

Contact details

Full details of the companies registered with HETAS under the Competent Persons Scheme are available from the following sources:

HETAS
Orchard Business Centre
Stoke Orchard
Cheltenham, Glous
GL52 7RZ
Tel: 0845 634 5626
www.hetas.co.uk

Solid Fuel Association
7 Swanwick Court
Alfreton, Derbys
DE55 7AS
Tel: 0845 601 4406
Fax: 01773 834351
www.solidfuel.co.uk

Service and maintenance

In order to ensure your new solid fuel fired appliance maintains its performance and operates in a safe manner HETAS recommends an annual service (including chimney sweeping) is carried out. Many of the companies registered with HETAS are able to undertake service and maintenance in a professional manner. The addresses above should be contacted to identify which companies are registered for this type of work.

Approved Chimney Sweeps

In addition to the register of businesses able to undertake the installation and servicing of solid fuel appliances, we also operate a nationwide list of Approved Chimney Sweeps. Again, details can be obtained from the contact points above or from:

The National Association of Chimney Sweeps - NACS

Unit 15, Emerald Way
Stone Business Park
Stone, Staffs
ST15 0SR

Tel: 0800 833464
Fax: 01785 811712
www.nacs.org.uk

The Guild of Master Sweeps - GMS

The Bungalow
London Road
Attleborough, Norfolk
NR17 2DE

Tel: 01953 451322
www.guild-of-master-sweeps.co.uk
contactus@guild-of-master-sweeps.co.uk

The Association of Professional and Independent Chimney Sweeps – APICS

1 Aldens Green
Alphington
Exeter, Devon
EX2 8TR

Tel: 01392 479239
www.chimneysweeps.org.uk

HETAS

Heating Equipment Testing and Approval Scheme



Competent Persons Scheme

Registered Scheme for Businesses and Engineers
involved in the installation and maintenance of
domestic solid fuel fired equipment

www.hetas.co.uk

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Competent Persons Scheme

Introduction

From 1st April 2002, people wishing to install a new, or replace an existing, solid fuel or wood burning appliance in their homes have been required to either obtain a Building Notice from their Local Authority, which can cost up to £300, or have the work carried out through a Government approved Competent Persons Scheme. The registered Competent Persons choice is generally significantly less expensive than seeking a Building Notice. HETAS is the only scheme specialising in solid fuel, wood and solid biomass installations.

HETAS Registered Installers can use our distinctive three-tick logo, as can manufacturers of appliances who have had their stoves and boilers approved through the HETAS product approval scheme, see www.hetas.co.uk.

HETAS is a non-profit making independent body whose prime function is to ensure the highest possible standards are maintained throughout the solid fuel, wood and biomass heating industry by regular testing and inspection of appliances, fuels and other associated equipment used in the domestic market.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recognise HETAS as the official approvals body for the domestic solid fuel industry.

Why have the rules changed?

As part of the Government's drive to improve standards in the construction industry and further the cause for conservation of fuel and power, the Building Regulations covering the installation of domestic heating equipment have undergone major revision. The Building Regulations apply to the installation of all new heating appliances using solid fuels, oil or gas and associated heating systems.

As well as the use of safe installation methods, it is also a requirement that new installations meet higher standards of efficiency and energy conservation. New appliances must meet minimum efficiency levels, as shown in the HETAS Official Guide and website, whilst the heating system must incorporate appropriate controls to limit excess fuel consumption.

Improving standards

Every year HETAS receives many complaints about heating installations carried out by businesses or individuals that are not registered and who have little or no experience. The installations are often to a poor standard of workmanship which may result in an unsafe installation. The Competent Persons Scheme is intended to provide a safeguard for customers, ensuring that the work complies with Building Regulations, is safe and fit for purpose.

How will the HETAS Competent Persons Scheme help me?

HETAS has a long history of dealing with all matters relating to solid fuel, wood and biomass along with the associated appliances and systems. We have developed a Registration Scheme for Businesses and listed competent individual Engineers involved with the installation of appliances and other related equipment e.g. chimneys and linings.

However, it should be noted that businesses are sometimes registered for the specific types of work e.g. dry stoves and chimney re-lining, whilst others may be registered for wet systems and new chimneys. Please ensure that you are getting an appropriate Registered Installer for the job you want done.

Businesses applying for membership of the HETAS Registration Scheme will have to meet a number of conditions before acceptance. The main conditions are:

- They employ HETAS trained engineers
- Their workmanship (on inspection) is of a good standard
- They have the required level of Public Liability Insurance
- They respond to customers' concerns in a positive way

If you use a Registered Installer you do not need to seek Building Control Approval before commencing work. This will save both time and money.

With the introduction of the Home Information Pack and more extensive checks on work done to your house when you sell it, you will want to ensure that any notifiable work is properly notified to your Local Authority to avoid problems. HETAS Registered Installers report all installations to HETAS and we ensure that your installation is properly notified to your Local Authority.

Your HETAS Registered Installer will issue you with a signed copy of a HETAS Certificate of Compliance confirming that the complete installation complies with the Building Regulations. It is the homeowners' responsibility to ensure that you have a valid Certificate of Compliance and only Registered Installers can give you this certificate.