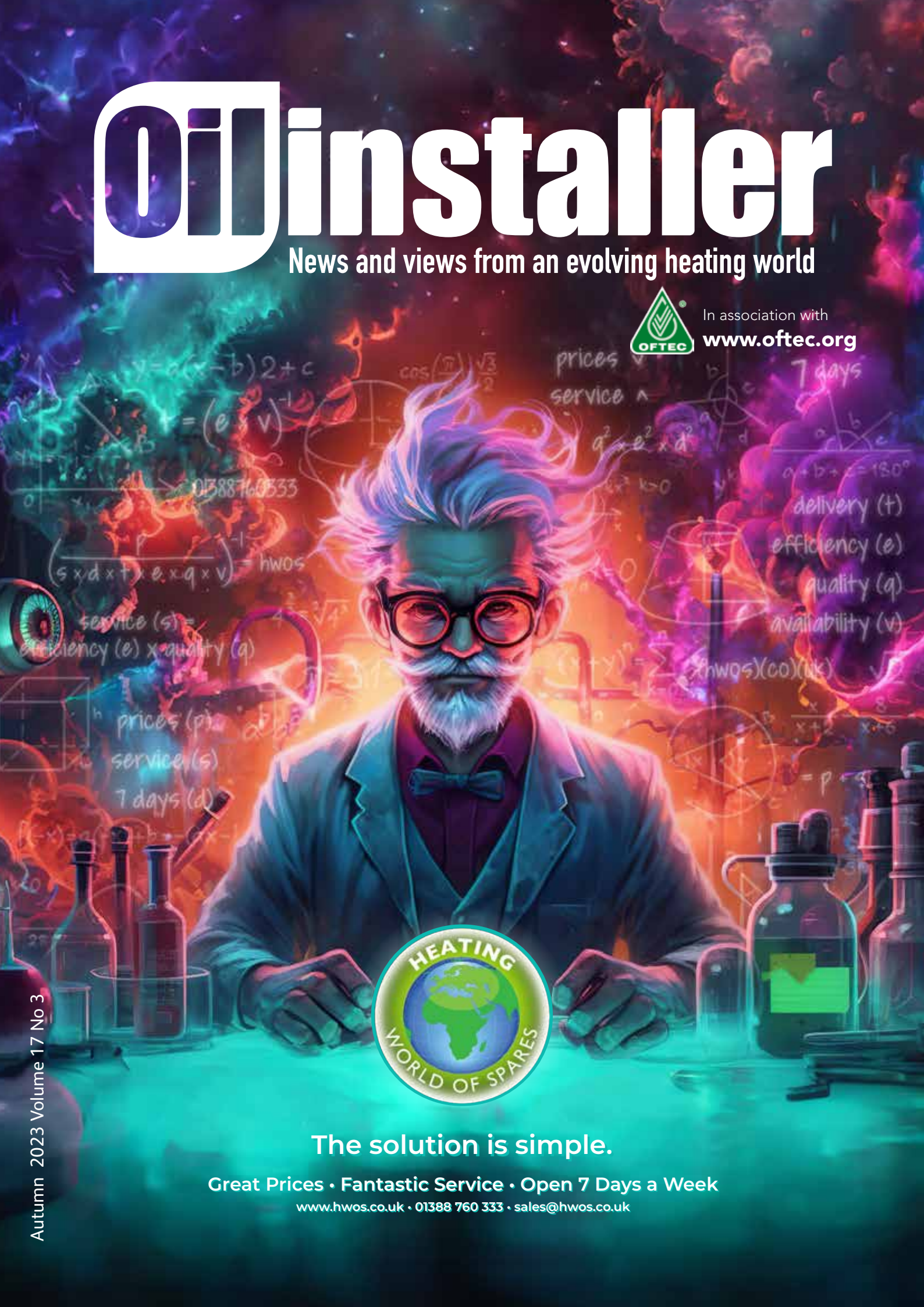


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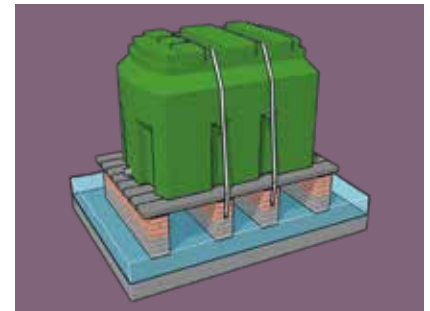
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## Securing a long-term future for the liquid fuel industry

The last few months have seen us make significant progress in our efforts to secure the long-term future of the liquid fuel heating industry. This has been a long and sometimes difficult road.



The Government has been actively pursuing policies to end oil heating for over a decade, so what are the reasons for optimism now?

In the early years, it was difficult to convince the various governments to take us seriously – they often appeared to think that we were simply acting out of self-interest. Since the publication of the UK clean growth strategy in 2017, that situation has gradually improved. We have made intensive efforts to show our commitment to decarbonisation. We've shown that we have a credible solution (HVO), that the Government risks treating off-grid consumers extremely unfairly, and set out what needs to happen to prevent that and make progress quickly. Our support for heat pump training has also helped our credibility and the result is that the people that matter now listen to OFTEC. It's noticeable that some very credible organisations have now joined us in calling for governments to adopt a broader range of low carbon options.

Much of this is down to our effective joint working with our fuel distribution partners, particularly on the HVO demonstration project. It cost hundreds of thousands of pounds, but without it, we wouldn't have made so much progress, or generated the support we have. You can read the updates on this page and page 6.

There's lots of other good news in this issue too. In particular, OFTEC's forthcoming technical manual and field guide, which will make a big difference to our training and support for registered oil heating technicians, and help ensure high standards of competence in the industry. You can read more on pages 32 & 33.

### Martin Cooke

Martin Cooke,  
Chairman, OFTEC

# Campaign for renewable liquid fuels reaches crucial stage

In June the Future Ready Fuel campaign reached a key moment. With the support of OFTEC and UKIFDA, the Cornish MP, George Eustice, submitted amendments to the Government's Energy Bill to enable oil properties to switch to a renewable liquid fuel at affordable cost.

If successful, this would give our industry a viable pathway to transition from kerosene to a renewable liquid fuel such as HVO, securing a long-term future for our industry. Even more importantly, it will help to prevent off-gas grid households and businesses from being treated unfairly, by giving them more affordable and less disruptive choices.

Working closely with George Eustice's team, we succeeded in getting the story onto the front pages, with coverage in many national newspapers, on TV and radio. This has made a massive difference to our campaign, building support and increasing the pressure on the Government to accept the amendment.

The fact that the HVO campaign has got this far is principally down to the HVO demonstration project, which OFTEC and UKIFDA co-led. It has been critical to convincing MPs and policy makers that our plans are robust and that the industry is serious about delivering them. It has also given us a platform to explain what's wrong with the Government's current decarbonisation plans – which are unfair, too expensive and disruptive to off-gas homes and businesses – and show we have a credible alternative option that oil heating users strongly support.

Over the summer, numerous discussions have taken place with MPs, from both the Conservatives and opposition parties, as we've pressed home the message about how off-gas grid decarbonisation should happen.

### What happens next?

The Energy Bill will be debated by Parliament in early September, just after this issue of Oil Installer is published. We are hopeful that our campaign will have persuaded enough MPs to support George Eustice's amendment to get it through, or that the pressure of our campaign will have convinced the government to adopt it or introduce their own acceptable alternative.

It's not too late to ask your MP to support George's amendments, but you'll need to be quick. To download our draft letter, visit the Future Ready Fuel website: <https://futurereadyfuel.info/energy-bill-campaign-2/>

We are already considering next steps if we are unsuccessful with our plans to get the Energy Bill amended, so watch out for updates via OFTEC's e-News. Whatever happens, one thing is certain, OFTEC will continue to use every opportunity to fight for good outcomes for our industry and customers.

# Solid fuel registration

There has been a huge increase in the popularity of wood burning stoves over the past 10 years, which presents a great potential business opportunity for installers and servicing technicians. The traditional look of these appliances has become very popular and can reduce central heating bills by providing useful room heating – especially in large houses. There are already over one million UK homes using wood burning stoves and fireplaces and many more are suitable for a new installation. Plus, according to the Stove Industry Alliance, modern wood burning stoves are virtually carbon neutral when using current burn technology with high quality wood and can even help towards reducing UK carbon emissions.

This surge in popularity has provided welcome new business for solid fuel technicians and OFTEC offers registration for technicians wishing to demonstrate their competence to consumers.

To join OFTEC's solid fuel registration scheme, a technician needs to hold a regulated qualification, mapped to the minimum technical competencies or hold a Level 3 NVQ diploma in plumbing and heating with solid fuel pathway option. Either must have been undertaken within the last five years.

Commenting on the importance of the Solid Fuel Registration scheme, OFTEC's David Blevings said: "It can be incredibly dangerous if appliances are installed or serviced by an incompetent technician. Carbon



monoxide poisoning is a real threat to consumers burning any fossil fuel and it is imperative that any solid fuel appliance is installed correctly and tested by a professional to minimise this risk.

"For some regions, it's essential for installers to show they work in compliance with building regulations. OFTEC registration will immediately demonstrate this, enabling registered technicians to self-certify installation work, subsequently opening up opportunities to work for registered solid fuel and biomass businesses.

"We accept regulated technical qualifications in solid fuel installation from other awarding bodies, as well as providing our own, and will quickly ensure any applications from

former HETAS registered installers are processed, giving technicians the recognition, they require."

Take full advantage with OFTEC's solid fuel registration for installers. Join today from just £70+VAT (UK), £60+VAT (NI) or €72 (ROI) and self-certify your solid fuel installation work using our tried and trusted system. OFTEC registered technicians benefit from FREE listing on the OFTEC 'Find a Technician' online search facility, which has around 154,000 hits each year from homeowners looking for qualified and reputable technicians to come and work on their heating appliances. This is in addition to a range of other benefits, including discounted products and services, regular technical updates and a technical support team.

## Two new OFTEC technical publications

We're pleased to announce two important new OFTEC publications. Following two years of work, and feedback from technicians, a new single volume technical manual for liquid fuels is available now and will replace the old multi-volume technical books.

