



Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

Domestic RHI stakeholders

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Ofgem response to comments following our Call for Input on draft guidance for Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (DRHI) Scheme Closure, and publication of our final guidance incorporating scheme closure changes

Dear Stakeholder

On 10 January 2022, we launched a Call for Input on our draft main guidance for Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (DRHI) Scheme Closure - the **Domestic RHI: Essential Guide** and the **Domestic RHI: Guide to Metering**.

The Call for Input closed on 7 February 2022, with the relevant regulatory amendments, laid on 21 February 2022.

We are writing to let you know that today we have published our final main guidance documents for the Domestic RHI, which covers the changes included within the new regulatory package alongside what you need to know to prepare for scheme closure. These are the [Essential Guide](#) and the [Guide to Metering](#).

All feedback has been reviewed and considered. Where appropriate, we have updated our guidance documents accordingly. We would like to thank all those who have engaged with us regarding the closure of the Domestic RHI scheme, including those who attended and provided feedback at our recent stakeholder webinars.

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The comments and our response

We received comments on our draft guidance from a total of one stakeholder. We have used this feedback, along with comments and questions received at our Domestic RHI stakeholder webinar events, to make changes to the draft documents where helpful and appropriate. Our Domestic RHI webinars took place on 5 May, 11 June, 12 July, and 9 November 2021, and on 20 January and 3 February 2022. Tables 1 & 2 below, list the key updates.

It is worth reiterating that this was not a Call for Input on the policy underpinning the Domestic RHI scheme, from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) at www.gov.uk/beis, but on the clarity our guidance documents.

Schedule of changes

Where we have made key revisions to the closure guidance documents in response to comments and feedback, we have provided a reference to the change and the section in which it appears in the guidance document. Below, Table 1 lists key changes to our Essential Guide. Table 2 lists the key changes made to our Guide to Metering.

Table 1:

Key wording changes / insertions made to 'Domestic RHI: Essential Guide' closure guidance	Chapter and section reference
An applicant doesn't have to be an individual person, such as an owner-occupier of the property. Registered social landlords (RSLs) or other organisations can apply to the scheme if they meet the eligibility criteria. However, an organisation must be represented by an individual, known as an 'Authorised Representative'. We will require confirmation of their authority and will also need to undertake our own verification checks on them. More details on Authorised Representatives are available on our website..	Chpt. 2, Sect. 1
The EPC must be less than 24 months old when you submit your application (even if you have an older EPC and your property hasn't changed in the last 2 years). If the EPC is older than 24 months, a new one will be required.	Chpt. 2, Sect. 2
Properties containing multiple separate dwellings (for example, a house and a self-contained annex with its own kitchen and bathroom) should receive an EPC for each	Chpt. 2, Sect. 2

dwelling. If multiple dwellings are heated by the installation, payments can only be made for one of them.	
You'll need to complete any construction work on your house before getting an EPC. A Predicted Energy Assessment (PEA) won't be accepted as it may not accurately reflect the final state of the property	Chpt. 2, Sect. 2
If it will be difficult or expensive for you to install cavity wall insulation, you may wish to see whether you can get funding via the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) scheme. ECO is aimed at reducing home heating costs for low income, fuel poor and vulnerable households, so you will need to meet the eligibility requirements to receive support under the scheme. Further information on requirements for this and other schemes, can be found on Energy Saving Trust's website .	Chpt. 2, Sect. 2
If other types of insulation are recommended in the EPC, (e.g. double-glazing or suspended floor insulation) it's up to you whether to install them, but they're not required for your property to be eligible. The energy efficiency rating on your EPC does not affect your eligibility to the Domestic RHI.	Chpt. 2, Sect. 2
The MCS certifies, quality assures and attaches consumer protection requirements to microgeneration installations and installers. They cover small-scale renewable energy technologies such as solar thermal, biomass and heat pumps.	Chpt. 2, Sect. 4
Your installer will give you an MCS Certificate. These can only be issued for installations using an MCS-certified product and show that the relevant product and installation standards have all been met.	Chpt. 2, Sect. 4
Installers need to issue a certificate for an installation within 14 days of commissioning.	Chpt. 2, Sect. 4
If multiple products of the same type of technology are being installed, they must be commissioned on the same day, to avoid the requirements of metering for payment.	Chpt. 2, Sect. 4
A grant from public funds is any grant from a public body (or a person or organisation distributing funds on behalf of a public body) that went towards the costs of purchasing or installing the renewable heating system. Ofgem considers funding through the National Lottery to be funding from a public body.	Chpt. 2, Sect. 7

<p>If you received a grant which was designed to give some freedom to choose how you spent it, such as a grant that could be used to contribute towards the cost of multiple heating systems, or for the renovation of a building, some of which contributes to the cost of purchasing or installing a renewable heating system, this will still be counted as grant funding for the installation (even if the money is also spent on other projects).</p> <p>If you used part of the general grant towards the cost of purchasing or installing the renewable heating system, this money will be deducted from your payments. You will need to prove how much money went towards it by providing invoices, correspondence, or receipts.</p> <p>If, however, Local Authorities receive a separate grant for the purpose of installing a renewable heating system, or for other specific projects not covered by their annual budget, this may be considered as a grant from public funds. We will review these types of situations on a case-by-case basis.</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect. 7
<p>The Emissions Certificate contains information about the product and laboratory where the testing took place, along with information on the emissions and tested fuel types for the product.</p> <p>A full list of the information that should be on an RHI Emission Certificate can be found in Schedule 2 of the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2014, (as amended). This information is used to indicate the amount of pollutants likely to be emitted by a biomass product when burning specific fuel types.</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect. 9
<p>From 1 April 2022, fuel quality standards are changing. To ensure ongoing compliance, please ensure all fuel purchased after this date is listed on the BSL. You can find BSL fuels on the government website. You can also find further guidance on BSL fuels on the website.</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect. 9
<p>If your home is not regularly or exclusively heated by the installation, it may need to be metered for us to work out your payments. Meters must be installed to accurately measure the heat your installation generates – this is called an ‘eligible metering arrangement’.</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect.10

