



The Certification Mark for Onsite  
Sustainable Energy Technologies

# MCS Newsletter

## June 2015

# Welcome to the 13th edition of the MCS Newsletter



The Certification Mark for Onsite Sustainable Energy Technologies

## In the June Issue.....

In this edition of the MCS newsletter, MCS will be providing information regarding updates to the MCS standards, in particular how the Energy Related Product (ErP) Directive will be affecting the Heat Pump standards.

There will also be information regarding Biomass and the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (dRHI), along with a call for small scale developers to engage in a workgroup from the National Grid.

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

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[www.microgenerationcertification.org](http://www.microgenerationcertification.org)

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The Government has approved legislation relating to the fuel to be used by claimants of RHI for woody biomass.  
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### Engagement with smaller scale industry participants

The National Grid are looking for generation equipment manufacturers, particularly for smaller scale developers to engage in a GB workgroup.  
Read more [here](#).

### Updates to the MCS Scheme

At the beginning of May 2015 a selection of standards were updated. In particular the Heat Pump standard was updated in preparation for the forthcoming ErP Directive.  
Read more [here](#).

### DECC and RECC Updates

DECC announce biomass degression from 1st July 2015.  
RECC publish a model Metering and Monitoring Service Package.  
Read more [here](#).

### MCS Complaints Procedure Review

MCS have made some amendments to the complaints procedure.  
Read more [here](#).

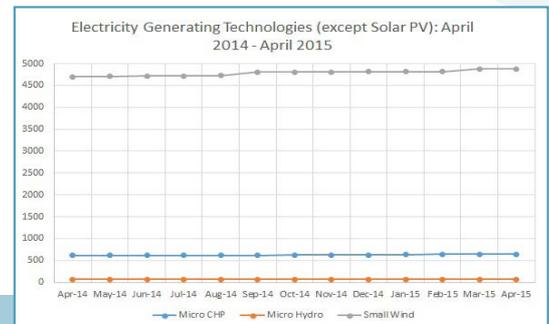
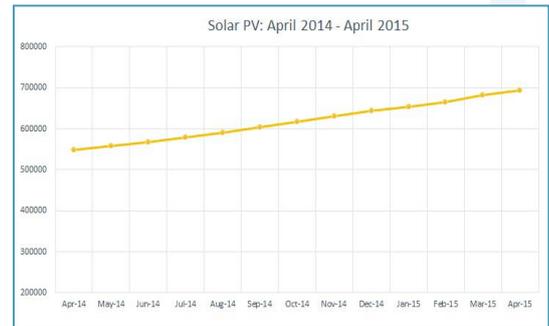
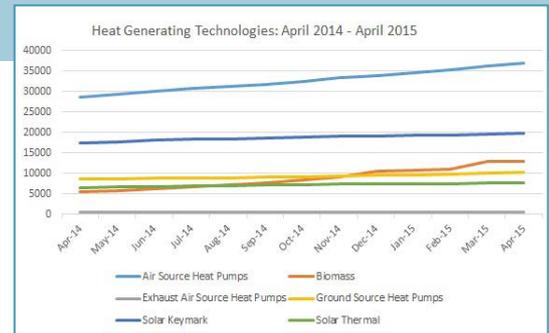
### MCS Useful Information & Events

Reminders to installers about checking product certification before commissioning work.  
MCS will be presenting at the forthcoming Heating and Renewable Roadshows.  
Read more [here](#).

# MCS Statistics [1]

Technology	Total to date
Air Source Heat Pumps	36930
Biomass	12983
Exhaust Air Source Heat Pumps	430
Ground Source Heat Pumps	10137
Micro CHP	644
Micro Hydro	68
Small Wind	4880
Solar Keymark	19705
Solar PV	693231
Solar Thermal	7679

Please visit the [website](#) for further information on Statistics.



Month	Leaving Scheme	Joining Scheme
Apr-14	61	82
May-14	104	98
Jun-14	107	287
Jul-14	85	182
Aug-14	91	57
Sep-14	55	69
Oct-14	76	67
Nov-14	112	62
Dec-14	84	237
Jan-15	92	74
Feb-15	82	148
Mar-15	122	198
Apr-15	106	137

Total Number of Installers	Total
April 2014	3393
April 2015	2893



## Biomass Sustainability and the dRHI

Ofgem have produced a factsheet that sets out a basic overview of the Biomass sustainability requirements introduced for the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (dRHI). It is for owners of biomass boilers and stoves who are currently receiving dRHI payments, or are thinking of applying for the scheme.

To read the factsheet please click [here](#).

## Biomass Supplier List: Fuel to be used by claimants of Renewable Incentive (RHI)

The government has recently approved legislation relating to the fuel to be used by claimants of RHI for woody biomass.

From 5th October 2015, all RHI claimants must demonstrate that the woodfuel they are burning has been produced in a legal and sustainable manner, and falls within certain greenhouse gas limits. Claimants of domestic RHI do this by sourcing from an approved list of authorised fuels, of which the only one currently recognised by Ofgem is the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL). Non-domestic claimants may also choose to source from the BSL, or they can make other arrangements, but in that case they must provide additional information directly to Ofgem and submit to an annual audit.