The technical manual is essentially a training aid, so a new domestic liquid fuel field guide will also be available soon and is designed as a practical reference for on-site use. The field guide has been much-requested and is a much expanded and enhanced replacement for the popular pocket guide. The field guide will be updated annually and will be available free of charge as a digital publication for registered technicians. It will also be available as a printed publication for a small charge.

The new publications reflect OFTEC's commitment to modernise its resources to benefit our registered technicians and uphold high safety and efficiency standards.

To find out more about these important new publications, turn to page 32.



# Another year and another big success for InstallerSHOW

In June, OFTEC exhibited at the annual InstallerSHOW – the UK’s biggest heating, plumbing and electrical trade show – which took place at the UK’s top exhibition venue, the NEC, Birmingham. The show had doubled in size from previous years, with over 300 of the industry’s leading innovators in heat, water, air, and energy exhibiting.

The show was a huge success for OFTEC, with the exhibition stand being very busy and many engaging conversations with registered technicians, industry experts and novices alike. Alongside the registration and training information, OFTEC updated visitors on its work with renewable liquid fuels such as HVO, and the role they can play in decarbonising off-grid homes. We also used the event to officially launch the heat pump training courses and assessments to the industry, at what is a very exciting time for OFTEC and the renewable sector. The exhibition stand also showcased OFTEC’s role as a one-stop registration solution for all non-gas heating technicians, whether working in traditional or renewable technologies.



Paul Rose, CEO of OFTEC, said: “InstallerSHOW gave us access to thousands of industry professionals at a time when we were launching an important new service. Our aim in exhibiting was to promote the highest professional and technical standards for technicians and businesses working in the industry and, in doing so, support

the needs of heating users across the UK. Heat pumps will have an important role to play in the future of heating, so I’m pleased we can play our part by offering our new high quality training course. I’m confident there will also be a significant role for renewable liquid fuels, so it was great to be able to highlight the need for a technology inclusive heat policy.”

The event was such a success that OFTEC has already booked to attend again in 2024.



## OFTEC conference: industry ready and waiting to rollout renewable liquid fuels

Following a successful two-year demonstration project, the backing of consumers and growing support from rural MPs, the renewable liquid fuel heating industry is primed and ready to deliver a wider nationwide rollout of its low-carbon solution for off-grid properties.

That was the message from OFTEC’s annual conference, held in Tewkesbury in June, which saw industry leaders gather to discuss the next steps for decarbonising off-grid buildings in support of the Government’s net zero ambitions.

The conference featured a range of presentations that highlighted the challenges facing rural households, the benefits of supporting a range of low-carbon heating technologies and the huge strides that have been made to make renewable liquid fuels a reality.

OFTEC Chairman Nick Hawkins

opened the conference, highlighting 2023 as a pinnacle year for the heating industry which will set the direction of travel for decades to come. He also announced Martin Cooke, director of EOGB, will be taking over the chairmanship.

Presentations by Paul Rose, OFTEC CEO, and our technical director, Andrew Mathews, emphasised the practical learning outcomes from the HVO demonstration project, as well as the clear benefits it has delivered in terms of winning support from a growing number of MPs. UKIFDA CEO, Ken Cronin, built on this by outlining the simple policy changes required by government to support a renewable liquid fuel rollout.

Ben Copson from the Sustainable Energy Association, outlined the importance of the government adopting a technology agnostic approach which focuses on the best outcomes for consumers, rather than

a preferred technology. This would deliver net zero, minimise cost and disruption for consumers and create healthy living spaces.

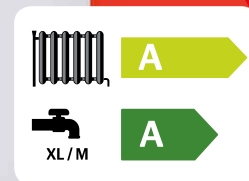
Graham Biggs, of the Rural Services Network, identified the older population, lower earnings, higher cost of living and poorly insulated properties as being among the key challenges for developing fair and effective policies to decarbonise rural homes. He reflected that 85% of boiler replacements are distress purchases, which makes switching to a new technology problematic.

Finally, to provide a European perspective, Moritz Belling from en2x, shared learning points from Germany’s approach to decarbonisation, while OFTEC registration services director Adrian Lightwood shared an update on registration growth, including OFTEC’s new heat pump scopes of registration.

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# Self-certification – who, what, when and how?

We are all aware of the importance of Building Regulations in ensuring our buildings, structures and services are safe to use. The public is also aware, and has a right to expect that the construction industry adheres to these regulations, and that services such as electricity and heating are installed correctly.

## Who

The Building Regulations 2010 give exemptions to obtaining a building notice in England and Wales when some types of work are carried out by a member of an authorised competent person scheme. That work then has to be notified to the local authority and the occupier by the scheme operator. This is called self-certification and technicians holding valid OFTEC registration can self-certify unlimited work completed while under registration, rather than making a building control application or using an approved inspector.

## What

The range of works that can be self-certified is covered under Schedule 3 of the Regulations and covers building services, renewables and building fabric. The range of work that OFTEC is licenced by government to offer is as follows.

### Liquid fuel combustion appliance

- Install an oil-fired boiler.
- Install an oil-fired room heater, stove, or cooker.

### Flues

- Install a flue liner.
- Install a non-masonry flue/chimney system.

### Liquid fuel storage and supply

- Install an oil storage tank under 10,000 litres.
- Install oil supply pipework.

### Heating and hot water

- Install a heating system.
- Install an extension to an existing heating system.
- Install a vented hot water storage vessel.
- Install hot water with vented hot water storage.
- Install hot water with unvented hot water storage.
- Install a hot water system without storage.
- Install an unvented hot water storage vessel.
- Install controls separate from heating appliance.

### Solid fuel

- Install a solid fuel dry room heater, stove, or cooker.
- Install a solid fuel dry open fire.
- Install a solid fuel warm air distribution system.
- Install a solid fuel wet boiler heater, stove, or cooker.

### Renewables

- Install an air source heat pump.
- Install a ground source heat pump.
- Install a water source heat pump.
- Install a solar thermal system.
- Install a biomass wet boiler, heater, stove, or cooker.
- Install a biomass dry room heater, stove, or cooker.

### Electrical

- Replacement consumer unit.
- Partial rewire.
- Install one or more new circuits.
- Circuit alteration/addition in a kitchen/special location.

### When

Regulation 20 of the Building Regulations requires the local authority to be notified, and the occupier of the property to receive a certificate not more than 30 days after completion of the work (i.e., the commissioning and hand over date).

To ensure this regulation is met, OFTEC asks that you notify us promptly of work, and we then do the rest. If you can supply an email address for your customer, we can email their certificate the next day. We recommend businesses make a declaration to their customers in their contract of work for information to be shared with OFTEC, and their local authority, for the purpose of satisfying Regulation 20 of The Building Regulations.

### How

Notification can be done via your OFTEC website portal account ([www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org)) which is set up for you once you become certified by OFTEC on the competent person scheme. From this portal you can manage your registration, obtain technical information and order things from OFTEC Direct.

### Next Steps

We recommend you review all the types of work that must be certified to the Building Regulations listed above. It's important to note that if you are installing anything listed, but not self-certifying or obtaining a building notice in England and Wales, then you are breaking the law.

**Please see the OFTEC website for further information about CPS registration <https://www.oftec.org/technicians/areas-of-registration> and if you need to talk to us about extending your scope of registration please email [registration@oftec.org](mailto:registration@oftec.org) or call 01473 626 298 (UK) or 01-8645771 (RoI).**

# OFTEC compliance

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

themselves as OFTEC registered.

From the 14th April 2023 – 3rd July 2023 there was a total of 16 businesses had their membership revoked\*.

The revoked businesses are:

Company No.	Business Name
13617	ADT Plumbing and Heating Engineers
104199	Advance Renewable Energy Ltd
100417	Anglian PHE Ltd
6589	Benchells
103131	D H Galt Property Ltd
500679	East Anglian Plumbing & Heating Ltd
13646	G Oakley and Sons Ltd
103780	Gibson Heating Services Ltd
103763	Hands On PGE Limited
105657	Hustings and Sons Ltd
102817	M C B Plumbing & Heating
104604	Morgan Heating and Plumbing
500734	Noah's Plumbing and Heating
102568	Ostium Building Solutions Ltd
500722	ProHeating – The Boiler Company
105834	The Cornish Heating Company Ltd

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

# Thanks for your help with the Future Ready Fuel campaign

In July we sent out mailings to Future Ready Fuel campaign supporters and OFTEC registered technicians, asking them to write to their local MP, and suggest they support an amendment to the Energy Bill put forward by the Cornish MP, George Eustice. We had a great response and wanted to thank everyone who sent in letters.

Getting MP support for renewable liquid fuels, by helping them to understand the negative impacts of the Government's decarbonisation plans, is hugely important to ensuring our industry has a future and our customers will be treated fairly. Sending in the letters also helped showcase our work on the HVO demonstration trial, which shows we're ready to deliver our solution.

For more information on the Future Ready Fuel campaign and our work in Parliament, see the article on page 4.



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# R100 rules for registration revision

Under our internal quality system, OFTEC does an annual review of the rules for registration. We do this to take in any scheme changes coming from government, or other scheme owners (like MCS or TrustMark). Version 14 has just been released and is now available on the OFTEC website.

Changes are minimal but incorporate information brought up since the last review. For example, the new Building Safety (BSR) is now running competent person schemes. There is also better understanding that the OFTEC registration scheme is based on the mandatory technical competencies (MTCs) for work

under Schedule 3 of the Building Regulations for England and Wales.

Under the MTCs, a business is required to maintain records for no less than six years (or from the point of first registering, whichever is the sooner). These records include installation and commissioning records, system design and contracts. Another change is that, on the advice of the OFTEC technical team, self-certification of oil storage tanks are limited to 10,000 litres.

Joining requirements for new registrants have also been amended relating to the course or qualification a technician holds as a pre-requisite

to registration. Technicians holding accredited courses to ISO 17024 can provide up to five jobs for their initial evaluation before certification, however businesses employing technicians with non-accredited courses will have to complete the OFTEC initial evaluation process before self-certifying work. In these cases, the one job that was inspected for the initial evaluation can be re-commissioned and submitted onto the work notification portal after registration is finalised, as long as the work is seen to be compliant.

