn on the job and candidates who have completed their apprenticeships, are offered free OFTEC registration for one year.

Further information on apprenticeships at Northern Regional College go to www.nrc.ac.uk/ and search plumbing.

Will Northern Ireland be the first country to include biofuels in its road map to decarbonisation?

As you read this edition of Oil Installer, the consultation on NI's energy strategy will be closing. At the end of March, the economy minister, Diane Dodds, launched a public consultation on a new Northern Ireland energy strategy. The good news is the consultation included biofuels as an option for the 500,000 homes in NI currently using liquid fuelled heating systems.

When it comes to decarbonising home heating in Northern Ireland (and other parts of the UK and Ireland), it's not a case of one size fits all. Instead, it is going to take a mammoth effort from all sectors of society to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The consultation has proposed two broad approaches to phasing out fossil fuel heating oils for off-grid consumers. In one of these scenarios, oil boilers would be banned, which would place a significant emphasis on heat pumps for off-grid properties.

The second of these options continues to allow oil boilers for properties and would instead focus on phasing out the sale of fossil fuels. This option would give consumers a range of options for their home heating, including biofuels and biomass, in addition to heat pumps.

OFTEC believes that consumer choice must lie at the heart of any new energy strategy and, with cost a significant factor, we think many will prefer to retain their liquid fuelled boiler and decarbonise their fuel instead.

We have always said that heat pumps are a great option for new and well insulated homes but over 50% of houses in NI are below SAP level C and not very thermally efficient. These homes will require extensive and expensive remedial work to bring them up to the optimum level for heat pumps to become a viable option.

It has been estimated that bringing the most inefficient homes up to an acceptable level of insulation would cost on average between £12,300 – £18,900, depending on



The making of a promotional HVO video for Ireland

the condition of the property. The subsequent average installation cost of an air source heat pump would add approximately an additional £11,000. That means the minimum cost to a consumer in a poorly insulated property is likely to be around £23,000 and the question remains, "who is going to pay for this?" Consumer apathy, lack of funds post-Covid and the disruption involved in installing alternative heating systems will all come into play.

The consultation has challenged the oil industry in Northern Ireland to provide a credible pathway to net zero by 2050 involving biofuels; we believe this is possible and are up for the challenge. This work must provide robust and comprehensive information on current and future costs and supply.

A change to biofuels utilising existing equipment is an easy, low cost and non-controversial option. OFTEC's aim is to enable all existing oil heating users to convert to a 100% sustainable fossil-free liquid fuel by 2035, well ahead of government's 2050 decarbonisation targets.

OFTEC is already working with the

distribution sector to deliver a clear and concise plan, outlining how biofuels can lead the way to reaching energy targets. The current favoured option is to use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as it offers a near drop-in replacement for heating oil at a fraction of the cost of installing an air source heat pump with an immediate reduction of around 88% in carbon emissions. You can read more about HVO on page 14.

HVO is already available in Northern Ireland and global supply is increasing fast. We are already seeing some refineries move away from fossil fuels in favour of creating new renewable fuels.

We know the lifespan of fossil fuels is limited but in the short-term consumers should not be put off investing in new heating systems which run on liquid fuels as fossil fuels will still be in the marketplace for many years to come and a new appliance will offer major efficiency savings. In addition, the majority of appliances sold today are already biofuel compatible, ready for the switch.

In the short to medium-term, we see HVO playing an important role in helping Northern Ireland move towards its net zero commitments. Hitting that target will be a mammoth task which will involve all departments of government and all sectors of society pulling together, but the liquid fuel industry is ready to play its part.

We think it is an exciting time and predict hugely interesting developments over the next 10-15 years. HVO is only the start, and we can envisage home heating liquid fuels being derived from other waste materials such as used tyres and plastics as technology moves forward to address the needs of a low carbon society.

Local industry will engage and help deliver solutions here in Northern Ireland which could well be different from the rest of Europe but will meet government's requirement for a speedy reduction in the use of fossil fuels.

