



The Certification Mark for Onsite
Sustainable Energy Technologies

MCS Newsletter June 2014



The Certification Mark for Onsite Sustainable Energy Technologies

In the June Issue.....

In this edition of the MCS newsletter, MCS will be providing Installers on information regarding MCS certificates, an update from Ofgem, and an update on MCS012.

If you are not on our mailing list yet, you can subscribe [here](#).

Gemserv Ltd is licensed to administer the MCS on behalf of the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

www.microgenerationcertification.org

Administered by



Contents

MCS Statistics

To find out more information regarding the latest statistic for the scheme, please [click here](#).

Reminder: Changes to the registration of Heat Technologies and Compliance Certificates

A number of changes have been made to the heat technology standards, and following feedback the compliance certificates have been amended. Please [click here](#) for further information regarding these changes.

Ofgem: Useful Information

As the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive is now up and running, we caught up with Ofgem, to offer some key tips and information [found here](#).

MCS Biomass Calculator Released

MCS has launched a new calculator to support biomass installers. For further information, please [click here](#).

MCS Certificates

MCS has recently published processes on what to do if you've missed the 10 day period to upload, and what consumers should do if they have not received a certificate. [Read more here on what to advise customers](#).

Notifications to DNOs

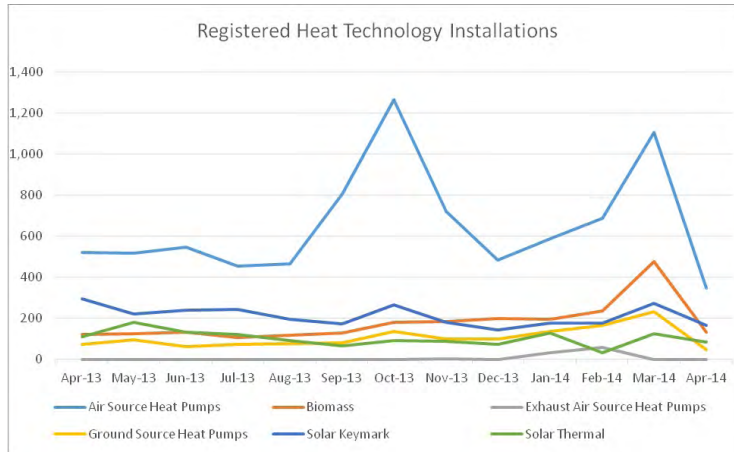
A reminder to all installers that they must notify Distributed Network Operators of installations. Find out more [here](#).

Medium Wind Working Group

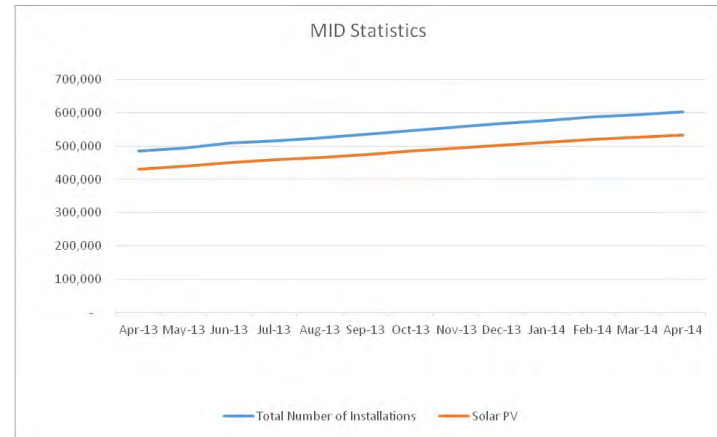
MCS is looking for participants to support biomass installers carrying out MCS design. Find out more [here](#).

MCS Statistics [1]

These graphs show the latest MCS statistics from the MCS Installation Database, regarding numbers of installations and technologies being registered, and the trends in the numbers and types of installation companies joining the scheme.