Please see the OFTEC website for the full R100 document. [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org).

## New inspectors join OFTEC

We are pleased to announce that two new inspectors have been inducted over the summer. Both are now booking appointments in their respective regions.

Richard Williams hails from Newmarket in Suffolk and has just come off the tools, having run his own successful heating business. Before that, Richard was involved in quality control and technical surveying. Richard has spent, in total, 44 years in the heating industry, originally qualifying as a British Gas apprentice.

Peter Kosek comes from Rhyder, Mid-Wales, and has also recently come off the tools from having run his own heating business since 2004 and being involved in liquid fuel, solar and biomass/solid fuel. Past employment also includes working on 300KW to 1.3MW wind turbines, so he is used to complex installations.

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# Are registration schemes created equal?

Reflecting on our participation at InstallerShow, we would first like to thank the many registered and non-registered technicians and professionals that came to our stand to talk to us. There were common themes in the enquiries, so we thought we would share the most frequently asked questions and our replies.

## Why should I join OFTEC?

For installers in England, Wales, the Channel Isles and Isle of Man, there are three ways to meet building regulations regarding fitting liquid fuel boilers, tanks, etc:

- Paying an approved inspector to validate compliance
- Paying the local authority to sign off, or
- Joining a government-licensed competent persons scheme (CPS) and simply notifying the local authority of your installations via a recognised system.

Which route you choose will be dictated by the cost versus the perceived benefits of joining a scheme. Technicians installing more than three installations per year will find CPS registration cheaper than paying a local authority. Both installers and service technicians value the technical helpline. Many appreciate receiving regular technical and industry updates, discounts on small business support services or access to fuel cards. Others will simply value using a logo with 30-plus years of brand recognition on their van, and an entry on OFTEC's online business listing that received over 150,000 searches last year. Not a direct benefit to a technician maybe, but did you know that each notified installation carries a six-year consumer protection warranty, should you have to close your business. Not something you want to think about, but this cover for your customer may just win you work over the competition.

## What is a competent person scheme?

Competent Person Schemes (CPS) were introduced by the UK Government to allow individuals and enterprises to self-certify that their work complies with the Building Regulations as an alternative to submitting a building notice or using an approved inspector.

A competent person must be registered with a scheme that has been approved by government. Schemes authorised by the Government are listed on its website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/competent-person-scheme-current-schemes-and-how-schemes-are-authorised>. ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

## Why does registration cost so much?

OFTEC is a not-for-profit organisation. As with any business we have operational costs and must charge accordingly. We try to strike a balance between offering appropriate levels of service and keeping fees low. Our accounts are independently audited as required by our government conditions of authorisation and our registration scheme

finances is independently scrutinised by an impartiality committee. This impartiality committee is made up of industry experts including LABC, Building Safety Regulator, manufacturers, training centres and is not dominated by OFTEC as the name suggests. Our accounts are independently audited and monitored. We believe we offer very competitive rates for registration services compared to other schemes.

## Who makes the rules at OFTEC?

The OFTEC registration scheme, together with other government recognised schemes is listed on Schedule 1 of the Building Regulations &c. (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and operated under licence from the Building Safety Regulator. We must comply with 21 operational conditions – called Conditions of Authorisation – designed with the objective of ensuring registrants operate in a manner that delivers on the functional requirements of the building regulations and ensures safety and protection of buildings and the public.

Our methods of meeting compliance with the conditions are scrutinised and agreed with an impartial scheme committee, which is made up of representatives from across the heating, building, policy and education sectors. A little-known fact is that to maintain impartiality, together with everyone else, OFTEC only has a single vote on that committee. This ensures that decisions made are for the benefit of industry and not just OFTEC.

## Why can't OFTEC books and report pads go digital?

For many years, OFTEC has been acutely aware that technicians have been asking for digital materials. Our previous research suggested that registrants are split on this subject. Certainly, the published material can be beneficial in a training and assessment environment. However, we know that for quick reference, digital material is preferred in the field.

Technicians visiting training centres from the second week of September will see that we have now developed a modular A4 binder that can be tailored to the training package required. This is environmentally sound because it significantly reduces paper and print, and still satisfies ease of referencing during training and assessment. For field applications, we are currently in the latter stages

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of preparing a digital field guide, which will be free to registrants and accessed via your technician portal.

Regarding digital pads, we are currently speaking to a partner to take the pads digital and will update soon.

### **Who writes OFTEC assessments?**

It's generally thought that when a new OFTEC assessment scheme is put together, it's simply a group of OFTEC employees who write the training syllabus and assessment papers. In fact, it's done by a working group, which will include manufacturers, industry experts, assessment centres, certification bodies, and anyone else we think can assist. This group will make sure that assessments are written to cover minimum technical competencies before they are trialled, and pilots held, to identify any issues before they are launched.

OFTEC does not run assessment centres. The centres we work with are all either independent training providers, colleges, or manufacturers. The assessment process is monitored by certification bodies, who are accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to ISO 17024 standard. It's the certification body who issues the certificate of competence, not OFTEC, which ensures impartiality. We work with seven different certification bodies, and it is the choice of the assessment centre as to which one they work with.

### **Has OFTEC turned its back on the oil industry?**

Certainly not. Since the publication of the UK Clean Growth Strategy, OFTEC has invested several hundred thousand pounds fighting the proposal to cease the installation of oil boilers post 2026 and prolonging the skills and careers of the oil heating technician. This money has been used for specialists to evaluate different low carbon liquid fuel alternatives to kerosene, laboratory combustion trials, extensive field trials, sustainability studies, technical evaluation on materials, political lobbying and other essential work. We are optimistic that HVO will be the energy source to displace kerosene in the majority of off gas grid homes and liquid fuel heating will remain our core business.

### **Why is OFTEC spending time on heat pumps?**

Like it or not, heat pumps will play a significant role in heating homes in the future. Government policy is committed to supporting them and a previous Prime Minister predicted 600,000 heat pumps will be installed annually by 2028. We can debate all day whether this is likely to happen and how many will actually displace oil boilers. The important thing is that technicians are offered choice over the direction they want to take their businesses. Some take the view that oil will see them into retirement, but others are diversifying and already work hard to win these renewable installations. OFTEC is currently positioning itself to offer technicians choice and a one-stop-shop for technicians wishing to extend their technology offering whilst staying on the OFTEC register.

### **Why is OFTEC giving away money for heat pump training?**

OFTEC is one of a number of businesses that are facilitating the upscaling of a heat pump trained workforce. The money comes from central government and is part of a scheme to lessen the cost of training for installers. It is the training centre that ultimately receives the money, which is channelled via OFTEC for record keeping and

audit purposes. Any money not spent during the life of the scheme is returned to government.

OFTEC's interest in this project is that we hope candidates passing through the centres will return to OFTEC and enter registration to install and notify heat pumps.

### **Why have I been inspected more than other technicians I know?**

Under the conditions of our licence to operate, we must conduct surveillance on registered businesses and technicians. The frequency of surveillance is based upon risk. All new businesses must have an initial on-site assessment. Some scopes require assessment before joining, but all will be assessed upon joining. Following the initial assessment, all businesses are then subject to a further two consecutive annual inspections. The frequency is then extended to one inspection at approximately five yearly intervals, subject to the business being awarded a clean assessment record, and OFTEC not receiving any complaints or other evidence that suggests the business is operating non-compliantly.

OFTEC occasionally receives feedback that inspectors are not flexible when reporting on building regulations compliance. OFTEC uses independent contracted inspectors. They are all experienced in running their own heating businesses and know very well the pressures and challenges that technicians face daily. Building regulations guidance is in place to protect buildings and the public and this is the measure of whether something is correct or not. It is not in the hands of the inspector to say whether something that is "near enough" is good enough. The expectation of OFTEC is to determine if something is correct or not. Likewise, whether a technician is competent or not.

### **Why doesn't OFTEC act against bad installations?**

This is a common enquiry received and we share the frustration.

No registration scheme has legal powers to enter a property uninvited or force the correction of non-compliant installation work. We are only able to impose corrective actions on our own registrants and a failure to make good will result in registration first being suspended and then withdrawn.

We publish in Oil Installer all businesses where we have taken that action and we work with trading standards if technicians continue to use the logo and portray themselves as being OFTEC registered.

OFTEC supports the ideal that greater surveillance must be exercised by local authorities and fines should be imposed on anyone conducting work that does not comply with building regulations.

### **Why aren't technicians listened to?**

The technical and registration teams deal with hundreds of calls and emails every week. We are actively engaged across social media platforms and have recently started hosting or participating in webinars. We are always open to constructive feedback and your ideas to make OFTEC better and your lives easier, so we invite you to email us or pick up the phone. On this very topic, we are considering running a series of interactive "Ask us anything" events and would welcome your input on whether this would be useful? Is there a preferred time of day or preferred platform that would work best for you?



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# Worcester Bosch unveils new '#LikeABosch' campaign

Worcester Bosch has announced the launch of its #LikeABosch campaign. Its aim is to empower consumers, who wish to make the change to home heating solutions that produce less CO2 emissions, by showcasing its range of innovative and responsible heating products.

There are solutions for all household types – from the air to water heat pump, which uses approximately 75% air-sourced energy and is suitable for most house types, to the hybrid heating system, which combines a heat pump with a boiler – the heat pump generates heat 70-80% of the time while the boiler tops up the heat during colder months. This one is great for a wide range of households including older properties.



Accompanied by a catchy theme song, the #LikeABosch campaign introduces us to a cast of characters who are playing their part in turning to responsible home heating solutions. There are also some adorable heat puppet pals, including Ronnie the Raccoon, Bernie and Beatrice Bee who 'get a buzz from energy-saving' and the Barnes-Owls who 'love to help energy efficiency soar'.

Victoria Billings, director of marketing, said: "We are so proud of our new #LikeABosch campaign. As a leading brand in home heating, it is our responsibility to raise awareness and help inform consumers of their greener heating choices. This campaign aims to do that in a creative and fun way that draws attention to such an important topic. Our commitment to helping educate and support both consumers and installers is central to our goal of creating a greener future."