STAY BUSY ALL **SUMMER** LONG

boilerguide
Trade

GET MORE NEW OIL BOILER JOBS IN YOUR AREA



POSTCARD



JOIN US
IT'S FREE

GET THE

**BEST NEW
OIL BOILER LEADS**

IN THE
BUSINESS



 QUALIFIED LEADS
ALL DAY EVERY DAY

 PAY AS YOU GO

 FREE COMPANY
WEB PAGE

 NO CONTRACTS

**JOIN TODAY
YOUR NEXT JOB IS WAITING**

**SCAN
THE CODE
TO JOIN US**



visit www.boilerguide.co.uk/oilinstaller

boilerguide
Trade



Tuffa's fire protected oil tank hidden under a lean-to

Preventing rural fuel theft and protecting oil tanks

Andrew Dobson, Tuffa's digital marketing coordinator, discusses the best ways to protect fuel and tanks – useful information to share with your customers.

With domestic oil tanks capable of storing anything from 500 to 3500 litres, or into six figures at farms and businesses, fuel tanks are an ideal target for organised criminals and naughty neighbours alike. Statistics from Crown Oil reveals that there were over 25,000 confirmed fuel thefts in 2018, equating to over £1.75m. However, with nearly half of constabularies withholding theft statistics from the Freedom of Information request, the real cost is likely to be much higher.

The Office for Budget Responsibility recently announced that unemployment rates are at a five-year high in the UK with 1.7 million people now unable to secure a job. With high unemployment rates and fuel prices

starting to return to their normal levels, it's easy to see how the next couple of years could see an increase in fuel theft.

However, there is hope these figures will improve as Norfolk Constabulary has become the national lead for rural fuel theft. Earlier this year Sergeant Steve Graves of the Norfolk Constabulary called a summit of industry experts with the aim of using combined knowledge to reduce fuel theft in rural communities. He stressed the importance of the public reporting suspicions of attempted fuel theft to the police as early as possible.

Early detection of fuel theft – before tank owners tamper with the scene – helps the police to identify evidence

such as fingerprints. Regularly monitoring fuel levels is vital as victims of fuel theft often don't know it's occurred until the fuel runs out.

Protecting tanks

There are various products on the market such as lockable fill caps, or even spinning caps, which make forced entry via these access points extremely difficult. While this does offer some protection, it also means that thieves may try to penetrate the tank wall itself, which can cause additional issues such as excess oil leaks. Plastic is far easier to penetrate than steel and the use of heated copper pipes is extremely quick and virtually silent, making it a popular method. Steel tanks on the other

hand require drilling which is time consuming and far noisier. Where fuel theft is a major concern, a steel bunded tank is always best. Other worthwhile gadgets (which can be supplied with Tuffa's tanks) are electronic fuel gauges and alarms. They will alert customers via a monitor, or even an app, when there is a sudden drop in fuel.

One reason that oil tanks are an ideal target for thieves is that they are typically installed outside and at least 1.8m away from the property. For this reason, Tuffa's Fire Protected Oil Tank range are arguably the most secure oil tanks available on the market. Factory-fitted with a material offering a 30 or 60-minute fire rating, they can be installed next to a property, in eyeshot (and 'earshot') and in a location less visible from the road.

Other physical barriers can also be used to protect fuel tanks. Thorn bushes are difficult to navigate through and have the added benefit of capturing clothing fibres or blood, which can be used as evidence. Tank cages are available and large steel tanks at commercial premises are often valuable enough to warrant bespoke solutions, such as interlocking blocks forming a barrier around the tank.



Hazel screening a Tuffa tank from the road

Preventing Fuel Theft

The best form of protection is often a simple deterrent. CCTV and good lighting are both relatively cheap, yet effective, ways to deter thieves.

Samantha Parnell, fuel buyer at Fram Farmers, suggests keeping tanks out of sight of the road, but in a location still accessible to fuel suppliers. Fuel theft is such a big issue in rural areas that farmers with a tank capacity of 10 or 15,000 litres will only ever order

a small amount of fuel in case it gets stolen. Fram Farmer's customers often leave delivery instructions for the driver to call when the fuel supplier is en route, so the tank isn't left unlocked for a minute longer than necessary. The fuel specialist also suggests keeping fuel levels to a minimum when off-season as a way to decrease the value of any fuel stolen.

Public Awareness

Public awareness is a great, 'free' way to reduce fuel theft and is a major priority for Norfolk Constabulary. Short days and full oil tanks during the winter mean it's a prime time for theft so it is worth reminding customers to be vigilant and to ensure that fill caps and tank lids are locked. Organised criminals can identify tanks from above using Google Maps so it is worth advising customers to disguise their tanks, as long as they still comply with fire separation distances. Tuffa's Fire Protected Oil Tanks can be installed under a lean-to or hidden under a trellis.

