

20th July 2006

Notice to Manufacturers of Solid Fuel Appliances

I am pleased to report that HETAS Ltd is now able to Certify Manufacturers' test information for the purposes of energy rating and minimum efficiency requirements under Building Regulations ADL1. This is trailed in the Message From the Minister at the beginning of the HETAS Guide No 13.

This function will comprise two categories. The first covers models with hot water boilers that will require a SEDBUK listing and the second deals with "dry" appliances such as roomheaters and stoves without boilers. The way in which the two categories are to be used is as follows. It has been agreed that the SEDBUK rating application form will be made available by us to the operator of the SEDBUK data base and will provide manufacturers with a very convenient, fast track, method for getting onto that listing. In this HETAS will act in its role as the Certification body for the UK solid fuel industry and Certify manufacturers' claims backed by the relevant information.

The SEDBUK database itself can only be accessed, via a code, by a limited number of persons/organisations who require it for the Energy Assessments and SAP calculations that they have to carry out under the new Building Regulations ADL1. Information on "dry" appliances such as open fires, roomheaters and stoves is also required to enable SAP ratings to be calculated. For "dry" appliances, however, there is no equivalent listing similar to that of SEDBUK for the appliances with a boiler. HETAS will publish on its web site www.hetas.co.uk the relevant information required for these calculations for both wet and dry appliances.

Further, HETAS, as the operator of its solid fuel installers Competent Persons Scheme has a duty to make appliance efficiency information available to its CPS Registered Installers and will publish, in its listing, appliances both with and without boilers that meet HETAS and Building Regulations minimum appliance efficiency requirements. For HETAS, therefore, there is no distinction between "wet" and "dry" appliances - as both are covered by Building Regulations and have to meet minimum efficiency and other relevant requirements under current Building Regulations including SAP calculations. These will be listed by ourselves, made available to HETAS Registered installers and be publicly available on the above web site.

To be listed by HETAS, manufacturers of solid fuel appliances should contact HETAS at the address below with details of both the "wet" and "dry" appliances they wish to be considered for listing. Where an appliance with boiler is concerned the manufacturer should indicate that they wish us to Certify the appliance for inclusion in the SEDBUK list. We can "deal with" a package of appliances as a whole.

To carry out these functions HETAS requires from a manufacturer the Technical Files containing Independent Type Test [ITT] results following testing, carried out by a notified Laboratory such as GASTEC at CRE Ltd or one of the Notified Laboratories in Continental Europe, to a current EN for the appliances wishing to have HETAS Approved status and listing on the HETAS web site and in its, annually published, "Guide".

For UK Building Regulation purposes we need to know the following information:-

Product information:- Fuel burned; Appliance Brand Name; Model Name; Model Qualifier and any special Product Identifier.

Performance Results:- Test Fuel Used (as detailed in EN); Moisture content of Test Fuel (for coal derived fuels moisture is to be reported on a dry basis whilst for wood based fuels moisture is to be reported on an as received basis).

Test Results :- Results are required at Full (Nominal) Output and also at Part Output (circa 25 - 33% in accord with the minimum requirement of the specific EN). The requirements for each of these Output categories are i) Measured Heat Input in kW ii) Measured Heat to Water in kW and iii) Measured Heat to Room in kW. Building Regulations require the efficiency at nominal output to exceed a minimum level (given on the HETAS web site) measured on a Gross (Higher) CV basis.

The EN Type Tests are normally carried out to give a Net (Lower) CV efficiency. It is therefore preferable to have the Notified Test Laboratory calculate the efficiency on a Gross CV basis using the actual test fuel's analysis. Alternatively, given the use of a standard fuel such as wood logs or anthracite it is possible for us to apply a correction factor to the Net CV figure to estimate the Gross CV efficiency.

Further, the ENs do not require efficiency measurements to be carried out at Part Output whilst SEDBUK and SAP calculations require this information to estimate a Seasonal Efficiency. However, where this information is not available the SAP Assessor will use a default figure of 97.5% of the Nominal Output value. There is an advantage in having the efficiency measurement made at Part Output if the result gives an answer significantly above the Nominal Output efficiency.

Within the SAP assessment a default figure is used for the "static" heat losses to be applied to the appliance when not in use. This default figure is usually considerably higher than that normally found by measurement with all the appliance air controls shut down. There is so far no standard test for this but a value measured at 6 Pascals flue draft is considered to be acceptable.

In order to Certify a range of appliances, we need the manufacturer to make available a series of Technical Files from the Notified Laboratories covering type testing to the appropriate EN. This will enable us to verify the above information and report or calculate the efficiencies on a Gross CV basis.

The Net of VAT fee for our Certification and listing depends on the numbers and types of appliance you wish to submit. We will let you know the charge after initial discussions and before submission. This covers Certification, listing in our Guide and on our web site of your Company's name and of all the individual products together with their nominal outputs and Gross efficiencies. Such listing will be confirmed and renewed annually. We are currently preparing Guide No 14 for 2007 and for which September is the deadline.

If you wish your products to be HETAS Approved and Listed in our "Guide" and have us Certify your product information to SEDBUK then please send your request to me at HETAS Ltd, Orchard Business Park, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire, GL52 7RZ detailing the appliances you wish to submit to us. I am afraid that the requirements of the new Building Regulations are somewhat more complicated than I would wish. Therefore, you may wish to contact me via HETAS on 01242 673502. I am most happy to discuss this further if I can be of assistance.

W G Kaye
Director, Approvals and Certifications,
HETAS Ltd