# Students learn about heat pumps with Grant UK

A group of plumbing and heating students from New College Swindon recently visited Grant UK's Training Academy in Wiltshire to learn about air source heat pumps, combining theory with hands-on training to develop their understanding of this low carbon technology.

In early June, Grant's training team welcomed the students, who were interested in growing their knowledge and understanding of air source heat pumps.

The College is striving to support its plumbing, heating and engineering students by providing them with the opportunities to learn more about the low carbon technologies which are going to play a major part in the future of home heating.

Alongside teaching the principals of plumbing and heating, including a focus on traditional central heating systems, the College is also investing in learning opportunities about renewable technologies as well. For heat pumps, the College is planning to add heat pump products to their own training facilities and has also partnered with Grant, which will deliver heat pump training sessions at its Training Academy.


During their visit, the students completed a two-hour learning session with Steve Ellison, Grant's assistant training manager, who delivered both theory and practical training. The theory session included an introduction to air source heat pumps and how they work, as well as taking a look at the wider system considerations when it comes to installing heat pumps. The students were also able to get their hands on product as well, seeing working heat pump units in action as part of the practical element of the training.

Wayne Eggleton, lecturer in plumbing at New College Swindon said: "It's been really beneficial to be involved with a company that is one of the market leaders in renewable technology. The training given helped the students gain a valuable insight into renewable technologies which is a fundamental part of their course, alongside employer engagement.

"The learners were very complimentary about the training centre, the content and the instructors and, as a College, we hope to cement this relationship even more over the next few years, not only at their wonderful training facility but in house at New College Swindon too."

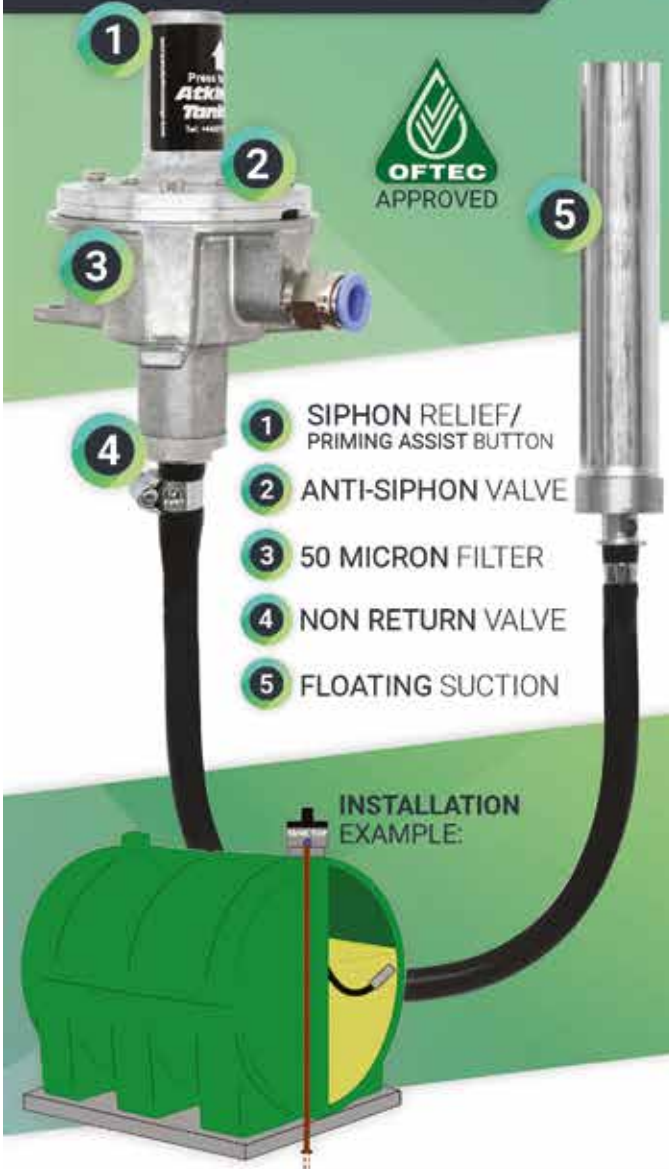
"We were pleased to welcome students from New College Swindon to our Training Academy," added Phil Stanley, training manager at Grant.

"Training the next generation of plumbing and heating engineers is incredibly important as we all move towards achieving the net zero carbon targets set by the Government. Installing and maintaining air source heat pump systems will provide plenty of exciting opportunities in the heating sector over the coming years and, alongside delivering our in-depth product courses to qualified engineers, we also want to support and encourage upcoming plumbers and heating engineers to ensure that future demand for this low carbon heat source can be fulfilled. We hope this recent visit is the first of many that we provide to New College Swindon and their students."




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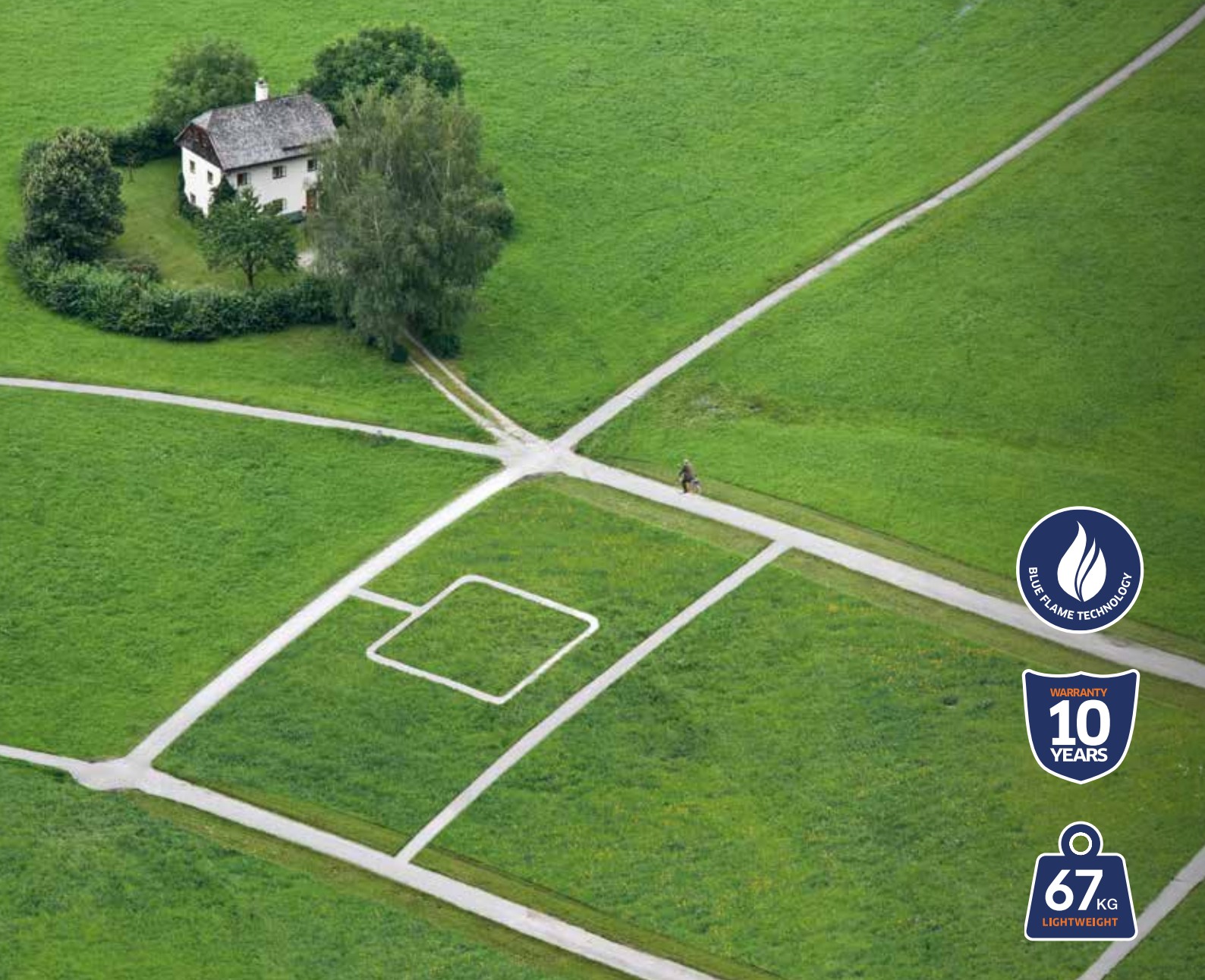


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# Heat pump installations: challenges and solutions



**While the UK was one of the first countries in the world to introduce legally binding targets for the reduction of carbon emissions, we have found ourselves behind many other European countries when it comes to the adoption of low carbon heating solutions. Daniel Jackson, UK training manager at Daikin, explores the role that heat pumps play in the UK's net zero goals, along with the challenges and solutions for installers specifying and installing the technology.**

## Transitioning to heat pump installations

Heat pump technology stands out as a pivotal low carbon heating option to replace conventional gas and oil boilers. The efficiency of heat pumps is remarkable, producing 3 to 4 kilowatts (kw) of heat for every 1 kw of electricity used. Under optimal conditions, they can achieve an efficiency rate of up to 400%, which significantly surpasses, for example, the estimated 90% efficiency of a gas boiler.

While heat pumps differ from traditional heating systems in some respects, skilled installers can easily acquire the necessary knowledge and qualifications to set up, commission, and maintain them. Despite concerns among heating engineers about the use of refrigerants in heat pumps, which comes with specific requirements, mono-bloc air source heat pumps, which are ideal for most residential properties, do not demand F-Gas certification for installation. The refrigerant is sealed within the unit, necessitating only water pipe connections between the heat pump and the property's heating system pipework.

In the coming years, there is a high likelihood of accelerated adoption of heat pumps for several reasons. The

Government has already declared its decision to exclude oil and gas boilers from new homes from 2025. Although the precise phase-out timeline for oil and gas boilers is not yet confirmed, it is expected to occur in the near future due to increasing restrictions on fossil fuels like natural gas. Additionally, since about 80% of the homes that will exist by 2050 have already been constructed, achieving net-zero emissions would entail upgrading as many as 27 million properties to low carbon heating solutions.