The fuels types that can be authorised under BSL are

woodchip, briquettes, firewood and pellets. These could be made from virgin raw materials, waste or a blend of both. The BSL does not include non-woody biomass such as straw or miscanthus.

Companies apply to have their fuel authorised via an online portal. The BSL gathers information about the lifecycle of a fuel, from raw materials through processing, and then selling onwards via traders and retail outlets to the customer. Activities are divided broadly into production and trading, and companies apply to have their fuels authorised in either or both category. Domestic customers must buy authorised fuels from traders, and they can search for fuels and traders in their area on the [BSL Find a Fuel site](#).

If your customers want to start or continue claiming domestic RHI for woody biomass from 5th October 2015 onwards they need to be purchasing BSL authorised fuel.

For further information on claiming RHI you can direct them to [Ofgem's website](#).

### Land Criteria

New requirements for fuels on the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL), known as the land criteria, were introduced on the BSL portal on 6th May 2015. This provides a window of opportunity to allow existing approved suppliers to demonstrate compliance between 6th May – 5th July 2015 (inclusive), before compliance becomes mandatory on 6th July 2015. Please [click here](#) for further information.

## Engagement with smaller scale industry participants at 'Requirements for Generators' European Network Code workgroup

In 2009, three regulations and two directives (the "Third Energy Package") came into force to liberalise gas and energy markets in Europe. This led to the creation of ten European Network Codes, with the objective of facilitating a more secure, competitive and renewable-centric energy network across Europe.

One of these codes, 'Requirements for Generators' (RfG), sets technical requirements for new generation connections to distribution and transmission systems across Europe, including Great Britain (GB). RfG will therefore greatly affect generators big and small, as well as system owners/operators and equipment manufacturers.

As of May 2015, RfG's development and EU approval has nearly concluded, and it is expected to become European Law this year.

A GB workgroup combining Grid Code and Distribution Code stakeholders has been meeting on RfG for just over a year. Its focus is

- To mobilise the industry to assist the adoption of RfG, ensuring GB codes are consistent and compliant with its obligations
- Develop proposals to set the operational parameters stipulated in RfG for the GB synchronous area (before authority ratification)

The workgroup membership currently consists of Distribution/Transmission Network Operators, the regulator Ofgem, DECC, and generators (primarily medium and large scale). In order for the above workgroup activities to be inclusive, they are keen to engage with generation equipment manufacturers, particularly for smaller scale developers.

If you feel you could represent the interest of this stakeholder group, or would like to know more, please contact [grid.code@nationalgrid.com](mailto:grid.code@nationalgrid.com).



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

### DECC announce biomass degression from 1st July

DECC have now published their quarterly forecast (as at 30 April 2015).

[Link: Domestic RHI Statistics](#)

As a result of this they have announced that that the degression '**super trigger**' for biomass has been passed.

This means that the current biomass tariff of 8.93p per kilowatt hour will be reduced by **20%** to **7.14p per kilowatt hour** for all new applications made from 1 July 2015.

The tariffs for air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps and solar thermal are not affected by the 1 July 2015 degression.

MCS Certification Bodies will be monitoring activity on the MCS database. If they believe there to be unusual activity (for example, high rates of installations), action may be taken against those MCS contractors.

For further information please visit the [DECC website](#)



### Model Metering and Monitoring Service Package

RECC have now published a model Metering and Monitoring Service Package (MMSP) Agreement for use by anyone wishing to register a MMSP package as part of the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive.

[Link: MMSP](#)

This model Agreement meets all of Ofgem's regulatory requirements as well as including the additional consumer protection elements. Parts A and B of the Agreement are the absolute minimum needed by Ofgem to register a package and must not be amended, but the additional clauses in Part C are important and should also be included where possible.

More information about registering a MMSP with us can be found on [Ofgem's website](#) and in their Essential Guide to optional monitoring – Metering and Monitoring Service Package.

For further information please visit the [RECC website](#) and [Ofgem's website](#)

## Heat Pump Standards

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) has published an important update to the heat pump standards to align with the requirements of the Energy related Products (ErP) directive.

ErP is coming into effect from 26th September 2015. The ErP Directive will affect all heating and hot water products, with an output equal to or less than 400kW. The ErP comprises of two directives: Ecodesign and Energy Labelling.

Ecodesign will set a minimum energy performance and environment criteria for energy related products. Energy Labelling will see the introduction of a product label with an efficiency band between A+++ to G (with A+++ being the highest performing product). There will also be an energy label for the complete installed system.

As a result of these changes MCS issued the following updates on 6th May 2015

- For MCS Contractors: [MIS 3005 Issue 4.3](#)
- For MCS Manufacturers: [MCS 007 Issue 4.1](#)

Consequently, manufacturers will need to work with MCS Certification Bodies to provide additional test data for all certified products. This data will be used to calculate the following information for all MCS certified heat pumps

- Seasonal Co-efficient of Performance (SCoP) – electrically driven heat pumps; or
- Seasonal Prime Energy Ratio (SPER) – gas absorption heat pumps.