Fuel theft is a real concern, particularly in rural communities. It's not just the expense of lost fuel, the inconvenience of having no heating or paying for a new tank, but the cost to the environment that needs to be considered.

With Tuffa's Fire Rated Oil Tanks you can:



- ✔ Install domestic and commercial tanks as close as 300mm from buildings and boundaries – perfect for new installations or replacing old tanks within the same footprint.
- ✔ Site Fire Protected Oil Tanks where conventional tanks cannot go – simplifying the installation and letting you 'hide' the tank in confined areas.
- ✔ Locate your Tuffa tank inside an uninhabited building such as a garage – essential when external installation isn't an option and a great way to secure your tank from fuel theft.
- ✔ Avoid the need for additional building works which can make installations time-consuming, disruptive and unattractive. Our oil tank's fire rated material is factory fitted making installation quick and simple.



Contact us for **trade discounts** on our entire range of plastic & steel oil tanks.

Tel: 01889 567700 Email: sales@tuffa.co.uk

Integrally fire-rated tanks – a reminder

Technicians are frequently faced with the challenge of balancing their client's preferences for the positioning of their new tank with the responsibility of complying with regional building regulations. This often raises questions regarding the use of integrally fire-rated tanks and whether they can be notified through OFTEC's works notification system.

OFTEC's position on the use of integrally fire-rated tanks

It is important to note that, within regional building regulations guidance documents and BS 5410, no reference is made to the use of integrally fire-rated tanks, either as an alternative to minimum separation distances or to the construction of a suitably sized fire protection barrier.

This is important because technicians who follow the guidance found in regional building regulations guidance documents benefit from 'a presumption of compliance with building regulations' and can notify the installation through OFTEC's works notification system. When you notify the installation, OFTEC updates the Local Authority Building Control Body (BCB) database and provides your client with a certificate of building regulations compliance. OFTEC can confidently issue this certificate on your behalf as you have followed written guidance.

Given the absence of guidance surrounding integrally fire-rated tanks, OFTEC requires technicians, or their client, to contact their BCB and carry out the work under a building notice. At completion, the BCB will issue a building regulations compliance certificate if they believe the work to be compliant.

What about products with "LABC Assured" certification?

An integrally fire-rated tank may be listed on the LABC Assured scheme. Does certification under this scheme remove the need to have the installation of an integrally fire-rated tank supervised by BCB? No.



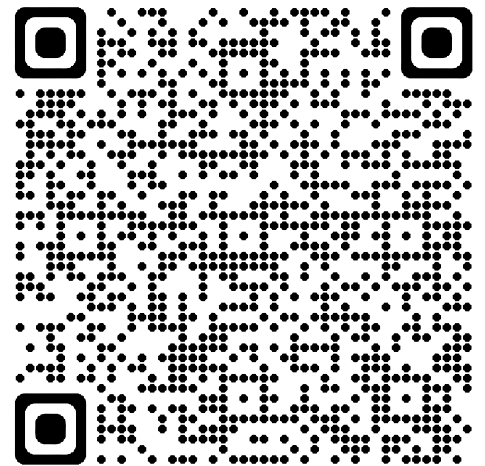
1250 Low Profile Fire Check Tank – J Seed

The LABC Assured scheme assists a product being accepted by the BCB but does not guarantee acceptance. In simple terms, it's a database of products that assists a BCB in making an informed decision on the suitability of a product or system. This information helps a BCB to decide, on a case-by-case basis, whether an integrally fire-rated tank is a suitable alternative approach and would meet the requirements of building regulations. In some cases, a BCB may be happy to approve the use of such a tank, but in some cases they may not.

What does this mean for OFTEC registered technicians?

OFTEC registered technicians cannot presume that the use of an integrally fire-rated tank alone will meet the requirements of the building regulations. Technicians wishing to install such a tank must do so under a building notice, so that the BCB can decide whether this alternative approach meets the requirements of the building regulations. Technicians must not self-certify integrally fire-rated tanks via OFTEC's works notification system.

Further information on this can be found in OFTEC Technical Notice 027.



(This article references a technician notifying their Local Authority Building Control Body via OFTEC's work notification system, as applies in England, Wales, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. Technicians in other regions will, in every instance, need to check with their Local Authority whether the use of an integrally fire-rated tank is deemed a suitable alternative means of compliance).