## Key challenges for installers

Heat pump installers are finding some common challenges when it comes to specifying and installing heat pumps. The first is selecting the correctly-sized and scaled system to install in a building, something that is utterly crucial to ensure the system is as effective as possible. Oversized units can lead to inefficiency and increased costs, while undersized units may struggle to meet the heat demand of the building.

In the current economic climate, the cost of heat pump systems is a key consideration. However, there are a number of schemes currently active that can provide a resolution to these issues.

Firstly, there is the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS), an initiative introduced in 2022 by the UK Government to encourage homeowners in England and Wales to transition from gas or oil heating systems to low-carbon heating systems. The scheme provides financial assistance of up to £5,000 to help cover the initial expenses of installing air source heat pumps. The HESS is a similar scheme in which people in Scotland can receive a grant from Home Energy Scotland for up to £7,500 plus an optional interest-free loan for the same amount for energy

efficiency and zero emission heating improvements.

In addition to this scheme, Daikin has launched its national Installer Incentive scheme, rewarding MSC certified installers with £250 each time they fit a Daikin air source heat pump in England, Scotland or Wales against a boiler installed via the aforementioned BUS/HESS schemes.

The eligible products are:

- England and Wales
  - Air Source Heat Pumps
- Scotland
  - Air Source Heat Pumps
  - Hybrid Boilers

The £250 incentive is yet another reason for already-accredited heat pump installers to choose Daikin's award-winning range of air source heat pumps for their customers, and the offer will be particularly attractive to installers who want to expand their business into renewables too.

Finally, attaining the necessary skills to specify and install heat pumps is a challenge that cannot be overlooked, despite it being crucial for installers to futureproof their business. To help alleviate this problem, Daikin has set up a New Installer offer, which provides free local heat pump training in a Daikin Sustainable Home Centre and £100 off easy MCS accreditation. In addition to this, new installers will also benefit from 40% off the first heat pump unit purchased at a local centre and commissioning support for the first three air source heat pump installations they undertake.

There has never been a better time to upskill and to futureproof your service offerings. Partnering with a trusted manufacturer like Daikin, offering valuable incentive schemes and free training courses, is a great move in this ever-changing industry.

# Worcester Bosch inspires the next generation

Worcester Bosch hosted a FIRST@ LEGO@ League Explore Festival in June at its headquarters. The initiative, which is part of the company's celebrations of 125 years of Bosch in the UK, is designed to inspire the next generation of children to get involved with the STEM topics of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

The partnership addresses the need to combat the current skills gap in STEM as a report by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) in December 2022 showed there was a shortfall of over 173,000 workers in the sector, costing the economy £1.5bn per year.<sup>1</sup>

The FIRST@ LEGO@ League is a global initiative that strives to engage children from 4 to 16 by helping them build habits of learning, confidence, and teamwork through hands-on experiences with science and technology. The partnership is one example of Worcester Bosch's commitment to closing the skills gap and engaging a generation of young



people to enter the sector, building on long-term engagement through its Cecil Duckworth Apprenticeship scheme.

As part of the action-packed morning, children from Perry Wood, St Georges Catholic Primary, Sychampton School, Upton Snodsbury and St Peters Church of England Academy were welcomed by the company's CEO, Carl Arntzen, who spoke with the children about how interesting and important STEM topics are. This year's theme – SUPERPOWERED – introduced them

to the idea of energy journeys and encouraged them to explore their own ideas and solutions for the future. Each school presented their LEGO projects to Worcester Bosch Reviewers before an interactive, sustainability-minded game.

Spanning 110 countries, the FIRST@ LEGO@ League has already helped over 650,000 children through a guided, and global robotics program to engage critical thinking, coding and design skills.

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Carl Arntzen, commented: "As a business with strong routes in engineering, we are acutely aware of the ever-present skills gap in the STEM industries. As a result, and as part of the 125 years of Bosch in the UK activities, we are proud to partner with FIRST® LEGO® League and directly engage with young people of all ages in STEM. We are committed to inspire individuals into the field by dedicating time to sharing the knowledge and enthusiasm to help develop tomorrow's engineers."

## Long-awaited biomass strategy leaves many questions unanswered

In August, the UK Government finally published its long awaited and much delayed biomass strategy.

For the heating sector, it would be easy to assume that this is only of interest to those involved in solid biomass. However, the Government here is talking about all biomass feedstocks and all the technologies that depend on them, so liquid and gaseous biofuels are also included. Indeed, because transport is seen as an area where biofuels could play a lead role in decarbonisation, liquid biofuels are perhaps the most important technology featured.

So, does heating get much of a look in? The answer, unfortunately, is no. The Biomass Strategy runs to some 202 pages, of which the section devoted to heating runs to just six. This is because as the Government's Heat and Buildings Strategy made clear, and is again reiterated here, the Government is committed to the electrification of heat and, off the gas grid "expect[s] most properties will ultimately transition to a heat pump". We are however questioning the claim within the Strategy that the Government estimates that around 80% of off-gas grid homes are already sufficiently well insulated for a low temperature heat pump to work effectively, which to us, is simply not credible.

Whether this is a viable approach is contested vigorously by OFTEC, UKIFDA and many others. However, it helps explain why OFTEC and UKIFDA have found it difficult to get DESNZ officials to see the wider picture and the role HVO could play – and emphasises why the Future Ready Fuel campaign is so important in building political support.

The good news is that the Government does at least acknowledge that some buildings off the gas grid are unsuitable for heat pumps and states that "Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) could prove a convenient route to decarbonising some off-grid properties – oil heated households would only need to make minor modifications to their existing oil boilers to use this fuel". That HVO has its own sub-section is promising recognition, but the Government makes it clear that, in its view, further research is needed on availability and sustainability.

OFTEC and UKIFDA have already submitted detailed independently commissioned data on HVO feedstock availability to 2030 and will engage with government officials to understand what further information is required. This data makes a strong case for why HVO is a viable solution to help the Government meet its net zero ambitions regarding home heating.



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# Grant extends longstanding partnership with Bath Rugby

Grant UK has extended its partnership with local team, Bath Rugby. Not only is Grant UK continuing as an official partner of Bath Rugby so that the company will, again, feature on the players' shirts, but it will also now be the club's official sustainability partner and grassroots partner for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as well.

Grant has been proudly supporting the Premiership rugby club since 2015. Over the years, the company has developed its relationship with the club, supporting the players on the pitch and working together away from game-days to raise awareness of sustainability and the changes the club and its supporters can make to reduce their impact on the environment.

In addition to supplying award-winning heating products, including air source heat pumps and HVO biofuel-ready boilers, Grant also places significant emphasis on education. From homeowners through to heating engineers, Grant invests in training and online resources which focus on informing customers about the different types of low carbon solutions that are available to heat homes as well as the smaller energy efficiency measures households can adopt to reduce their carbon footprint. As Bath's official sustainability partner, Grant hopes to support the team as it continues towards a greener future with their new stadium and help its supporters make the right choices for their homes as well.

Following last year's 'Kick the Carbon' campaign, which Grant launched with Bath Rugby, both now want to build upon the awareness that this fun-filled initiative generated. Grant will be helping the club as it makes additional changes at the Rec and Farleigh House to increase the use of renewable energy and implement more eco-friendly processes throughout its day-to-day operations. Grant is also excited that it will be spreading the message about sustainability to future generations as it is now an official grassroots partner for the next two seasons, working with local schools to raise awareness of climate change and how we can work together to lower carbon emissions.

"Our partnership with Bath Rugby has strengthened year after year with this upcoming season marking yet another



exciting chapter," comments Anna Wakefield, Grant's head of marketing.

"Making more environmentally friendly decisions to work towards net zero carbon targets is something we can all do, whether it be at a business level or as an individual. We're looking forward to supporting Bath Rugby as it embarks on the next phase of its sustainability journey, as well as raising the profile of improving home energy efficiency amongst the fans and local community. We're also incredibly excited to be featured on the shirt of the new Castore kit this season."

"Everybody at Bath Rugby is delighted to extend our partnership with Grant," comments Tom Giles, head of business development at Bath Rugby. "It has been a pleasure to play a small part in its growth over the past eight years and we look forward to extending this valued relationship. It's great to be working with a local business who are completely aligned to the club's ambitions, both on and off pitch. We would like to thank the senior management at Grant for their continued support and look forward to working with them as we embark on this new multi-year partnership"



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# Future fuels case study: converting a boiler to HVO operation

With industry efforts focused on securing amendments to the Government's proposed energy bill to include liquid fuels in the decarbonisation of home heat, this case study, submitted by Grant, demonstrates the ease with which an oil-fired boiler can be converted to HVO operation.

Here we follow the HVO conversion of a Grant Vortex oil-fired boiler

All of Grant's floor standing Vortex oil-fired boilers are compatible with Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biofuel. The process of converting to HVO operation is straightforward and can be carried out as part of the boiler's annual service.

This step-by-step case study takes a closer look at the HVO conversion process.

**Step 1:** Turn off the boiler, isolate the electrical supply and shut off the oil supply.



**Step 2:** The existing oil tank will need to be drained of kerosene and any water/sludge removed before being replenished with HVO biofuel.



**Step 3:** Remove the existing oil filter from the tank and replace it with a biofuel compatible oil filter.





**Step 4:** Remove the burner from the boiler. If the burner is no more than 10 years old it should already be fitted with a biofuel compatible pump (marked B10). If not, it should be replaced with a biofuel compatible pump. Clean and remove any debris or water contamination from an existing pump before using it on HVO.



**Step 5:** Remove the burner head and diffuser. Replace the existing oil nozzle with the correct specification of nozzle for HVO for the required boiler output, referring to [www.grantuk.com/support/biofuelheating](http://www.grantuk.com/support/biofuelheating) for details. Refit the diffuser, check electrode setting and refit burner head.



**Step 6:** Replace the flexible oil line with a new one that is HVO compatible. Note that all flexible oil lines currently supplied by Grant UK are HVO compatible.