As soon as this data is available, MCS will list the information on the MCS website. MCS Contractors will then be able to use this information when calculating the performance of heat pump systems in accordance with MIS 3005 Issue 4.3.

MCS Contractors can continue to use the Heat Emitter Guide (HEG) to calculate the likely SPF for installed systems (in accordance with MIS 3005 Issue 4.1). However once SCOP/SPER data is available, MCS contractors will also have the option to use this data instead of the HEG 'likely SPF' as outlined in MIS 3005 Issue 4.3.

For manufacturers, all new heat pumps entering the market place from **26/9/2015** will be required to comply with ErP. Existing products will be required to undergo additional testing to demonstrate compliance with ErP. It is recognised, that MCS Contractors may have existing stock of products that are not compliant with ErP to use up after this date. Therefore MCS has allowed a 6 month transition period, to use up any existing stock. From **26/3/2016** MCS Contractors will only be able to install ErP compliant products which meet the requirements of MCS 007 Issue 4.1.

### *ErP Directive: Key dates for Installers and Manufacturers*

Date	
6th May 2015	Updated standards published
6th May 2015 to 25th March 2016	<p>MCS Contractors are able to work in accordance with MIS 3005 Issue 4.1 or 4.3.</p> <p>MCS Contractors can use the Heat Emitter Guide (HEG) to calculate the likely SPF for installed systems or (once available) product specific SCOP/SPER data on the MCS website.</p>
26th September 2015	<p>ErP Directive comes into force.</p> <p>All new heat pumps (issued with MCS Certification from 26/9/2015) will now be required to comply with MCS 007 Issue 4.1</p>
26th March 2016	<p>All MCS Contractors must comply with the requirements of MIS 3005 Issue 4.3.</p> <p>MCS Contractors must now use SCOP/SPER data in accordance with MIS 3005 Issue 4.3. The HEG will remain as a heat emitter design tool only.</p> <p>All existing heat pumps (issued with MCS certification before 26/09/2015) will be required to comply with MCS 007 Issue 4.1.</p>

### General Standard Updates

A number of MCS standards have been updated. These updates include:

- An update to the definitions in all standards to align with a review undertaken by the scheme
- An update to section 8 in all installation standards to clarify the requirements of this section
- Correction to cross-referencing of sections within
  - MIS3004 – Biomass installation standard
  - MIS3005 – Heat pump installation standard
  - MIS3007-2 – Electricity led micro CHP installation standard
  - MCS004 – Solar collectors
  - MCS007 – Heat pumps product standards

### MCS Complaints Procedure

Following a meeting in February 2014 to review the MCS complaint procedure, the following complaint documents have been updated:

- Updated complaint documents:
  - Complaint guidelines
  - Complaint registration form (paper and online)

A summary of the main updates made to the complaint

guidelines have been set out below:

- The definition of complaint closure has been made clearer.
- A note has been added to clarify that complaints must be submitted in writing to the installer.
- Updated guidance to state that complaints must be submitted within **6 years** of installation being commissioned.
- Updated guidance to clarify limitations in the event that a company changes its name / ownership.
- Updated the guidance so that any stakeholder can now raise issues regarding MCS administration, documentation or standards.
- Changed text from MCS Licensee to MCS Administrator

Amendments to the complaints registration form include

- Updated the complaint form to ask for the customer's desired outcome and whether they are domestic or non-domestic consumer.
- Updated the complaints form so that any stakeholder can now raise issues regarding MCS administration, documentation or standards.
- Changed text from MCS Licensee to MCS Administrator.

[Link: MCS Standards](#)

[Link: MCS Complaints form](#)

### MCS Certified Products Reminder

Please ensure that before you recommend a product to a customer for installation, that you check on our website to confirm that it is still a valid MCS certified product. We have had a few cases recently whereby the MCS contractor has not been able to create an MCS certificate for their customer due to the product no longer being certified.

You are able to verify certification by searching for the product [here](#).



### MCS Events

This September, the Heating & Renewable Roadshow will be at five locations across

the UK, making low carbon and heating technologies more accessible to the UK's contractors and installers.

MCS will be partnering with the Heating & Renewables Roadshow 2015 to raise awareness of the Scheme and to provide an overview and update to new and existing MCS contractors.

Alongside MCS, further sessions will be presented by knowledge partners, existing suppliers and trade associations with keynote sessions reserved for Government departments such as DECC and Ofgem.

The five locations that you can visit the show are Coventry, Exeter, Farnborough, Edinburgh and Manchester.

Date	Venue
10/09/2015	Ricoh Arena, Coventry, CV6 4DJ
15/09/2015	Westpoint Arena, Exeter, EX5 1DJ
17/09/2015	FIVE, Farnborough, GU14 6FD
22/09/2015	RHC, Edinburgh, EH28 8NB
24/09/2015	Event City, Manchester, M17 8AS

For more information on registering for the show please visit <http://heatingandrenewablesroadshow.co.uk/>

If you should have any questions regarding any of the above please contact the [MCS Helpdesk](#).