

Changes to Part L, October 2010



STOP PRESS - In September's issue of Installer's Choice we talked about these changes to Part L of the Building Regulations. However, we jumped the gun slightly by stating the changes would come into force this year. The changes will in fact go live in October 2010. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The new revisions to Part L of the Building Regulations covering the conservation of fuel and power will come into force in October 2010.

Martyn Bridges, Director of Marketing and Technical Support summarises the key changes that will affect installers.

Unlike the last time Part L of the Building Regulations was changed, when it became mandatory to install high-efficiency condensing boilers, the latest changes are fairly minor.

The first element of the changes, relevant for heating installers, concentrates on improving the level of efficiency of a home's heating system in line with the Code for Sustainable Homes, which covers all new-build properties.

The Government has proposed two different options for calculating the statutory 25% increase in energy-efficiency. They are:-

Option A – aggregate 25% approach

The optimal building specifications for 2010 would be determined by equalising the Marginal Abatement Cost (the cost of eliminating an additional unit of pollution) across the component parts. This is then applied to an assumed new-build mix with the requisite 25% reduction delivered overall.

Under the alternative aggregate approach for new homes, the 2010 targets are based on a common specification. The only exception being the heating system efficiency, which is varied if anything other than the conventional fossil fuels – oil and gas - are used.

However, there is a separate specification proposed for electric resistance heating. This electric resistance specification is intended to be temporary with the electric heating option eventually having the same fabric specification as other fuels and being based on a heat pump solution.

This change would be progressive to allow the electrical heating industry time to diversify into new product areas.

Option B – flat 25% improvement

The Government's preferred option is to take the 2002 notional building that meets energy-efficiency standards and to apply a larger improvement factor for new homes over the 2006 factor. The argument being that it is the simplest method and also generates the largest CO2 saving.

At present the Government is seeking views on both options to decide the best way to progress. Both methods may sound a little difficult to digest so if you'd like a more detailed breakdown or have any questions, [visit the CLG \(Communities and Local Government\) website](#) where the consultation documents can be downloaded and response forms completed.

Gas boiler installation rules change in October 09

The other main change that will affect installers is about gas-fired boiler efficiency. Currently band 'B' boilers are acceptable within the current Part L regulations but the changes will mean that **from October 2010 only SEDBUK**



'A' rated boilers will be allowed for all new and replacement installations. All of Worcester's Greenstar boilers are 'A' rated, producing a level of efficiency above 90%, consequently it will be business as usual for Worcester products.

It is also worth being aware that the Government are seeking views on whether to make compliance with Part L a requirement for all new conservatory installations.

This would require reasonable provision in the form of effective thermal separation from the existing building, independent control of any heating systems and minimum thermal performance standards for floors, walls and glazing.

If this were to be introduced in 2010, it remains to be seen whether such works will require Building Control notification at this stage.

Worcester will keep you up to date with any further developments in the Part L regulations.

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