Technical Bulletin
May 2016

Welcome to the ecmk quarterly Technical Bulletin

Welcome to the ecmk Technical bulletin for this quarter.

In this issue we cover:

Please do contact us if you wish to see clarification of any issues for future bulletins.

Many thanks and we hope you enjoy the bulletin.

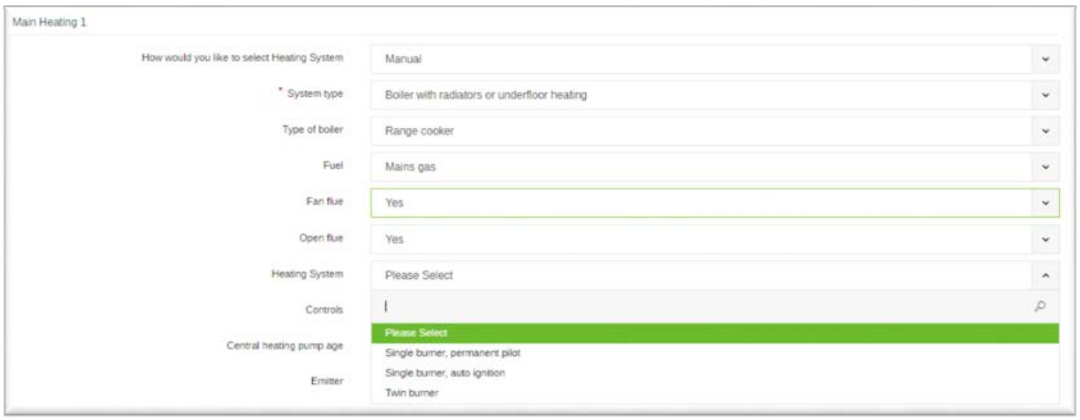
Stephen Farrow
Scheme Manager

Range cookers as main heating

One of the most recent additions to RdSAP 9.92 is the facility for assessors to add and search the PCDF database for Range Cookers.

Range cookers are usually produced by manufactures such as Aga, Stoves and Rangemaster and provide heating, hot water and cooking facilities.

The 'manual' options to enter a range cooker as main heating are very limited offering:

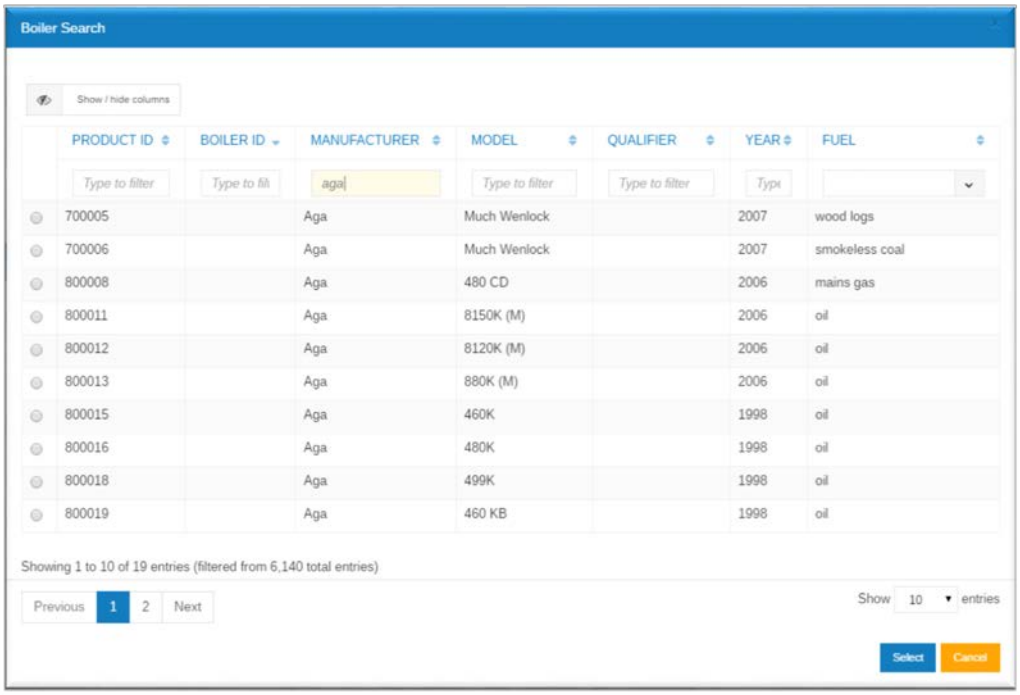


If you are entering the boiler this method, you may need to consult the manufactures' website and user guide to assist with which option to use.

Single burner are efficient cookers and room heaters with low running costs, similar to a central heating boiler. As pressure jet burner using a fan can increase efficiency. Some models have a balanced flue which negates the need for a chimney.

Twin burners get higher outputs for larger houses, one burner runs the boiler the second for the oven. When the heating is on, the cooker element does not heat up resulting in quicker heat and cool down times. Also results in a cooler kitchen in the summer.

To use the PCDF database there currently are the 'Aga' options with model numbers.



If you do have further queries or questions always refer to the manufactures website for clarification.

SMART audits

All schemes have now called and audited the first wave of SMART audits. The results have been analysed and the second wave of audits have been called for April lodgements. Assessors have been given feedback on the results of these audits and any remedial work that may be required.