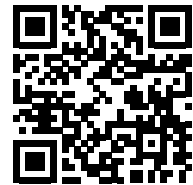
Oil Installer magazine – at home or on the go!



In addition to your regular print magazine you can also now receive Oil Installer straight to your inbox in a digital format so you can read it anywhere, anytime, on any device – wherever you are, whenever you choose.

Yes! Please also send me a digital version of Oil Installer

Just scan the QR code with your phone or type the link www.oilinstaller.co.uk/digital into your browser to sign up via our website



Get in touch with the Oil Installer team 01565 626760
subscriptions@oilinstaller.co.uk

Oil Installer is published in association with the Oil Fired Technical Association (OFTEC) – an association dedicated to raising standards in oil-fired cooking and heating



Job opportunities at OFTEC **Regional Inspector (contractor)**

Area required: South East of England

As the OFTEC registration schemes go from strength to strength through diversification we need to increase our field-based inspection team with the skills and experience that mirrors the future direction of home heating.

OFTEC inspectors carry out the valuable work of auditing heating businesses and checking individual competence through on-site visits. As well as registering oil and solid fuel heating businesses we have seen an increasing demand from renewable technology installers therefore, our inspection team needs to follow the same direction. Working under a service level agreement, this is a great opportunity to be your own boss but also to represent a long-established registration scheme operator in your area and help maintain the high standards of work our registrants provide to consumers.

We have an immediate vacant position in the South East of England, but would also be interested to hear from those with good technical knowledge and a proven track record in all areas of the UK as we prepare for the increase in demand for renewable technology installations.

The closing date is Friday 25th June 2021

For an informal chat about the role or to request an application form and job description, please contact John Vinter (Inspection Services Manager) on 07432 715 042 or email jvinter@oftec.org

Servicing and commissioning reports – bringing the back to front and centre

OFTEC would like to remind you of the importance of completing paperwork fully and bring to your attention the additional information on the reverse of the following reports:

- **CD/11** – Oil firing servicing and commissioning report
- **CD/51** – Commercial oil firing service report (multi-stage appliances)
- **CD/81** – Solid fuel commissioning and service report

These forms are an invaluable resource should any issues arise, or information relating to work carried out be required in the future. They confirm you have undertaken appropriate checks and informed your client of any non-conformities when undertaking servicing or commissioning work. When filling out a report, ticking a box labelled “Checked” indicates that you have completed the related checks printed on the reverse of the form. Further information on how to carry out these checks is available in OFTEC’s technical books.

As an example, consider the section of a CD/11 Oil firing servicing and commissioning report reproduced below.

Call type (Tick as appropriate)	Service	Commission	Breakdown	Manufacturer's Warranty	Return Visit
Oil firing service & commissioning schedule (Confirm in accordance with checklists on the reverse and tick as appropriate)					
1. Oil storage	Checked	Passed			
2. Oil supply system					
3. Air supply					
4. Chimney/flue					
5. Electrical safety					

Schedule item No. 3 relates to the air supply. Before ticking the box labelled “Checked”, you need to undertake the three relevant checks printed on the reverse of the report (where appropriate), as shown below:

3	Air Supply
3.1	Check combustion air supply.
3.2	Check ventilation air supply
3.3	Check make up air supply for extract fan if fitted and prove.

If you are not sure what these air supply checks involve, further information is available in OFTEC Technical Book 2.

This procedure is identical for completing a CD/11, CD/51 or CD/81 report – complete the checks on the reverse of the report before ticking the relevant box. If you are unsure what the checks involve, reference the following:

- CD/11 – OFTEC Technical Book 2, Section 6 and 7.3
- CD/51 – OFTEC Technical Book 7, Section 6 and 7.3
- CD/81 – OFTEC Guide to Solid Fuel Heating, Section 13 and 14.2

Fully completing servicing and commissioning reports helps protect you and your business against claims of substandard work and demonstrates you have acted in a professional manner. To assist you, all the technical publications detailed in this article are available at oftecdirect.com