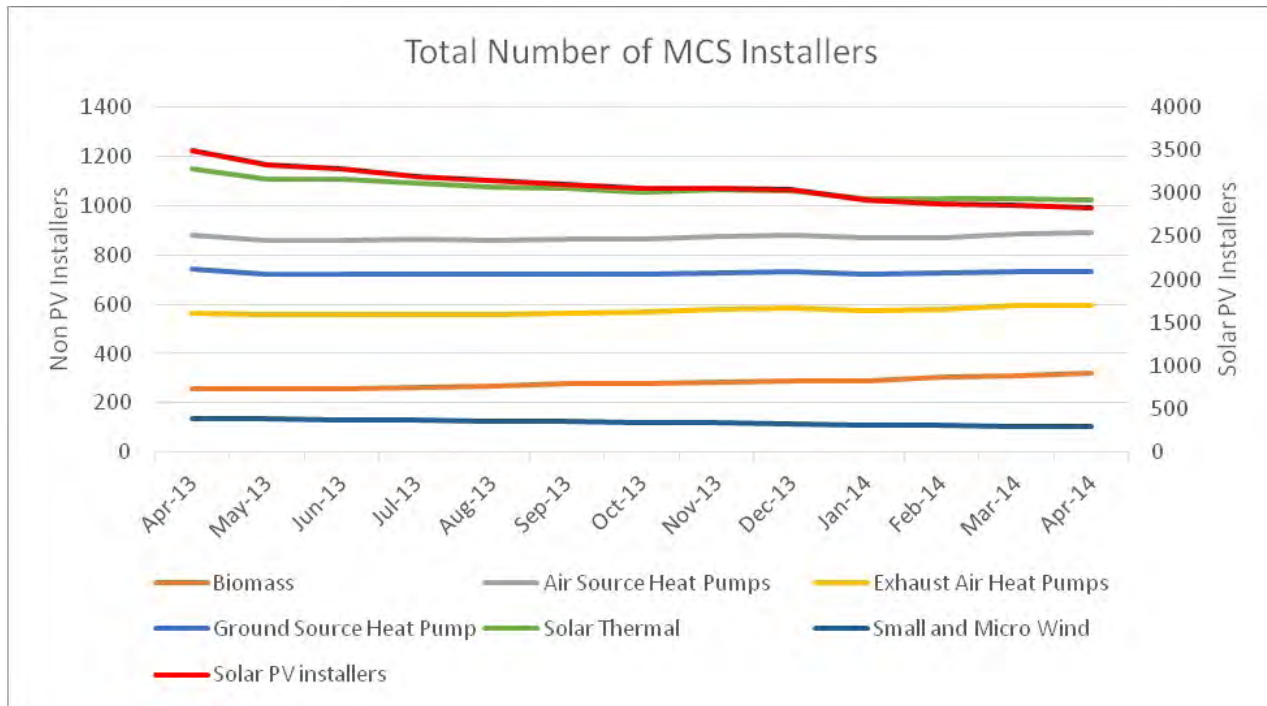


The graph above shows the numbers of Heat Technology installations being registered on the MCS Installation Database. The peak in October 2013 is attributable to the October 22nd deadline, which related to an administrative change regarding installations being registered outside the 10 working day period without notification. The peak in March 2014 is attributable to the RHPP voucher scheme closing on 31st March 2014.



This graph shows the numbers of all installations being registered on the MCS Installation Database. The total number of installations is **603,269**, with PV still proving to be the most popular with **534,045** registrations (89%).

continued overleaf ⇨



This graph shows the numbers and types of installation companies joining the scheme. The graph shows the comparisons of non-PV technologies vs. those installing solar PV (as that currently has the largest share of installation companies). The total number of installers up to 30th April 2014 was **3393**. Solar technologies have seen a slight decrease in numbers, whereas heat technology installer numbers have either experienced growth or maintained existing numbers.

REMINDER: Update to Heat Technology Standards

In order to fully support the launch of the domestic RHI in April, the MCS Working Groups updated the standards to ensure that MCS heat technology installations can robustly meet all the requirements that will enable government to make MCS the requirement for customers wishing to access the incentive. A detailed summary of the changes can be found via the MCS website (www.microgenerationcertification.org).

In particular we would like to highlight the following changes:

- **Solar thermal and heat pumps:** MCS installers are required to attach a label to the installation as outlined in the appendices of both the solar thermal and heat pump standards.
- **Solar thermal - domestic hot water installations only:** A new solar thermal energy calculation methodology has been released which is outlined in the document MCS 024. In order to assist MCS installers in making these calculations a calculator has also been released called the [Thermal Solar Performance Energy Calculator](#) (TSPEC). Installers must use this calculator when working out the annual energy

input kWh/year and enter this figure into the MCS Installation Database (MID).

- **All Heat Technologies:** For all heat technology installations intended for the domestic RHI, MCS installers are now required to meet the requirements of the MCS domestic RHI metering guidance.

The largest change, however, has been focused on the addition of compliance certificates for heat installations. Following industry feedback, some changes have been made to the compliance certificates. Further information regarding this can be found on [page 6](#).



Changes to Compliance Certificates

The largest change in regards to heat technologies has been focused on the addition of compliance certificates for heat installations. This certificate is designed to be viewed as a checklist for installation companies to complete and confirm the suitability of the installation to the relevant MIS standard.