**Step 7:** Refit the burner to the boiler. Switch on the oil and electrical supply to the boiler. Switch the boiler on. Check and adjust the oil pressure to the correct value for the required boiler output (referring to [www.grantuk.com/support/biofuelheating](http://www.grantuk.com/support/biofuelheating)).



**Step 8:** Check the smoke number is 0-1 and run the boiler for at least 20 minutes. Using a digital combustion gas analyser, check and adjust the air setting to get the required percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> in the flue gases. The HVO conversion process is then complete.



For further information, please visit [www.grantuk.com/support/biofuelheating](http://www.grantuk.com/support/biofuelheating).

# Can a devolved region lead the way for the introduction of renewable liquid fuels for heat?

In Northern Ireland the mood music would suggest so. While it is part of the UK, energy policy is devolved and, with over 60% of homes here (c.500,00) dependent on a liquid fuel, the dynamic is somewhat different to GB where a liquid fuel makes up less than 4% of the market.

Add into the mix that 70% of bungalows, 50% of semis, 53% of detached and 44% of terraces are in SAP bands D – G the size and scale of the challenge of delivering an electric future becomes evident.

Between 2010 and 2020, renewable energy development in Northern Ireland (NI) has been largely steered by two targets:

- Achieving 40% electricity consumption from renewable generation by 2020
- Achieving 10% heat consumption from renewable generation by 2020

Both targets were part of the Strategic Energy Framework 2010 to 2020. The 40% target for renewable electricity was achieved ahead of schedule and has been surpassed but the renewable heat target was not achieved.

Looking ahead, the Climate Change (Northern Ireland) 2022 Act sets a target of an at least 100% reduction in net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. The Act also sets other sectoral targets including 2030 targets of at least 80% of electricity consumption from renewable sources.



All well and good, and with onshore wind delivering most of the renewable power, the 80% target may well be achievable. But, with wind operating at a c.32% load factor what do we do if the wind doesn't blow? Back up will be required. If that's not a fossil fuel, what is the alternative?

The liquid fuel sector has always advocated that the overarching objective of any energy policy should be to ensure that the right system is put into the right home. The key focus to 2030 should be ensuring that certain low-regret pathways remain open, while focusing on removing the most carbon intensive sources of heating. We believe we can do that without serious cost implications for liquid fuel users by replacing heating oil with renewable liquid fuels, such as HVO.

Although we have no Stormont Executive at the minute, work continues on the new energy strategy, and the



Representatives of the energy sector at the Energy Institute event

Department for Economy (DfE) has taken the very positive step of establishing a biofuels stakeholder group. The first meeting was held in August and an extract from the brief below shows the interest that DfE are taking in biofuels: "DfE is developing a call for evidence (CfE) on the roles that HVO and renewable biofuels (such as BioLPG) will play in decarbonising heat in Northern Ireland's homes and buildings. The outworking of the CfE will feed into a comprehensive approach to the decarbonisation of heating in homes and buildings in Northern Ireland, providing pathways that are stable, predictable, and constructive in reducing our emissions reductions targets, lowering energy demand, and helping to alleviate fuel poverty.

"As you will know, biofuels are typically regarded as much cleaner than their fossil equivalents and the role they play during our energy transition could be the vital accelerator we need to help Northern Ireland achieve its Net Zero by 2050 commitment. Properties that use kerosene or LPG could make an immediate transition to low carbon heating as biofuels are considered carbon neutral."

The comment that biofuels are considered carbon neutral is a big statement and clearly shows the positive approach the Department is taking to decarbonisation.

OFTEC has always taken the position that a mix of solutions will be required to address decarbonisation and this message appears to be getting through to decision makers.

At a recent meeting and presentation to the Energy institute, OFTEC's David Blevings said: "We were delighted to be invited to the symposium, as liquid fuel has the majority share of the domestic heating market in Northern Ireland, and we need to be part of the discussion and solution.

"All the attendees welcomed our proposal to decarbonise oil fired homes with the introduction and move to biofuels. We have shown that HVO works and offers an immediate c.88% reduction in carbon emissions. A key take-away from the symposium was that everyone in the audience agreed there is no silver bullet to decarbonisation – all technologies will be required if we are to achieve the net zero targets. At OFTEC we are very optimistic that biofuels will be included in a new energy strategy for Northern Ireland."



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# England Lioness and Worcester Bosch team up to support local football club

England Lioness, Lauren Hemp joined Worcester Bosch as it donated a brand-new boiler and put on an exclusive coaching session for a local, Lancashire-based football club and its young players, as part of its 'Warming Your Community' initiative.

The initiative was launched in July 2021 for the company to give back to those who make a positive difference to their community, with local organisations nominated to receive the support.

Coppull United F.C, with the last functioning football pitch in the surrounding area, is a vital hub for many aspiring footballers in the local community but, with their existing boiler beyond repair, and energy costs ever rising, the club could not afford a suitable replacement meaning that the winter months could be tough for the local players.

Through Worcester Bosch's 'Warming Your Community' initiative, however, the club was able to secure these essential upgrades. Mark Heyes from Heyes Plumbing and Heating nominated the club and installed the

donated Worcester Bosch boiler free of charge.

Worcester Bosch also asked Lauren Hemp to lead a day of training with young footballers from the local community. Lauren, whose appearance was a total surprise to the aspiring young footballers, shared exactly how important her own club was to her in her youth. She recalls: "I remember being seven or eight and going down to my local football club with kids from school, and it being a place where we could all feel safe and comfortable. Even now, when I go home I do my training there, because it offers such a feeling of togetherness. Being here today reminds me a lot of these memories, and it's great that kids can now come here and feel that protection and warmth like I did."

Lauren, who fondly remembers her experience at a grassroots club, hopes this donation from Worcester Bosch will allow all young people to come to the club and appreciate the value of local community spaces.

She notes: "It is important having places like Coppull United. When

I was younger, I never realised my dreams could become a reality. There can always be talent in unexpected places, and we need to try and keep these grassroots spaces where people can express themselves and start their journey as a footballer, like I did.

"Some clubs aren't as lucky to be able to provide a warm environment for children, so I think this initiative is so important and is going to really benefit this club."

Mark Heyes, the installer and a passionate volunteer at the club, was also central to the success of the day. He commented: "I'm delighted to have been able to support the club even more. The new, efficient boiler will not only keep the club members warm but also help keep running costs down."

Ann Smith, Coppull United F.C. treasurer, shared this sentiment, stating: "We can't thank Worcester Bosch and Lauren enough. The new system will keep everybody warm in winter. We're just so grateful for it because we couldn't afford to do it alone."



# Improving efficiency and keeping costs down with Firebird

"Firebird's Enviroair Air Source Heat Pump is a highly efficient and eco-friendly heating option for new build properties and developments," explains national sales manager, Gary Davies. "As more and more homeowners opt for renewable energies like heat pumps, installers can help customers maximise the efficiency of their Firebird Enviroair heat pump by providing advice on how to maintain it year-round.

"The homeowner needs to understand how the heat pump system operates and use the heating controls correctly in order to maximise its efficiency during seasonal changes. Holding a steady temperature allows heat pumps to operate most efficiently. Many may think that turning the temperature of the heat pump down when they are away or asleep could save them money on running costs, but as it has to work harder to reach the desired temperature, it could actually end up costing them more. It is recommended to set it at a comfortable temperature and leave it."



Gary explains further: "Even if the house feels warm enough, hot water isn't needed, or there is a desire to save money, it's not advisable to turn off the heat pump completely. Doing so will cause the system to have to work harder in the colder months, using more electricity in order to reach its peak performance level."

Designed to provide an economical and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional heating and hot water systems, the Enviroair

pumps are available in single phase outputs from 7.5 to 16kW. Featuring a single Monobloc unit, which is installed outside the property, the range provides a compact and space saving solution. Cheaper to install than a ground source heat pump, every 1kW of electricity used to power a pump provides up to 5kW of energy to a home. It is ultra-quiet in operation and emits fewer decibels than a domestic fridge, making it the perfect choice for renewable home heating.

To support installers, Firebird's Technical Hub aims to make the planning and installation process of the heating system as simple and as trouble free as possible. Based at the company's UK headquarters in Plymouth, the Technical Hub provides a free home heating consultation and technical support package for heating professionals. The service not only ensures that important warranty criteria are met, but in the case of renewable installations, provides valuable support in complying with MCS requirements.

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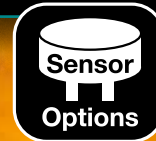
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## KANE988

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- Graphic colour display



## KANE-GCU

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# New technical manual and digital field guide released

OFTEC is very pleased to announce the release of the OFTEC Technical Manual and the OFTEC Domestic Liquid Fuel Field Guide which will be new for 2024.

These publications have been designed with the technician in mind, making technical information more accessible than ever before. It will be available as a digital publication for use on electronic devices or alternatively available to purchase as a hard copy.

## Development

The new technical manual and field guide publication was a culmination of over two years' work. The field guide, which is still in development, was redesigned based on feedback received from technicians and analysis. It was clear that a new publication was needed, which was an easy-to-read, well-illustrated, on-site technical guide available in a fully digital format which could be rendered and used on all screen devices.

## OFTEC Technical Manual



This publication is available from training centres and is supplied as a learning aid when taking an OFTEC course or alternatively can be purchased from OFTEC Direct as a physical publication only. The technical manual can also be used by technicians when out in the field for reference.

It is an in-depth technical publication that is used as reference material when taking OFTEC assessments and thereafter, and proves a detailed technical resource. At present, it is limited to content relating to the installation, servicing, and commissioning of liquid fuel-fired equipment. In the future, further modules relating to solid fuel and renewable technologies will be available to incorporate within the publication folder.

Images are examples of illustrations from the new technical manual.