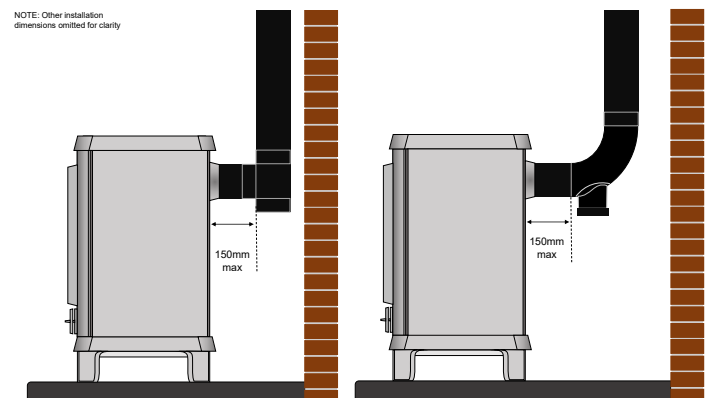
Horizontal solid fuel flues

All solid fuel installers know that to ensure flues perform well they should be as straight and vertical as possible. But, as many stoves have a horizontal rear flue outlet, you may wonder what the maximum permitted length is of a horizontal section of connecting flue pipe.

In all regions of Great Britain and Ireland, the maximum permitted length detailed in building regulations guidance documents is 150mm (as shown in the diagrams). However, you may have seen references to this distance being increased to 450mm. Is this correct?

BS EN 15287-1 is a design and installation standard for chimneys for non-room sealed appliances. It permits the maximum permitted length of a horizontal flue section to be increased to 450mm, but only if all the following are true:

- The appliance is a Defra exempt appliance or an appliance that is limited to burning authorised smokeless fuels.
- A calculation according to BS EN 13384-1 has indicated safe operation of the chimney design, and the results of the calculation are left with the appliance installation instructions.
- The appliance and chimney manufacturers agree in writing to the chimney design.
- The total length of single wall connecting flue pipe is not more than 1.5 metres.
- The appropriate distance to combustible materials from either the appliance or the connecting flue pipe is maintained.
- The installation is in England, Wales, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands (building regulations guidance documents in these regions permit installing to BS EN 15287-1 as an alternative approach).



As you can see from the list above, there are a lot of hoops to jump through to compliantly increase the length of a horizontal connecting flue pipe beyond 150mm. Retaining a copy of the calculation and the permissions of the manufacturers is essential – you will need to produce these if the compliance of the installation is ever queried.

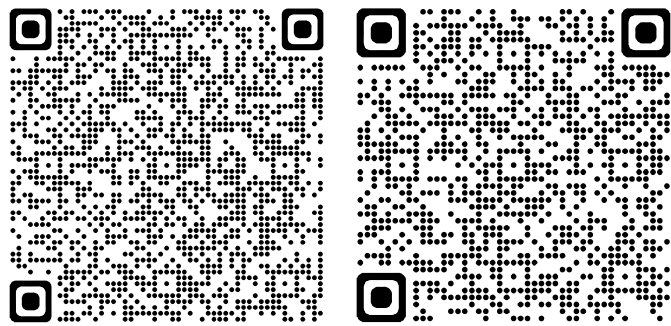
There is one final consideration. If you decide to proceed and are planning to use a twin-wall system chimney as a connecting flue pipe, check with the flue manufacturer whether their product can be used horizontally and whether the minimum separation distance to combustible materials needs to be increased for the horizontal section – it may well do.

Important technical updates

As part of OFTEC's role in keeping technicians up to date with ever-changing industry guidance, its technical team has produced the following documents that were announced in the April edition of E-news:

Technical Notice 032 and Technical Book update

Have you been asked to install a liquid fuel-fired appliance flue through a legal boundary so that it discharges over or, in the case of a balanced flue, draws air from someone else's land? Perhaps an existing appliance and its flue are installed in this way and you are being asked to replace it. Would it be compliant with building regulations to do so? As explained in the recently published Technical Notice 032 and an update to OFTEC Technical Book 4, the answer is no. Please read these documents carefully.



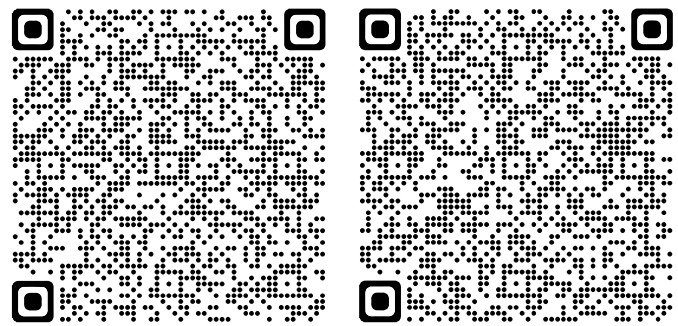
Technical Notice 033 and new calculation tool

Did you know 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 reasonable? This is the case for installations in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands.

