

# HETAS Approved Biomass Maintenance Scheme

## Scheme Factsheet

### Why do we need a HETAS Approved Biomass Maintenance Scheme (HABMS) scheme?

#### **Air quality and sustainability is of course under increased scrutiny.**

Following the Governments Clean Air Strategy 2018, a consultation was commissioned on urban Biomass usage and research into the 'measurement of the in-situ performance of solid biomass boilers.'

This identified that incorrectly maintained boilers, along with poor fuel use and lack of operator knowledge contributes to poor air quality from inefficient systems.

Industry, with the support of MCS and HETAS, consulted and created a Standard (MCS040) which details criteria for businesses carrying out Planned and Preventative Maintenance (PPM) and HETAS set up the Approved Biomass Maintenance Scheme. The standard is managed within MCS which has a monitoring and update process; and the scheme to demonstrate that skilled engineers continue to meet the standard is independently operated by HETAS.

The criteria recognises competent maintenance businesses that can carry out required appliance maintenance and raise awareness of the importance of correct fuel use.

There are over 14,000 Non-Domestic biomass boilers receiving RHI funding installed across England, Scotland and Wales. All require maintenance to ensure optimum appliance efficiency and safety.

There are also over 12,000 domestic Biomass installations of which will be encouraged to have regular maintenance and require specialist biomass engineers for repair.

We actively work with industry via a Working Group to ensure we gather industry input in response to the scheme and support the initiatives to reduce emission levels.

### Changes to RHI Requirements

#### **The RHI Regulations have been amended to require the participant, who has a boiler which generates heat using solid biomass, or solid biomass contained in waste, as fuel to complete an "annual maintenance check" in each payment year.**

Registered businesses will issue a maintenance report showing that the work has been done in accordance with the standard and boiler manufacturers' requirements and additionally each maintenance job must be added to an online database recording the visit and the maintenance activity.

When assessing RHI claims for non-domestic RHI claimants, OFGEM will examine the database to see if there was a maintenance visit as required by the RHI legislation. If the claimant cannot demonstrate compliance with the regulation, OFGEM may refuse to pay the claim. OFGEM will have robust and trusted processes to ensure that any refusal to pay claims is reliable and within the requirements of their role.

## What is the demand?

The Government has made significant investments through the Renewable Heat Incentive, (RHI) grant scheme.

- Paying out over £265 million in contributions for 30,000 accredited biomass boilers.
- Over 80% of all RHI accredited installations are biomass.
- The Non-Domestic RHI scheme operates with a 20 year payment term and all will need mandatory maintenance from 2022.

HETAS is currently the only Certification Body operating the scheme in line with the MCS Standard. MCS are administering the standard for the scheme, and HETAS are committed to operate the scheme in accordance to the standard.

Becoming registered on the HETAS Approved Biomass Maintenance Scheme will ensure you are promoted to consumers looking to fulfil the criteria via our web-search and other marketing/PR activities.

## What are the Scheme Benefits?

- ✓ Only Registered Businesses can provide the required notification of maintenance
- ✓ Promotion to Consumers through our web-search
- ✓ Specific appliance manufacturer search function
- ✓ Registrant Notification portal for PPM (Planned Preventative Maintenance)
- ✓ Dedicated technical helpline & technical area
- ✓ Over 14,000 Non-Domestic Boilers which require maintenance
- ✓ Over 12,000 Domestic Boilers that are recommended for maintenance

## How do I become approved to join HABMS?

Businesses can register to join the scheme by applying online on the HETAS Website.

We are able to register businesses based on experience and evidence of training, demonstrating competence to maintain the boiler categories and groups identified within the Standard:

- Domestic Installations
- Small Non-domestic Installations (<200kW)
- Medium Non-domestic Installations (200 to 1,000kW)
- Large Non-domestic Installations (1,000+kW)

The scheme also recognises the categories of maintenance offered based on the demonstrated competence of the business, for example this may limit maintenance offered to defined categories such as:

- Individual appliance manufacturers / models
- Appliance types (for example pellet only or walking floor fuel systems)
- Installation or appliance output ranges
- Domestic / small commercial
- LTHW and steam systems

Any businesses that carry out maintenance activities on Biomass appliances can apply to join the scheme. Applications can be made by completing the online form. Should you have difficulty completing this, our Sales and Registration Teams are here to help.

## What qualifications or training do I need?

The Biomass industry has many specialist roles and includes engineers from different backgrounds and disciplines. Competence can be built up through experience as well as expert training (usually manufacturer specific) and recognised courses such as HETAS H005 Biomass.

We are pleased to offer various routes to registration. Acceptance on the scheme can be a combination of experience and formal training. We will ask you to provide this for review at application.

Consumers can search for maintenance businesses by location or specific manufacturer. To award a manufacturer 'specialism' we will need to see relevant manufacturer training.

We will ask for a nominated technical person to be appointed and the business competence can be built up by multiple operatives with different skills and training.

## What documents do I need to supply?

This requires the business to hold a Quality Management system relative to the size of their business.

It is important for businesses to read the Standard and we have supplied the guidance document: "**Biomass Maintenance Standard - HETAS Explanation of Scheme & Quality Manual Evidence**" explaining the clauses.

Our application form will act as a checklist to ensure your procedures and systems are in place and will meet the requirements of MCS 040. Areas of the Standard that are required to be evidenced to HETAS are:

- a) **Evidence of Competence**
- b) **Management of Subcontractors**
- c) **Maintenance Contracts**
- d) **Document Control**
- e) **Test and measurement Equipment**
- f) **Complaints handling**
- g) **Health & Safety**

There are a number of template documents and samples **provided here on the MCS website** that can be tailored to facilitate these.

We also require relevant insurance and completed HETAS Operative Competency Declaration Forms.

## What are the notifications and how are they used?

Each time PPM is completed, a report detailing the checks completed and any observations is provided to the client recorded by the business.

The activity will also require notifying electronically to HETAS (by the Business) to generate a Certificate to the RHI recipient; The Regulations detail 'a document issued by HETAS'.

This is via the online portal available to HETAS registered businesses. HETAS may be requested to provide electronic notification data to Ofgem.