## Layout

The technical manual is made up of four modules of which the first module – the core – is made up of eight sections and supplied in a folder as standard. The core module consists of the following sections:

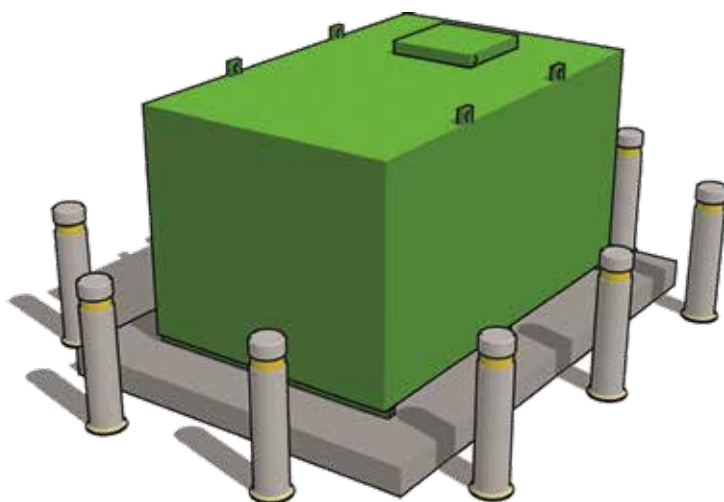
- Introduction, Glossary of Terms, Definitions, Abbreviations, and Further Reading
- Health, Safety and Waste Disposal
- Fuel
- Fuel Storage
- Fuel Supply
- Appliances, Flues and Ventilation
- Heating and Hot Water Systems
- OFTEC Procedures and Documentation

The contents of these sections replace Technical Books 1, 3 and 4. The content covers everything required for taking OFTEC's assessments.

Further sections as below can be added to the folder as required:

- Servicing and commissioning of single stage pressure jet appliances (Replaces Technical Book 2 - required for OFTEC's 101 assessment)
- Servicing and commissioning of multistage pressure jet appliances (Replaces Technical Book 7 – required for OFTEC's 201 assessment)
- Servicing and commissioning of vaporising appliance (Replaces Technical Book 5 – required for OFTEC's 102 assessment)

In total, the page count for all sections has been reduced by approximately 600 pages compared to the previous Technical Books 1- 7!





## Content

The technical manual is limited to content directly affecting technicians. Content related to improving the energy efficiency of houses has been removed. As general health and safety content is easily accessible on HSE websites, topics are limited to liquid fuel specific information.

The entire manual is written to discuss liquid fuel installations, not oil installations, thereby future proofing the manual for the use of biofuels. For the first time, detailed information on HVO is included, such as fuel properties and conversion processes. Non-domestic requirements are clearer and the entire manual features new illustrations to simplify understanding.

## Updates?

There is no need to print updates for this publication! It will be valid for five years until your next assessment. OFTEC registered technicians will be kept updated via technical notices and an exciting FREE digital field guide that will be updated annually. Keep reading to learn more.

## OFTEC Domestic Liquid Fuel Field Guide

The field guide replaces and expands upon the popular Domestic Oil Heating Pocket Guide. It is only available to OFTEC registered technicians as a benefit of registration.

## Layout

All technicians will receive a FREE digital copy annually. An A5 sized physical publication will also be available for purchase for those who don't want a digital version but want a hard copy to carry in the van. The guide will be updated annually with any industry changes. Subsequently, the latest digital version will be sent to technicians.

## Content

The field guide is limited to information technicians need to know when carrying out their day-to-day jobs. It is not designed to replace the technical manual – rather it is a ready-reference for use in the field. It features the following content:

## FAQs

**Q.** I have not sat assessments with the new technical manual yet and I have an OFTEC inspection coming up. Will the inspector expect me to own a copy of the new technical manual?

**A.** No. The inspector will check you have your old technical books and the new field guide as and when it has been launched.

**Q.** Do I have to print any more book updates?

**A.** No. You can stay up-to-date by reading e-news, accessing newly published OFTEC technical notices, and holding the latest version of the field guide (as a digital or physical copy).

**Q.** How can I purchase a copy of the new technical manual and a physical copy of the field guide?

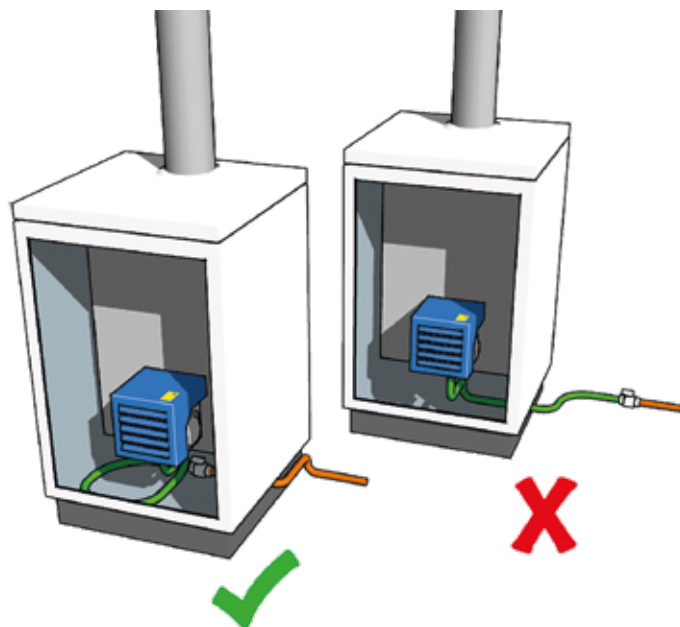
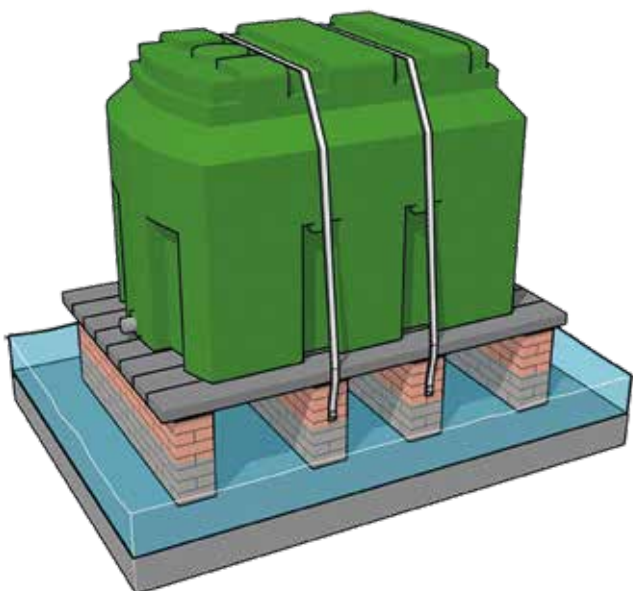
**A.** They are available at OFTEC Direct, our online shop.

**Q.** How can I access a digital copy of the field guide?

**A.** A digital copy of the field guide will be available from your business or technician portal found at [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org). Businesses and technicians can log in to view and download the document. Physical copies of the field guide are also available to purchase from OFTEC Direct if you would like a hard copy.

- Compliance
- Fuel storage tanks
- Fill pipes and vent pipes
- Fuel supply systems
- Appliances
- Carbon monoxide detectors
- Flues and chimneys
- Combustion and ventilation air
- Heating and hot water systems
- HVO conversion
- Nozzle sizing and pump pressure calculation
- Procedures
- Classifying risks

The field guide also includes a limited selection of technical notices in the appendix – again, limited to those particularly useful in the field.



# Ensuring tanks are fit for the future

Discussions continue about replacing kerosene with renewable liquid fuels like HVO. A successful transition will be heavily influenced by the care taken during fuel switch, and ensuring the tank receiving the new fuel is in good condition and as clean as possible.

Prior to any fuel switch, and for good environmental practice, tanks should routinely be visually inspected for defects such as distortion. Tanks with secondary containment are preferred for all applications to minimise any risk of fuel entering a water course following a fuel spill or leak. Plastic tanks should be checked for cracks, surface discolouration or crazing, and steel checked and protected from rusting. All tanks should be appropriately supported.

All fittings and equipment connected to a tank should be checked for correct operation. In particular, there should be appropriate filling

and venting arrangements and an operable and safe means of isolation for the oil supply pipe, as near to the tanks as possible. All tanks must also carry signage on what to do in the event of a fuel leak or spill. The tank inspection or service label should be affixed and completed with the time of the inspection by the technician at service intervals.

Detailed information relating to fuel tank fire and environmental protection requirements can be found in OFTEC technical book 3 or in module 1 of the new technical manual.

Regarding fuel switch, it is probable that switching will take place when the customer's tank contents are lowest. Whilst this means that waste residues uplifted from the tank will be kept to a minimum, they will still need to be handled with care and attention, and then contained, transported, and disposed of in line with waste handling requirements.

Some appliance installers may wish to partner with a licenced fuel distributor with the necessary experience to fulfil the fuel handling tasks, leaving the OFTEC technician to focus on the fitting/recommissioning of the boiler on the new fuel.

On filling a tank with renewable fuel, both tank and appliance should be clearly labelled, identifying the new fuel.

Further information on switching to renewable liquid fuel can be found in the HVO handbook, which is available to download from the OFTEC website.

A fuel storage tank is a valuable commodity and must be regularly checked and maintained if it is to remain in a safe and usable state. It is never too soon to exercise best practice when it comes to tank inspections and the routine withdrawal of any water and residues will help prepare for future conversion.

## Whatever your chosen technology OFTEC has you covered

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\* according to expected future ERP regulations

# Grant UK extends its Uflex underfloor heating cashback promotion

Installers will now be able to claim £150 cashback on purchases made until the end of the year.

Grant UK is extending its popular Uflex underfloor heating range cashback promotion to 31st December 2023. The £150 cashback is available on purchases of eligible Uflex and Uflex MINI UFH systems made before the end date.

The promotion was launched at the beginning of 2023 and with continued interest in its underfloor heating range, Grant UK has decided to extend it for a further six months. The promotion aims to reward and support installers while also giving their customers all the benefits that a Grant underfloor heating system can deliver.

The £150 cashback offered is available

to installers who order a Grant Uflex or Uflex MINI underfloor heating system during the promotional period which has a total retail order value of £1,500 or more\*. Once the system is installed and registered, installers simply make a claim via [www.grantuk.com/professional/uflexcashbackpromotion](http://www.grantuk.com/professional/uflexcashbackpromotion) by fully completing the online claim form. Installers will also need to provide proof of purchase with a copy of their merchant purchase invoice.