This requirement is detailed in the Domestic Building Services Compliance Guide, which explains how to compare emissions using fuel factors and a mathematical calculation – it is not straightforward!

To assist technicians to undertake this task, OFTEC has produced Technical Notice 033, which explains the requirement, and a downloadable calculation tool that does the maths for you and provides a recommendation on whether to proceed or not.

To access these new technical publications, either scan the QR codes below with your mobile phone camera or QR Code-reading app, or log in to the registered technicians section of oftec.org





THE THERMOSTATIC FIRE VALVE

GUARANTEES SAFETY, FLEXIBILITY & RELIABILITY

Overheat protection device that shuts off supply to fuel burning applications.

-  Liquid filled to reduce nuisance trips
-  Capillary lengths from 1.5m to 35m
-  3/8" and 1/2" pipe connections available
-  Easy to install

INCLUDES FREE FITTINGS

WITH 3/8" VERSION ONLY

Compression nuts
10mm Olives
Copper Support Sleeves



3 YEARS WARRANTY



www.fuelstop.co.uk
www.atkinsonequipment.com

 01373 822220



ISO9001 Certificate No: 1303
ISO 9001:2015

Manufactured in the UK by



Grant supplies new oil boilers to SWAAT Training Centre

A selection of Vortex and VortexBlue oil-fired boilers have been installed at the South West Assessment and Training Centre in Liskeard, Cornwall as part of a major refurbishment of its oil boiler training and assessment facilities. These state-of-the-art oil appliances will be used by heating engineers completing their OFTEC qualifications at the centre.

The South West Assessment and Training Centre, known as SWAAT, is one of the leading providers in the area for training in the construction sector. An ISO 9001 accredited training centre, SWAAT provides courses on subjects including plumbing, gas, oil, electrics, solid fuel, renewable energy and health and safety. Its portfolio of training includes qualifications for competent persons schemes, such as OFTEC, Gas Safe and the Microgeneration Certification Scheme.

Towards the end of 2020, its OFTEC training and assessment facilities

underwent a major refurbishment. This project involved upgrading the training area in which the OFTEC courses are delivered. The existing older oil boilers were removed as well and replaced with a range of new appliances fitted with low NOx yellow flame and blue flame burners supplied by Grant UK. Four Vortex and VortexBlue boilers have been installed and these will be used for the OFTEC practical training and assessments of oil heating engineers attending




The new Grant appliances on show at SWAAT

courses at SWAAT.

The boiler models installed include a VortexBlue Internal 15-21kW, a Vortex Combi Internal 21kW, a Vortex Boiler House 15-21kW, and a Vortex Wall Hung 12-16kW. All of these boilers have been installed with flues and Grant MagOne magnetic filters providing the latest and up-to-date equipment for installers and heating engineers to work on.

"The new suite of Grant appliances at our premises offers OFTEC engineers and new entrants the chance to train on top quality oil boilers," writes Mike Kent, SWAAT centre manager. "We are over the moon with the appliances and it is amazing that we are able to showcase such a wide range from boiler house models to the new blue flame boiler. We are delighted to be able to offer the full complement of OFTEC courses in our new Grant suite."


www.grantuk.com



ACS Domestic, Non-Domestic, Catering Core & Appliances
Swimming Pool Boilers
ACS LPG Core & Appliances (incl. Boats, RPH, LAV, PD, Caravans)
LPG Generators
OFTEC Oil Assessment & Training (OFT 50, 101, 102, 201, 105e, 600a) & Solid Fuel
Vented & Unvented Domestic Hot Water, Legionella & Water Regulations
Gas Supervisor Courses
Electrical Part P
EAL Electrical Courses (eg: PAT Testing, 17th Edition, Initial and Periodic Verification)
Fire Alarm BS5839 and Security Lighting BS 5266
Energy Efficiency
Renewable Energy Courses
Courses Designed for Specific Needs
BESA F Gas Courses

Contact Carmen
 South West Peninsular Training Ltd
 Westover Trading Estate
 Langport
 Somerset
 TA10 9 RB

Tel 01458 253493 Fax 0148 253445
Email Info@swptraining.co.uk





OIL TO GAS PROGRAMME

OFTEC OIL
 COURSES
 ALWAYS
 AVAILABLE

OFT 101: Domestic light commercial oil fired service and commissioning for pressure jet appliances.

