

STOVAX

Changes to Approved Building Regulations & Guidance Document J - October 2010

IMPORTANT BUILDING REGULATION CHANGES

This addendum updates the existing installation instructions, taking into account some important changes which happened when the new building regulation (Approved Document J) came into force on the 1st October 2010 for England and Wales.

NOTE – this addendum is **not** a full list of the changes to the building regulations. The latest version can be downloaded for free at "http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/br/BR_PDF_ADJ_2010.pdf".

1. VENTILATION

For many years it was the rule that, if your solid fuel appliance had a rated heat output of 5kW or less, you did not need to fit an air-vent because sufficient air would leak into a traditionally built house, keeping the chimney working properly.

The new version of the building regulations takes into account modern building techniques which reduce the amount of air that leaks into or out of a house. This means that, in a modern construction house with an air tightness of less than 5m³ per hour per m², an air vent **will** need to be fitted and **must** conform to the sizes shown in the chart shown below.

(The air leakage of modern houses is tested at the completion of construction and a certificate is issued confirming this.)

1.1 A - TRADITIONALLY BUILT HOMES

Where the leakage rate is greater than 5m³/hour/m² 550mm² per kW output over 5kW.

Typical air requirements:

Output (kW)			4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	Additional ventilation	mm ²	None	None	550	1100	1650	2200	2750
		cm ²	None	None	5.50	11.00	16.50	22.00	27.50
		in ²	None	None	0.89	1.77	2.66	3.55	4.40

1.2 B - MODERN CONSTRUCTION HOMES

Where the leakage rate is less than 5m³/hour/m² 550mm² per kW output.

Typical air requirements:

Output (kW)			4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	Additional ventilation	mm ²	2200	2750	3300	3850	4400	4950	5500
		cm ²	22.00	27.50	33.00	38.50	44.00	49.50	55.00
		in ²	3.55	4.40	5.32	6.21	7.10	7.99	8.87

1.3 All other rules relating to specification and siting of vents remain unchanged. Refer to existing instruction manual or Approved Document J.

2. CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR

The new building regulation now require that whenever a new or replacement fixed solid fuel or wood/biomass appliance is installed in a dwelling a carbon monoxide alarm must be fitted in the same room as the appliance. Further guidance on the installation of the carbon monoxide alarm is available in the latest edition of BS EN 50292 and from the manufacturer's instructions.

IMPORTANT - Provision of this alarm must not be considered a substitute for either installing the appliance correctly or ensuring regular servicing and maintenance of the appliance and chimney system.

HIGHLIGHT TO THE USER that a carbon monoxide alarm has been fitted and if it should sound then they should proceed as directed in the WARNING section relating to the emission of fumes in the user's instruction manual.

3. FLUE SYSTEM

In the past it was the rule, **when burning wood** in England and Wales, that the flue must be at least 6" in diameter to ensure it would not become blocked by soot between services.

The new version of the building regulations takes into account the advances in wood stove combustion technology and allows the flue diameter to be reduced to 5" **IF** the appliance spigot is 5" **AND** if the appliance has been exempted by DEFRA under the clean air act.

The table below shows the reduced size allowed for a DEFRA exempted product fitted with its Smoke Control Kit with a 5" flue spigot and intended for burning wood.

Minimum flue size			Smoke Control appliance
Flue / Chimney Size	Without Liner System Round (diameter)	mm	150
		inch	6
	Without Liner System (square) Minimum Dimension	mm	135
		inch	5½
	With Liner or Factory Made System (diameter)	mm	150
		inch	6
	With Smoke Control kit fitted (diameter) ‡See Note	mm	‡125
		inch	‡5
Flue / Chimney minimum height*		m	4.5
		feet	15
*When measured from the top of the flue, with no horizontal sections and a maximum of 4 bends with angles of less than 45° ‡Applies only to products with a 125mm diameter flue outlet and fitted with a smoke control kit.			

- 3.1 All other rules relating to specification and siting of vents remain unchanged. Refer to existing instruction manual or Approved Document J.

4. FITTING APPLIANCES ON A BOAT

- 4.1 If an appliance is to be fitted in a boat it must be done in accordance with the latest edition of BS 8511 (Code of Practice for the Installation of Solid Fuel Heating Appliances on Boats). The Code covers the design, installation and operation of solid fuel heating appliances that are suitable for fitting into inland waterway boats, and gives guidance on product selection, design considerations, installation requirements, inspection and testing, as well as maintenance and safe use tips.
- 4.2 Consideration should also be given to the requirements of the Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) to ensure the boat's insurance remains valid.
- 4.3 The appliance should only be installed by a competent person with experience of the latest edition of BS 8511 and the Boat Safety Scheme (BSS).
- 4.4 Secure the product to a suitably constructed non-combustible hearth.
- 4.5 All open flued appliances can be affected by temporary atmospheric conditions which may allow fumes to enter the boat. An electronic carbon monoxide detector conforming to the latest edition of BS EN 50292 must be fitted and maintained.
- 4.6 Failure to safely install the appliance could endanger the boat and persons on board.

STOVAX

Stovax Ltd, Falcon Road, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon, England EX2 7LF
 Tel: (01392) 474011 Fax: (01392) 219932 E-mail: info@stovax.com www.stovax.com