An MCS compliance certificate must be completed for all heat MCS installations. A copy must be supplied to the customer and will be required if the customer wishes to apply for the domestic RHI where the installation is eligible.

Following industry feedback, MCS will soon be launching an important upgrade to the process for submitting compliance certificates to MCS. This upgrade will allow installers to upload an Excel version of the compliance certificate directly to the MCS Installation Database (MID). The data contained within this spreadsheet will then automatically be converted into a PDF compliance certificate and assigned a reference number.

The new Excel spreadsheet will require less information to be typed in as data will be drawn directly from the MID – helping to reduce the amount of data entry required.

A pre-formatted and professional looking compliance certificate will then be issued which can be sent to customers.

MCS encourages installers to use the new Excel spreadsheet to submit compliance certificates via the MID. However, an option to manually upload a PDF document will remain for those who prefer this option.

Once the changes go live, MCS will send an email notification directly to heat technology installers. Furthermore, an updated help document will be available [here](#).

Compliance certificates can be downloaded from [here](#). For installations carried out prior to 9th April 2014, a dummy compliance certificate must be uploaded and can be downloaded [here](#).



As the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive is now up and running, we caught up with Ofgem, administrators of the scheme, to offer some key tips and information. To read the full article click [here](#).

Top tips for complying with the Domestic RHI:

- Look at the Installers and Industry section on [Ofgem's website](#);
- Read the [Essential guide for installers](#);
- If you install meters, read the [Essential guide to metering](#);
- **Only** promote your MCS certification for the technology that you hold the certification for;
- Familiarise yourself with your responsibilities under the RECC code to make sure you are compliant;
- [Sign up](#) to the Domestic RHI e-newsletter.

Common questions...

How important is the information on the MCS certificate?

Ofgem can only process your customer's Domestic RHI application if the information on the MID (MCS Installation Database) is correct.

Are multiple systems eligible?

Sometimes, yes. Check the [Reference Document](#) for the eligible scenarios.

What is the BSL?

Biomass Sustainability rules will be brought in from autumn 2014. Scheme participants with a biomass system will need to use fuel from an approved supplier on the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL). To register [click here](#).

When are Green Deals needed?

As a Domestic RHI rule, all applicants must have had a Green Deal Assessment carried out on their property, unless they are a [self-build](#).

continued overleaf ⇨

How should biomass systems be sized?

Under the Domestic RHI scheme, all new biomass systems must be installed with sufficient capacity to meet the entire space heating demand at the property to avoid metering.

Can I retrospectively certify an installation in order for it to be eligible for the Domestic RHI?

You are not able to retrospectively certify an installation that you did not do yourself. For more information call the MCS helpline.

I install meters, what do I need to know?

- Your DRHI customer will be expecting your help in a number of areas ([see here](#)). You are **strongly** recommended that you read the [Essential Guides](#).
- You will need to fill out the Installer Metering Questions for [heat pumps](#) or for [biomass](#).
- All installations must be meter ready in line with the [MCS Domestic RHI Metering Guidance](#).
- DRHI metering training will be available from July so keep an eye open for future updates.

Useful Numbers

For customers wishing to make an DRHI application, have submitted an application, or if installation companies need to ask a question about the general process relating to a customer's application (non-technical), please contact

Ofgem:

- **Tel:** 0300 003 0744 (Mon to Fri 8am to 7pm, Sat 9am to 2pm)
- **Twitter:** @AskDomesticRHI
- **Email:** DomesticRHI@ofgem.gov.uk

Customers with pre-application enquiries should contact:

- **In England and Wales** - Energy Saving Trust 0300 123 1234 (standard national rate, opening hours Mon-Fri 9am- 8pm, 10am-2pm Sat) or www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
- **In Scotland** - Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri) or at www.greenerscotland.org

MCS cannot answer queries regarding the commercial or domestic RHI application processes.

Advice Regarding MCS Certificates [1]

MCS has recently received a number of enquires from consumers directly, and installers wanting to know how to advise customers who've approached them regarding missing MCS certificates. MCS has developed processes for these scenarios, and we have outlined the most frequently asked questions below:

My customer has lost their MCS certificate. How do I get a new copy?

You will be able to send your customer a new copy of their certificate. Once logged into the MID, you will need to click on the MCS certificate number of the missing document. The information should be repopulated but you will need to reselect the correct address. If you entered the customer's email address in the **"Recipient Address"** field and do not have a copy stored, you can amend this to a company work email address if you wish to. You will need to continue through the rest of pages, and press **"Finish"** to complete this process. This will issue out a new copy from the database to the intended recipient. This, or any other amendments made, will not cost you any credits.

