

Solid fuel registration for competent persons



Solid fuel heating such as open fires, room heaters and stoves is back in demand with homeowners. The more traditional look of these appliances has become very popular and they also provide useful room heating which, for large houses, can reduce central heating bills. Their popularity has provided welcome business for solid fuel technicians and most now want to demonstrate their competence and professionalism to customers and show they work in compliance with building regulations.



New and replacement solid fuel combustion appliances must be installed in accordance with regional building regulations and manufacturers installation instructions. If they are not installed and maintained correctly they can present a dangerous risk to life and property. Badly installed or maintained appliances can cause fire, explosions or carbon monoxide (CO) spillage. Exposure to CO in living quarters of just 200 to 300 parts per million (ppm) can cause severe headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting and loss of consciousness over an 8 hour period.

OFTEC has been recognised since 1991 for promoting standards and excellence in rural heating through the training, assessment and registration of competent technicians who in turn provide a professional installation and commissioning service.

OFTEC's registration scheme has a proven pedigree and is recognised by governments as an accredited scheme for competent persons operating in the heating sector. This has now been expanded to cover technicians working in the solid fuel sector.

OFTEC offers the following scopes of solid fuel registration:

OFTEC 15-108(D)

Installation, commissioning and servicing of solid fuel burning appliances (dry space heating).

OFTEC 15-108(W)

As above but with space heating and hot water heating.

Under each scope of registration technicians can install, commission and service solid fuel fired stoves, room heaters and associated equipment and systems in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, industry practices and standards, and legislative requirements. For regions where relevant governments adopt a self-certification scheme installers can use the OFTEC work notification scheme to certify the solid fuel installation has been carried out in accordance with building regulations.

Householders in these regions can then receive a building regulation compliance certificate from OFTEC.



Technical Qualifications

If you have a recognised technical qualification* in solid fuel installation taken within the last four years you can apply to OFTEC to extend your existing business registration or you can apply from new following an initial evaluation. If your technical qualification is older than four years we recommend you retake a course and update your qualification to current industry practice before you register.

Biomass

For those looking at installing renewable biomass combustion appliances, OFTEC is developing a scope of registration called the OFT15-505 to cover the installation, commissioning and servicing of biomass combustion appliances. This will be available from the summer of 2015.

*Suitable qualifications are those mapped to the current minimum technical competences (MTC) for solid fuel or NVQ level 3 diploma in plumbing and heating with solid fuel option.

Benefits of registering for solid fuel:

- The ability to self-certify installation work in participating regions
- Exclusive use of the OFTEC logo on vans, stationery and other marketing materials
- Access to low cost business insurance through OFTEC Insurance Services
- Workmanship warranty available on work self-certified through the notification scheme (in regions operating a building regulation self-certification)
- Free technical support from qualified staff via telephone, fax or email
- Essential technical updates about industry changes
- A range of free of charge consumer-friendly information to help you win quotations and market your business
- Discounts on equipment and technical publications from OFTEC Direct
- Free listing on the OFTEC website for consumers to find you
- Free quarterly magazine posted out to all registered technicians and a monthly electronic newsletter
- Regular free to attend events including roadshows and exhibitions
- Chance to participate in the OFTEC Awards for Excellence
- OFTEC operates an internal consumer complaints process. This is designed to guide both consumer and technician through what can be a difficult and potentially stressful process
- A reporting system for non-compliant work carried out by non-registered technicians.

To find out more details about solid fuel registration please visit our website www.oftec.org or email us for information to registration@oftec.org or call 0845 65 85 080 or 01473 626298 (UK) or 01-8645771 (Republic of Ireland).

For more information please do not hesitate to contact our Registration Services Department at:

OFTEC, Foxwood House, Dobbs Lane, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 2QQ

t: 0845 65 85 080 or 01473 626298 (UK) or 01-8645771 (Republic of Ireland)

f: 0845 65 85 181 e: enquiries@oftec.org w: www.oftec.org