OFT 105E: Domestic oil fired system installations and energy conservation measures in buildings.

OFT 600A: Installation of oil fuel storage and supply systems connected to fixed combustible appliances.

WE ALSO OFFER A FULL SERVICE OF:

- ACS Gas courses in Domestic & Commercial
- LPG • Commercial Catering • Commercial Laundry
- Oil to Gas Programme APL, MLP 12 Week Course
- New Entrance to Gas Programme, MLP 16 Week Course

T: 01322 524792
E: paul.chambers@egtrainingservices.co.uk

3 Mulberry Court, Bourne Industrial Park, Bourne Road
Crayford, Kent, DA1 4BF







World class training facilities

OFTEC Accredited Courses

GTEC are delighted to announce we are now working together with GRANT UK to provide OFTEC courses.

OFTEC 50

Domestic oil firing introductory 4 day course

OFTEC 101/ 105 /600

Combined 4 day course

OFTEC 102

As 1 day stand alone, or a bolt on to the combined course

0%
FINANCE
AVAILABLE



Other Courses Available

ELECTRICAL TRAINING | RENEWABLE TRAINING | DEA TRAINING



✉ info@gtec.co.uk

🌐 www.gtec.co.uk

☎ 01969 666 111



www.gastectraining.co.uk



FINANCE is now available for all our courses
please view our website for link



UK Cert - ACS Domestic and Commercial
UK Cert - ACS Commercial Catering and LPG



EAL - 18th Edition
EAL - Inspect & Test
EAL - Fundamental Test & Certification
EAL - Periodic Inspection
EAL - Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)
UK Cert - Part "P" Full scope



WRAS - Water Regulations
UK Cert - Unvented Hot Water (HWSS)
UK Cert - Combination Boiler Fault Finding and Controls



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.
OFTEC 201- Multi stage pressure jet servicing and maintenance.



HETAS - H001 Introduction to Solid Fuel
HETAS - H002 Solid Fuel regulations and Standards
HETAS - H003 Dry Appliances
HETAS - H004 Wet Appliances
HETAS - H006 System Chimney Installer Course
HETAS - H009 Service and Maintenance

FULLY CERTIFIED AND APPROVED MANAGED LEARNING PROGRAM
FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO THE GAS INDUSTRY AVAILABLE

TELEPHONE 01784 246247

**CALL NOW
TO RESERVE
YOUR PLACE**

Caught on camera!

Our legendary collection of disastrous, dangerous and downright shocking photographs continues to capture the imagination of our readers, with more and more shots arriving in the editor's in-box on a weekly basis! In this edition of *Oil Installer* we have a pair of truly terrible installations alongside a very interesting photograph of a vintage Grant boiler, which is still in good working order!

If you come across an installation which stops you in your tracks, do take a photograph and send it to *Oil Installer* so that we can share it with our readers! Send your photographs and some information about the installation to: liz@oilinstaller.co.uk



Send your photographs to liz@oilinstaller.co.uk

Hidden Danger

David Whidden of Hampshire-based Oiltec came across this sight when servicing a new customer's boiler for the first time. He explains: When I went to check the flue and the fire valve, I realised that this dead, dried plant had been placed to conceal soot marks from the boiler. With temperatures in excess of 300 degrees coming from the flue, it could've been a disaster had the plant caught light.

Working out of Fordingbridge, David covers Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire, servicing Agas, boilers and Rayburns and installing boilers and tanks.



Hosepipe Horror

Jason Beddoes, an OFTEC registered installer from Colchester, was asked to service this air heater. As you will see from Jason's photo, the heater was drawing oil from a drum next to it via a hose pipe.

Jason commented: "I told the customer it was dangerous and refused to work on it in its current condition."



Antique Boiler

Byrne Boiler Services was called out recently to this boiler in County Wexford, Ireland. Although there are no markings, it appears to be an early Grant boiler, dated 1989, with an original Mectron burner.

"The boiler is in very good working order and although I recommended upgrading to a new high efficiency boiler with controls, the customer seemed reluctant to change," explained company owner, **Maurice Byrne**.



