

28th February 2013

Technical Note:

### **CO Alarms: HETAS Position Statement**

Recent evidence has highlighted that there is a contradiction of information between what is perceived to be a safe location and installation of CO alarms, with reference to the Building Regulation Approved Document J, installation and test standards BS EN 50291 and BS EN 50292 and manufacturer's instructions.

Although the guidance in ADJ states that a CO alarm '**should** be located in the same room as the appliance:', and then goes on to provide information about positioning of the unit, it does not specifically state that the alarm must be fixed in position. Further guidance provided by ADJ on the positioning of the unit do however suggest that only by permanently fixing the unit could it be positioned as recommended.

It is our understanding that not all CO alarm products will work as effectively so our advice must be responsible, generic and recommend permanent fixing of units.

In all cases manufacturers' installation instructions must always take precedence if they require more stringent requirements than the Building Regulations guidance.

The product standard BS EN 50291: 2002 recommends that the CO alarm unit be installed by a competent person, and BS EN 50292 requires the unit to be sited on a wall or ceiling. That would imply permanent fixing.

### **HETAS Position Update – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:**

We are very clear that The Building Regulation (see J3 on page 9 of ADJ) requires "appropriate provision" to be made to detect and give warning of CO. Appropriate provision can only be achieved by fixing the alarm in place and in accordance with ADJ and manufacturer's instructions as appropriate.

This position is currently what is being taught through our centres and members of our CPS will be advised this through technical guidance offered.

The HETAS Certificate of Compliance requires confirmation that a CO alarm is fitted only. Inspectors must ensure that a unit is provided and is fixed in accordance with ADJ and the manufacturers instructions.

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