IF YOU

are replacing domestic heating boilers or hot water vessels you need to know about the new

BUILDING REGULATIONS – PART L1

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL DOMESTIC HEATING INSTALLERS

From 1st April 2002, the Building Regulations for England and Wales – Part L1 – change in some very important ways. These changes now cover existing homes as well as new properties.

The new Building Regulations reflect the far greater importance the Government is putting on energy efficiency. From now on, if you are replacing a boiler or hot water vessel, or controls or making changes to the system, you will have to demonstrate that you have carried out the work in accordance with the regulations.

This leaflet explains what equipment you will need to install and how you can be confident that you have complied with these important changes in the way you work.

You will have to install boilers which meet new energy efficiency requirements as measured by the SEDBUK ratings scheme. The level of efficiency varies slightly between fuel types, and we provide details later. Minimum efficiency requirements also apply to hot water storage vessels. See the back page of this leaflet for details of where to find information.

As well as Part L1, Part J has been updated which brings in other aspects of what you do – for example, the positioning of flue terminals.

Every installation involving a boiler or hot water vessel will need to be certified as being installed and commissioned by a competent person. The routes to this are:

i) for a competent person to self-certify the work, using an approved 'commissioning certificate'.

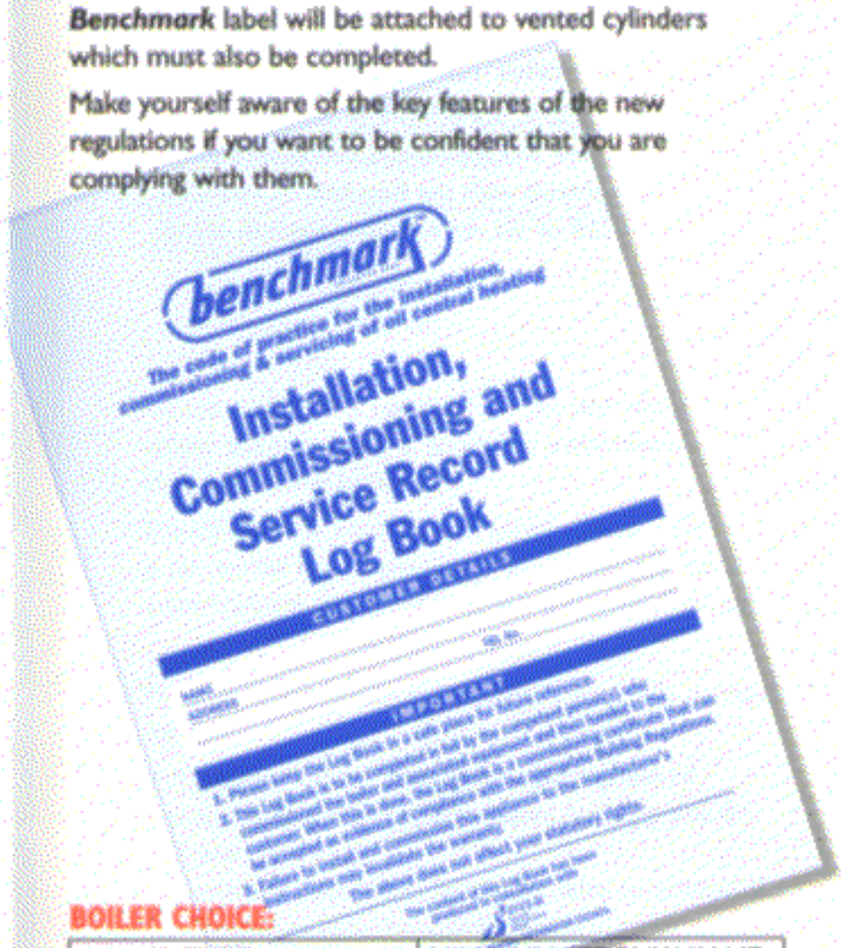
ii) apply for approval through the local Building Control body.

For the purposes of the new regulations the Government has defined a competent person as:

- A CORGI registered installer for gas installations
- An OFTEC registered technician for oil installations
- A HETAS registered installer for solid fuel systems
- Registered operatives who comply with Building Regulations – G3 for unvented hot water systems.

This provides a straightforward route for a competent person to self-certify their work using a 'commissioning certificate' such as the ***Benchmark*** log book. Most installers are familiar with the ***Benchmark*** log book, but this has been redesigned to meet the requirements of the new regulations in consultation with the Government. There's a ***Benchmark*** log book included with over 90% of new boilers and unvented hot water storage vessels sold. A ***Benchmark*** label will be attached to vented cylinders which must also be completed.