Fuel price commentary

One of the most frequently heard criticisms of oil heating is that the fuel price can change dramatically from one year to the next, even sometimes from one week to the next, due to the volatile nature of the crude oil market. While this may be true, it is clear from the latest Sutherland Tables data that even when the cost is high, it is still at the lower end of the price spectrum, compared to other fuels.

The four-year average cost shows this clearly. It's significantly higher than the current kerosene price, but still much lower than all other fuels except mains gas, which is not a direct competitor in most areas where oil is used. Regardless of where you live, oil is the

cheapest off-gas grid fuel by some margin, whether you compare the current cost, or the longer-term four-year average.

You will also notice that the annual cost of oil heating is very competitive with mains gas. This is important because the supposed high cost of oil heating is often given as a reason to focus on off-grid homes early in the decarbonisation process. Policy experts claim off-grid homes offer a significant cost benefit, but this is really a myth. Unless significant effort is made to reduce heat demand, a switch from oil to an air source heat pump is unlikely to result in running cost savings unless the system offers a truly excellent SCOP.

Changes to the Sutherland Tables

The team behind the Sutherland Tables has recently updated its methodology. As of April 2021 the figures in the following tables/graphs are representative of dwellings that were built to comply with 1980's building regulations and SAP standards, but have been subsequently upgraded to comply with 2020 building regulations and relevant SAP standards. As a result, data for older standard efficiency oil and LPG appliance and anthracite grains are no longer included.

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

GREAT BRITAIN

	Average: Apr17-Apr21	April 20	April 21	Price change	% difference
Electricity (Economy 7)	£2,014	£2,082	£2,216	£134	6.44%
Gas (British Gas – condensing)	£952	£938	£744	-£194	-20.68%
LPG (condensing)	£1,556	£1,551	£1,377	-£174	-11.22%
Oil (condensing)	£958	£808	£801	-£7	-0.87%
Wood Pellets	£1,463	£1,502	£1,504	£2	0.13%
Air source heat pump radiators	£1,764	£1,819	£1,836	£17	0.93%
Air source heat pump underfloor	£1,399	£1,392	£1,537	£145	10.42%

NORTHERN IRELAND

	Average: Apr17-Apr21	April 20	April 21	Price change	% difference
Electricity (Economy 7)	£1,751	£2,034	£1,882	-£152	-7.47%
Gas (Phoenix – condensing)	£937	£987	£790	-£197	-19.96%
LPG (condensing)	£2,092	£2,059	£1,741	-£318	-15.44%
Oil (condensing)	£944	£922	£731	-£191	-20.72%
Wood Pellets	£1,138	£1,199	£1,146	-£53	-4.42%
Air source heat pump radiators	£1,584	£1,752	£1,639	-£113	-6.45%
Air source heat pump underfloor	£1,270	£1,320	£1,359	£39	2.95%

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	Average: Apr17-Apr21	April 20	April 21	Price change	% difference
Electricity (Urban Night Saver)	€ 2,114	€ 2,169	€ 2,263	€ 94	4.33%
Gas (Bord Gais condensing)	€ 1,340	€ 1,378	€ 1,158	-€ 220	-15.97%
LPG (condensing)	€ 2,347	€ 2,463	€ 2,175	-€ 288	-11.69%
Oil (condensing)	€ 1,283	€ 1,154	€ 1,127	-€ 27	-2.34%
Wood Pellets	€ 1,363	€ 1,404	€ 1,287	-€ 117	-8.33%
Air source heat pump radiators	€ 1,852	€ 1,898	€ 1,947	€ 49	2.58%
Air source heat pump underfloor	€ 1,514	€ 1,492	€ 1,665	€ 173	11.60%

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.



Need that part urgently? No worries, we're now open, shipping and delivering orders 7 days a week



**Open 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm Saturday and Sunday
Oil, LPG & Heating Spares • Great Prices • Fantastic Service • Fast Delivery Every Day***

www.hwos.co.uk • 01388 760 333 • sales@hwos.co.uk

* Subject to location and availability, weekend deliveries not available in all locations, certain bank holidays excluded, order cut-off times vary by courier and day of the week, see website for details.

Danfoss | Burner Components

For a **greener** and **cleaner** **future** - Biofuels are coming, be ready and informed

Danfoss is the only manufacturer to have nozzles that are approved for use with HVO

HVO

tested and approved
for all biofuels in the
market



For further information on this new Biofuel range of nozzles please scan the code or visit our website installer.danfoss.com/uk