<p>MMSP registration applications will close at midnight at the end of 31 March 2022, meaning all applications for MMSP registration must be submitted to us by this deadline. However, if you replace your installation (Chapter 3, Section 9) you will need to make a new registration application to continue receiving MMSP payments.</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect. 11
<p>All data is treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (UK GDPR).</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect. 11
<p>You must allow us access to any MMSP data collected prior to scheme closure if we request it.</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect. 11
<p>Ofgem, The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) or any other organisation appointed by BEIS may request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to any data collected following scheme closure as a part of the Metering and Monitoring Service Package (MMSP) • information relating to the MMSP agreement or • anything else done under this agreement <p>You'll have 28 days to comply with the request in the manner and form required. The data will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) 2018.</p> <p>Failure to respond to the request, or to provide the information, may lead to your MMSP registration being withdrawn.</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect. 11
<p>If you own the installation and own and/or occupy the eligible property, you can apply for the Domestic RHI. You can only do this once the installation is commissioned.</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect. 13
<p>We have also produced a short Guide to making an application to the DRHI, which should be read alongside the Essential Guide.</p>	Chpt. 2, Sect. 13
<p>Occupancy exemptions bullet point list.</p>	Chpt. 3, Sect. 2
<p>Exemption requests can't be made in respect of previous decisions. Exemption requests can only be made for decisions taken after 1 April 2022.</p>	Chpt. 3, Sect. 2
<p>In order to operate an efficient biomass installation, regular maintenance is recommended. Whilst not a mandatory</p>	Chpt. 3, Sect. 3

obligation under the Domestic RHI, MCS has created a standard for biomass maintenance which you can find out more about on its website.	
Over the course of your installation's accreditation, it may be necessary to replace or repair parts to keep it in good working order. You must let us know within 28 days of this happening, and we will tell you what you have to do. You must replace like for like technology types, even if they aren't the exact product (e.g. an air source heat pump for an air source heat pump).	Chpt. 3, Sect. 9
(Expanded list of documentation participants advised to keep whilst on the scheme, and which may be required for audit): - Photographic evidence relating to the renewable heating system and/or meter(s) - Standard and/or alternative metering schematic drawing - Solar thermal domestic hot water calculations - Title deeds, TR1 forms, fixtures and fittings or evidence of property ownership - Copies of relevant bank statement and ID documents This list is not exhaustive, and we can request any information we consider reasonable.	Chpt. 3, Sect. 10
For further information about requesting a review, see our Right of Review form.	Chpt. 3, Sect. 10
If you have a question, complaint or recommendation, you can find more information at Complaining about Ofgem .	Chpt. 4, Contacts
Insertion of Annex 2, Seasonal Performance Factor	Annexes
Insertion of Annex 3, Heat Demand Limits	Annexes
Insertion of Annex 4, Deemed Payments	Annexes

Table 2:

Key wording changes / insertions made to 'Domestic RHI: Guide to Metering' closure guidance	Chapter and section reference
Once meters have been installed, make sure your installer: ... - Has told you what units your meter is showing. Your heat and electricity meters should be in kilowatt hours (kWh), megawatt hours (MWh), or a combination of both. Any gas and oil meters should be in m ³ or litres.	Chpt. 3, Sect. 2

<p>If your heating system is accredited to the scheme, you'll be able to sign in to the MyRHI portal of the Domestic RHI website to submit your meter readings every three months (except for alternative arrangements, as detailed in Annex 2, Section 2). Submitting a meter reading will enable us to calculate the payment owed to you for the previous three months.</p>	<p>Chpt. 3, Sect. 4</p>
<p>If you forget to submit a meter reading or are unable to do so for any reason, then you'll have to submit the readings at your next opportunity three months later. Once you do this, you'll be paid for the previous six months in one payment.</p>	<p>Chpt. 3, Sect. 4</p>
<p>Registration applications must be completed prior to scheme closure, at midnight at the end of 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>Chpt. 4, Sect. 3</p>
<p>You must provide access to us for any MMSP data collected prior to scheme closure if we request it. BEIS use this data to inform future research and policy development.</p> <p>If we, another organisation chosen by BEIS, or BEIS request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to any data collected following scheme closure as a part of the Metering and Monitoring Service Package (MMSP), • information relating to the MMSP agreement, or • anything else done under this agreement <p>you'll have 28 days to comply with the request in the manner and form required. The data will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) 2018.</p> <p>Failure to respond to the request, or to provide the information, may lead to your MMSP registration being withdrawn.</p>	<p>Chpt. 4, Sect. 4</p>

Yours sincerely,

Renewable Heat Team