I wasn't able to register my customer's certificate within the 10 working day period. What do I do next?

You will still be able to generate a certificate for your customers. For any installation companies that have missed this deadline, you will need to notify MCS via a written email sent to mcs@gemserv.com. The details of the installation should be recorded on the bulk upload spreadsheet (available from the bulk installation page of the MID) and attached to your request.

Extended access requests take 5 working days to process and installation companies will be notified when their extended access period (24hrs) has been granted. **If you miss this window, you will need to repeat the request process.** MCS does not upload these certificates for you. The information on the bulk upload spreadsheet is used for monitoring purposes only. The full process can be read [here](#), and also outlines how to amend a certificate.

The requirement to log certificates within 10 working days has been part of the MCS standards **for all technologies** since August 2010.

continued overleaf ➡

I've been approached by a customer who's installation was commissioned by an MCS installer who is no longer trading and they do not have a certificate. Can I create the certificate for them?

Only if you are prepared to take full responsibility for the system. **You should not commission or create certificates for any systems not originally installed by an MCS installer.** This is in breach of the MCS standards and the DRHI legislation, which clearly states first commissioning must be carried out by an MCS certified installer. Installers found to be creating certificates for systems not originally commissioned by a certified installer are risking their own certification, and will be held liable for any complaints received.

I created a certificate before the launch of the DRHI which I now need to amend, but it's asking me for a compliance certificate. This wasn't necessary at the time, how do I resolve?

The requirement for compliance certificates was put into place under the launch of the DRHI. Where you are asked for a compliance certificate to complete certificate amendments for legacy installations (prior to 9th April 2014), you will need to upload the dummy compliance certificate found [here](#).



MCS has launched a new calculator to support biomass installers carrying out MCS design calculations. The calculator provides a method for carrying out the design calculations required by MIS 3004 v4.0 Appendix C. Its use is optional and installers

may choose to use their own calculations as long as these comply with the requirements of MIS 3004.

A copy of the calculator is available from the reference materials section of the MCS website or by clicking [here](#).

This initial draft of the calculator is intended as a beta version and MCS welcomes all feedback. We will then collate any feedback and issue periodic updates.

If you do have any feedback on the calculator please submit this to mcs@gemserv.com.

Notification to Distributed Network Operators (DNOs)

It is required that **all** electricity generating installations that are connected to the grid are notified to the Distributed Network Operator (DNO). The DNO varies between the regions and details of the different Network Operators can be found [here](#).

The notification may fall under either ER G83/1 or ER G59/2 requirements and further information can be found by visiting the [Energy Networks Association website](#). **Please note that MCS are unable to notify grid connections for you.**

For technical guidance, please contact the relevant Distributed Network Operator.



Medium Wind Group

The MCS Medium Wind group have primarily focussed on the development of an MCS Medium Wind product standard, and work on the installer standard is now underway.

MCS would like to invite participation from industry in the MCS Medium Wind Installer Sub Group. This group will be responsible for the development of the Medium Wind installer standard and any industry knowledge and expertise would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to join this group please contact mcsmeetings@gemserv.com with a summary of your experience in the Medium Wind installer sector.



DECC RHI Roadshows

In order to help businesses, installers and consumers to find out more about the domestic RHI scheme, the Department of Energy and Climate Change will be attending a series of property and renewable energy roadshows this spring and summer.

MCS has been supporting DECC at some these events over the past few months.

We will be speaking at:

18th June: [Energy Environment Expo](#) at ExCel Centre, London

26th and 27th June: [Eco Technology Show](#) at The Brighton Centre, Brighton

For the full list of dates DECC will be attending, please [click here](#).



Last call for Energy Efficiency & Renewables Awards entries

REI is delighted to announce the four judges who will join editor Paul Stephen on the panel for this year's Energy Efficiency & Renewables Awards.

Bill Wright (ECA), Dave Sowden (SEA), Robert Burke (HETAS) and Virginia Graham (REAL) will

run the rule over entries in the run up to the awards ceremony at London's Kensington Roof Gardens on Friday 26 September.

MCS registered installers only have until **June 30** to enter the industry's most prestigious awards in the categories below. Interest has already been strong and nomination packs can be requested by emailing Dan@EnergiseEvents.co.uk or by visiting the new website <http://www.heatingandrenewablesroadshow.co.uk/awards.php>

For the full list of categories and further information, please [click here](#).