As a reminder to assessors, below is a list of the **10** rules:

1	No main heating system present, but mains gas supply present
2	Overridden U-values for the main building walls
3	Ground floor of main building room height is < 1.5m or > 4m
4	No heating controls present, but main heating system is a gas (incl. LPG) or oil Boiler
5	Age band A with cavity walls
6	Heating controls of Boiler Energy Manager
7	Gas boiler main heating system and hot water from electric immersion
8	Mechanical ventilation present in property built prior to 2003
9	No access to the main building loft
10	No access to cylinder

Non-Domestic news

Clarification on the minimum data file size upload has been confirmed by Landmark. This will increase from 10mb to 20mb to allow assessors with large projects to lodge using other third party software's and plug ins.

Decorative fuel affect or Flush fitting live fuel affect

There has been some confusion over the years between **Decorative fuel affect gas fires** and **Flush fitting live fuel affect gas fires**. The important aspect to remember is that when the fire is in operation and is ventilated by an open chimney with a diameter of 200mm or more, then the fire should be entered as a Decorative fuel affect gas fires open to chimney. If this is not the case then you should select a Flush fitting live fuel affect gas fire.

Examples of **Decorative fuel effect gas fires open to chimney:**

Please also remember that when entering these Gas fires that you include the fire place in the open fire place count.

Examples of **Flush fitting live fuel affect gas fire:**

RdSAP Conventions

Assessors are reminded of the new **'Scheme Documents'** area on Assessor Hub. Copies of the conventions, procedures and SORs are available to download and refer back to.

Due to a high number of recent audit fails in relation to conventions and the understanding of them, we are recommending that all assessors download and read the conventions per the relative strand. We are offering 30 minutes CPD when this has been completed and a note to confirm this has been actioned will be required to be uploaded into your own CPD area on Assessor Hub.

Mechanical supply and extract

To confirm the following as an entry for mechanical supply and extract.

A mechanical ventilation system can be combined with all sorts of heating and cooling systems. Often the heating, cooling and ventilation of a building are combined in the air-conditioning system.

In a mechanical ventilation system the supply air and the exhaust air are transported mechanically.

Advantages of mechanical ventilation are:

1. **Good control of the ventilation capacity; no dependence of the outdoor weather conditions and despite possible noisy environment**
2. **The possibility of extracting heat from the exhaust air and use it to preheat the fresh air supply (heat recovery)**
3. **The possibility of preheating and pre-cooling of the air supply**
4. **The possibility of humidify and dehumidify of the air supply**
5. **The possibility of cleaning the air by an air filter or supplying the air from a relative clean site of the building.**

By controlling the ventilators it is possible to control the ventilation capacity of the system. To prevent draught the air supply in the room has to be placed as high as possible. By preheating the incoming air draught problems are also decreased.

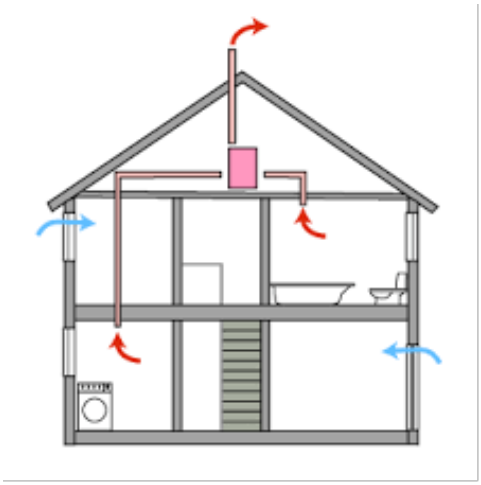
The location of the air exhaust grid is of less importance. Even high exhaust velocity cannot produce draught. Yet the air exhaust velocity is restricted, because high air velocity (globally above 2 m/s) in the ducts causes noise.

For proper functioning of the system the building has to be sufficiently airtight.

To identify if a property has a mechanical ventilation system, assessors should be identifying at least two air vents/diffusers per zone, see images below:

The units are usually located in the loft space and can look like these images below:

The systems work by supplying fresh air to a property and extracting the warm moist air to the outside.



If you do require any further information in relation to these systems it is recommended that you refer back to the manufactures' websites and information leaflets.

Amended SAP Conventions v6.1

A change has been made to appendix A2.4 (air permeability as built) to clarify the requirements of the convention to which it relates. The amendment is highlighted in blue on page 31 of the **SAP Conventions document**.

The amended convention (highlighted in blue) must be applied by **1 July 2016**. These conventions will be included as part of future quality assurance checks of the assessments and the SAP EPCs produced, thereafter.

You can download the latest **SAP Conventions document** **here**

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

A reminder that assessors must ask homeowners if they are willing to participate in a customer satisfaction survey as per the Scheme Operating Requirements clause 2.1.2.

Upcoming Training and CPD during June

Course	Date	Cost (+ VAT)*
CPD – webinars/Classroom:		
Ageing Property	1st June	£15
Walls – Construction, Party & Alternative	3rd June	£15
Secondary Heating	6th June	£15
CPD Bootcamp - Solihull	8th June	£95
Primary Heating	9th June	£15
Flats & Maisonettes	10th June	£15
Mini Audit Tips & Hints How Not To Fail	14th June	£15
Rooms In The Roof	16th June	£15
Photographs	21st June	£15
Heating Control	23rd June	£15
Water Heating	29th June	£15
Certificate in Non-Domestic Energy Assessment:		
Non Domestic Energy Assessor Level 3 - Solihull	7 – 9th June	£1,250
Certificate in Domestic Energy Assessment:		
Cert DEA (5 days) - Solihull	13 – 17th June	£1,295
Certificate in Air Conditioning Energy Assessments:		
Certificate in Air Conditioning Energy Assessment L3/L4 COMBINED - Paisley	20 – 23rd June	£1,995
Legionella Risk Assessment (ABBE Level 2):		
Legionella Risk Assessment – Solihull	20th June	£125

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**Costs listed are for ecmk members*

For further information, more course dates and to book your place:
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