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HETAS QUALITY ASSURED FUEL

February
2012
Newsletter



HETAS is very active on numerous fronts to ensure the Quality Assured Fuel scheme succeeds for both the trade and the consumer. We want to keep you updated with developments.

Change of name

We have changed the scheme name from 'Solid Biomass Assurance Scheme' to 'Quality Assured Fuel' to be more consumer friendly, as it was felt that 'Biomass' was a term that many consumers do not relate to when they are buying firewood and other woody fuel.

Price reduction because FC doing site audits

The Forest Commission have offered to do site audits for the HETAS scheme. This has meant that we are able to provide a more affordable way for firewood processors to get their accreditation. For a processor doing 500 tonnes per year, this has brought the price down to £370 plus VAT. In some areas of the country we have other support organisations with funding to further reduce these fees.

<http://hetas.co.uk/fuel-quality/quality-assured-fuel#producersfaq>

Firewood Quality Manual makes signing-up quick and easy

Now we have a standard set of procedures and recording forms, it is much easier to get ready for accreditation. The producer Logalog used this and demonstrated that it can be done quickly with no hold-ups when it came to getting accredited.

<http://hetas.co.uk/fuel-quality/firewood-quality-manual>



Growth Market

HETAS are experiencing a rapid growth in demand for our services. We keep hitting new records for hits on our internet – 30,000 visits in a month. Record numbers of installers are signing up each month. This shows the increased consumer demand for solid fuel heating and the awareness of using certified traders. We have had to take on new staff to cope and now have 19 people working in our office.

Planned Events

Do visit us at the following events:

7/3/12 - Woodfuel Suppliers' Group - at the Macdonald Inchyra Hotel, near Falkirk

20th to 22/3/12 EcoBuild – at ExCel, London

10th to 12/6/12 Hearth and Home – Harrogate

13th to 15/9/12 APF Forestry Exhibition - Ragley Estate, Warwickshire <http://www.apfexhibition.co.uk/>

Sign-up the big and small

You will see that we are signing up both small and national suppliers, covering all fuels of firewood, chip, pellet and briquette. Last year we had the big players of CPL and Blazers Fuels join, while we also have small producers looking to expand into this growth market and get a premium for their quality product.

http://guide.hetas.co.uk/guide/fuels_smokeless.html#bio

Moisture Meters

HETAS are working with its 2000 certified installers, 11 certified training centres, 200 certified chimney sweeps and 40 certified retailers to encourage customers to use their heating appliance efficiently. The message that firewood needs to be dry is starting to get through and we have seen a high demand for moisture meters that help the consumer know what they are burning. Note that we recommend that the reading is taken on a freshly split surface. We sell a moisture meter for £16.80 -

<http://hetas.co.uk/consumer/fuel-quality>



Looking after the reputation of solid fuel heating

HETAS represent the needs of the consumer and the trade on a number of government committees and standard setting boards to ensure legislation, grants and standards are set for the best interest of a safe and efficient solid fuel industry.

BEC new listing includes HETAS certification status

The Biomass Energy Centre has invested in a new format for their supplier database. HETAS certified producers can add their certification status. The new format is map based to help consumers see the locality of producer sites in their area. We are expecting the system to be developed so that users can filter for just certified producers.

http://www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk/portal/page?_pageid=77,681226&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

ENplus

Europe backed HETAS by recognising us as their Certification Body for the UK roll-out of the ENplus scheme for pellet quality. This provides a logo recognised as the one 'gold' standard across Europe.

<http://www.hetas.co.uk/fuel-quality>

Advice Sheets

We are supporting fuel consumers with Advice Sheets covering common issues. Including the 'Wood fuel guide' there are now 4 titles available with another 6 due for completion by March. These are free to download, can be purchased in packs of 30 or we are happy to provide high resolution copy to anyone that wants to do a big print run. Accredited suppliers will receive a free pack of sheets to give to their customers.

<http://hetas.co.uk/retailer-scheme/advice-sheets>



HETAS Ltd
Orchard Business Centre
Stoke Orchard
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 7RZ

Tel: 0845 634 5626 Email: info@hetas.co.uk
Fax: 01242 673502 Web: www.hetas.co.uk

Installer Technical Helpline:
0845 223 3033