"The first six months of this year have been an exciting time, with interest in our underfloor heating offering growing significantly," comments Andy Smith, national sales manager at Grant UK. "We wanted to extend this promotion so that our installer customers can continue to enjoy the benefits of this cashback promotion for the rest of the year.



"With our comprehensive range of traditional, low profile and non-screeded underfloor heating systems, combined with the extensive support delivered by our in-house Design Team, installers turn to Grant UK for the complete package."

\*Full Terms and Conditions apply. For more information about this underfloor heating promotion, please visit [www.grantuk.com/professional/uflexcashbackpromotion](http://www.grantuk.com/professional/uflexcashbackpromotion).

# Embrace future home energy opportunities with Warmflow's FREE heat pump training

Already a strong name in the traditional heating and energy sector, Warmflow is demonstrating its commitment to sustainable solutions by offering free training in air source heat pumps.

As the world shifts towards sustainable energy sources, companies that prioritise training and education play a vital role in driving this transition. Warmflow's ground-breaking initiative will equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to revolutionise the energy sector and pave the way for accelerated uptake of air source heat pumps (ASHPs).

ASHPs have emerged as a game-changing technology, but their widespread adoption requires a well-trained workforce capable of installing, maintaining, and optimising these systems.

## Empowering installers

Warmflow is looking to bridge this skills gap by offering free training



programs focused specifically on ASHPs. By providing comprehensive instruction and hands-on experience, Warmflow will empower individuals to become proficient in installation and operation in line with the company's mission of promoting sustainable energy solutions. By removing financial barriers, Warmflow enables individuals from diverse backgrounds to access high-quality training and gain a competitive edge in the industry.

Warmflow's free ASHP training

is more than just a professional development opportunity; it is a catalyst for personal and community empowerment. By equipping individuals with the skills to install and maintain ASHPs, Warmflow enables them to actively contribute to a sustainable future.

With an accelerating demand for renewable energy, Warmflow's free heat pump training will play a crucial role in delivering a skilled workforce to meet this demand.



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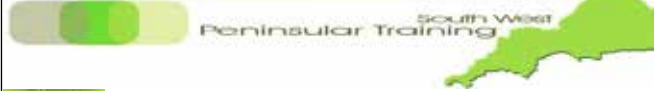

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OFTEC Technical Officers play a crucial role in providing technical support to the registered technicians, dealing with liquid fuel, renewable energy technologies and solid fuel related queries. They also provide support to ensure that installations are undertaken compliantly and in accordance with industry legislation and guidance, whilst keeping up to date with the latest developments and best practices in the sector.

**For more information on these roles visit**  
**[www.oftec.org/careers](http://www.oftec.org/careers)**

# Fuel price commentary

One of the most frequent criticisms of oil heating is that it is much more expensive than other popular fuel options. Indeed, it's so often stated that it's widely assumed to be true – even governments quote it to justify wanting to end the use of oil heating. But is it actually correct?

Perhaps surprisingly, the long-term data from the Sutherland Tables reveals a different story. It shows that over the last decade, the average annual cost of mains gas has actually been slightly higher than oil. For example, in Great Britain, for a typical home using a condensing boiler, the annual average cost for mains gas was £1,086, but for oil it

was cheaper at just £1,063.

The story in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland was similar. In Northern Ireland, the average annual cost for gas was £1,064, compared to £1,025 for oil. In the Republic, mains gas averaged €2,104, while oil cost only €1,458.

So why do so many people – even in our own industry - assume oil is more expensive? Perhaps the explanation is that while mains gas has been cheaper more often over the decade than oil, it is usually only slightly less expensive. By contrast, when the oil price is lower, it tends to be much cheaper than other options.

The off-gas grid fuel that is more expensive is oil's rival LPG. Only in two quarters over the last ten years has LPG been cheaper than oil. In Great Britain, its annual cost over the last ten years was £1,604, while in Northern Ireland and the ROI, it cost £1,594 and €2,410 respectively, all much higher than oil.

The current price charts back this up – for many households it will make depressing reading, but oil users can be pleased that they're using the cheapest fuel! So, if you're busy servicing boilers at the moment, why not tell your customers the good news!

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

GREAT BRITAIN (average)

	Jun-22	Jun-23	Price change	% Difference	4 year average
Electric storage heaters	3550	<b>3430</b>	-120	-3%	2618
Gas condensing boiler	1345	<b>2124</b>	779	58%	1158
LPG Condensing boiler radiators and DHW cylinder	1552	<b>1836</b>	284	18%	1565
Oil condensing boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	1885	<b>1296</b>	-589	-31%	1142
Wood pellets	1819	<b>2689</b>	870	48%	1802
Air source heat pump radiators	2850	<b>3220</b>	370	13%	2299
Air source heat pump underfloor	2390	<b>2700</b>	310	13%	1873

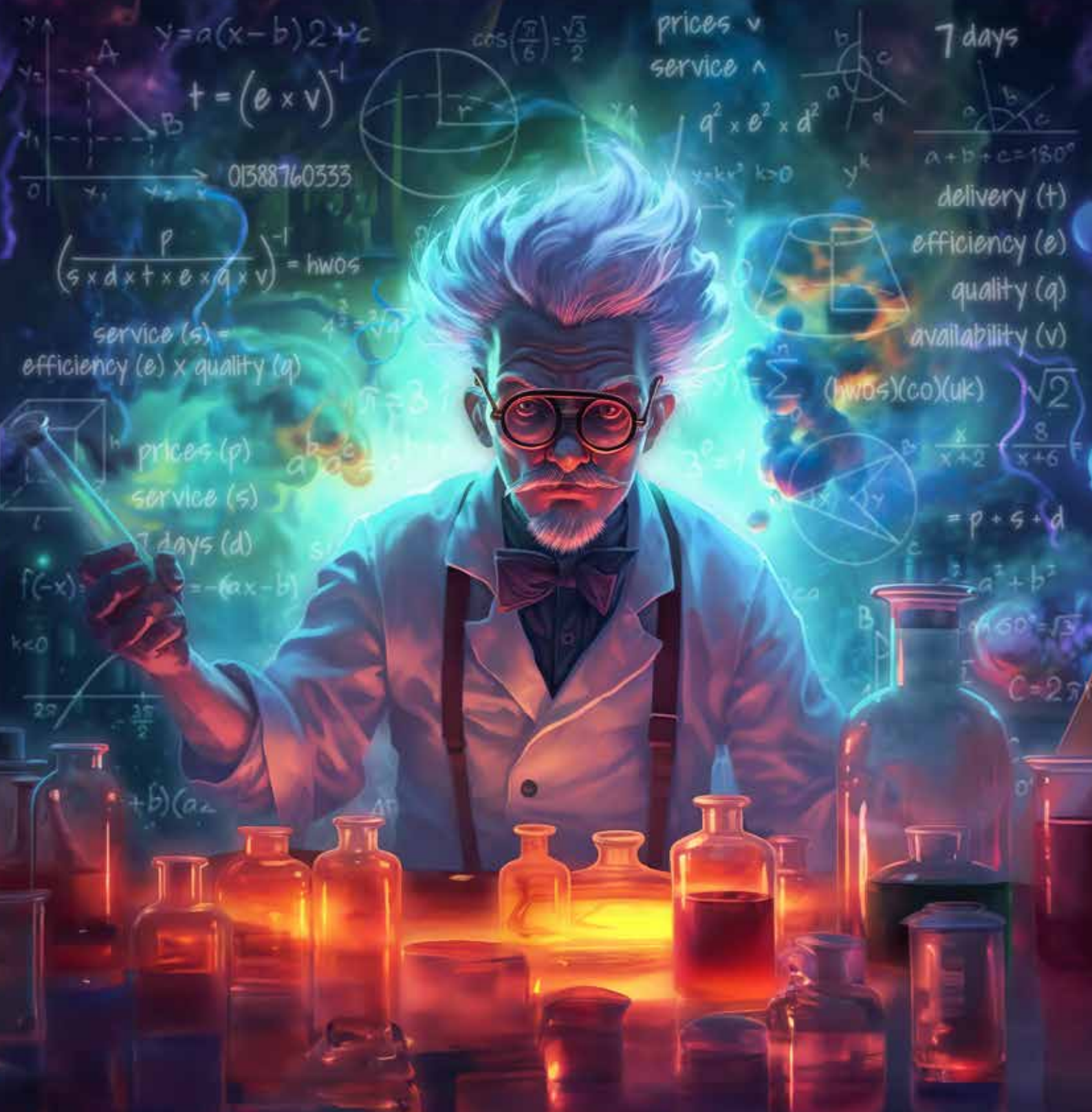
NORTHERN IRELAND

	Jun-22	Jun-23	Price change	% Difference	4 year average
Electric storage heaters	2420	<b>3268</b>	848	35%	2197
Gas condensing boiler	1392	<b>1993</b>	601	43%	1190
LPG Condensing boiler radiators and DHW cylinder	2218	<b>2251</b>	33	1%	2052
Oil condensing boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	1792	<b>1190</b>	-602	-34%	1097
Wood pellets	1446	<b>2014</b>	568	39%	1394
Air source heat pump radiators	2112	<b>2738</b>	626	30%	1963
Air source heat pump underfloor	1748	<b>2264</b>	516	30%	1581

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	Jun-22	Jun-23	Price change	% Difference	4 year average
Electric storage heaters	2994	<b>4516</b>	1522	51%	2801
Gas condensing boiler	1955	<b>2836</b>	881	45%	1662
LPG Condensing boiler radiators and DHW cylinder	2637	<b>2856</b>	219	8%	2508
Oil condensing boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	2371	<b>1720</b>	-651	-27%	1533
Wood pellets	1757	<b>2369</b>	612	35%	1610
Air source heat pump radiators	2684	<b>3798</b>	1114	42%	2411
Air source heat pump underfloor	2286	<b>3187</b>	901	39%	2022

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. Prices are shown in pounds sterling (£) for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and euros (€) for the Republic of Ireland.



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