Make yourself aware of the key features of the new regulations if you want to be confident that you are complying with them.



BOILER CHOICE:

BOILER TYPE:	MINIMUM SEDBUK VALUE
Natural Gas	78%
Natural gas – back boilers	75%
LPG	80%
LPG – back boilers	77%
Oil	85%
Oil – combi boiler	82%
Solid fuel	Not less than that recommended in the HETAS certification scheme

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

You should note that the new Building Regulations still relate to new build properties, and whilst their scope increases, the principles are similar.

We cannot provide detailed information in this leaflet, only a brief outline of most of the important aspects you will need to know and understand.

REPLACING BOILERS OR HOT WATER VESSELS IN EXISTING DWELLINGS

The replacement of a boiler or hot water storage vessel has to meet requirements of the Building Regulations ADL1 from 1st April 2002.

To be confident these requirements are met, this would entail the following:

BOILER AND HEATING SYSTEM CONSIDERATIONS:

- A boiler meeting the minimum SEDBUK value shown in the 'Boiler Choice' table at the bottom of page 3.
- Insulate all primary pipework, which is altered or replaced and is outside the heated space.
- If the boiler requires a bypass to be fitted, then use an automatic by-pass valve as well as any minimum pipe length specified in manufacturer's instructions.

OTHER FORMS OF HEATING:

- Warm air heating units should meet the requirements of BS EN778:1998.
- Insulation should be provided on any ducts that are newly installed or changed.

HOT WATER VESSELS:

- For vented systems, replacement copper cylinders should be labelled as conforming to the relevant British Standards, ie BS1566 & BS3198.
- Cylinders labelled type P are only suitable for pumped primary systems. Type G should ideally be pumped but can be used on gravity systems.
- Unvented systems should either be labelled as complying with BS7206 and/or certified by the BBA, WRc or other accredited body.
- Primary Stores should demonstrate compliance by meeting the requirements of the 1999 WMA performance specifications for thermal stores.
- All the pipes connected to a hot water vessel should be insulated for at least a metre in length or up to the point at which they are concealed to limit summer heat loss from the vessel. This includes the primary flow and return connections and the vent pipe.

CONTROLS:

- The opportunity should be taken to improve the system controls.

FULLY PUMPED SYSTEMS:

- For fully pumped systems the control system should provide time and temperature control to both the heating and hot water circuits and a boiler control interlock.
- Fit TRVs on at least those radiators in the sleeping areas if not already fitted.
- If a room thermostat is not fitted, then one should be fitted in a room without a TRV.
- Provide time control if not present by fitting
  - A full programmer or
  - A standard programmer or
  - A mini programmer or
  - Time switches.
- No time control is required for the hot water circuit where the hot water is produced instantaneously, such as with a combi boiler.
- Ensure that the controls are wired so that when there is no call for heat from either the heating or the hot water circuits the boiler and pump are switched off.

SEMI GRAVITY SYSTEMS:

- The preferred option is to convert to a fully pumped system.
- If this is impractical, choose a boiler capable of operating on a semi-gravity system and upgrade the controls to include:
  - A cylinder thermostat and zone valve to control the hot water temperature and provide a boiler interlock
  - A room thermostat
  - A programmer or time switch
  - TRVs on the radiators at least in the sleeping areas.

CHECK WITH YOUR SUPPLIER THAT THE BOILER OR HOT WATER VESSEL SELECTED MEETS THESE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

For a copy of the comprehensive 'The Domestic Heating & Hot Water Guide to the Building Regulations 2001 – Part L1', please visit www.centralheating.co.uk (and others) and download a copy. Alternatively call 0845 600 2200 or fax 01926 423 284.

Other sources of information you may find helpful:

The Boiler Efficiency Database of boilers that includes the SEDBUK values, is available at www.boilers.org.uk

The Energy Saving Trust provides the database in a regularly updated publication called 'The Little Blue Book of Boilers'. A copy can be obtained by calling 0845 727 7200.

Good Practice Guide 302 if followed, will ensure full compliance for controls with the Regulations. Available from 01926 664258 or via www.heatingcontrols.org.uk

Energy Efficiency **Partnership** for Homes

DTLR Transport Local Government Regions

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SBGI TACMA WMA Central Heating Information Council