

## The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target 2008-11

### Early replacement of G-rated boilers

1. This note advises obligated parties under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) programme of a change in the way that the programme is administered in relation to boiler replacements.

#### Headline

2. From 10 February 2009 the early replacement of operational G-rated boilers will be an eligible measure under the CERT programme.

#### Background

3. The Building Regulations 2000 (Scotland 2004) require that all new boilers be A or B-rated. Therefore any boiler which breaks down and needs to be replaced must be replaced by an efficient model<sup>1</sup>, as a matter of course – for this reason carbon reductions are not awarded for general boiler replacements, under the CERT, as they are not seen to be additional.
4. The CERT programme does however accredit carbon reductions for the replacement of D-rated (Building Regulations 2000) exceptions – if they are replaced with an A or B-rated boiler (see paragraphs 3.63 and 3.64 to the Supplier Guidance<sup>2</sup>).
5. Under the former EEC programmes (predecessor to CERT), and under CERT, boiler replacements have only been accredited when the old boiler has broken down and therefore needs to be replaced. There has never been a provision for the replacement of working boilers.
6. Discussions have taken place as to whether the early replacement of the most inefficient (G-rated) boilers (i.e. of boilers that are still working) within the existing housing stock could be accredited under the CERT programme. These boilers tend to have extended lifetimes with many householders choosing to repair rather than replace them and this has led to calls for the facilitation of their early replacement.
7. This activity has not been approved in the past as there was no clear way to independently assess a) that the boilers were G-rated, and b) that they were working. The advent of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) has changed this. EPCs now provide a clear route to ‘independent verification’.
8. Therefore, having assessed all the relevant information and on the back of lengthy discussions with the industry, Ofgem has decided to allow the accreditation of carbon reductions associated with these early replacements (of G-rated boilers) under CERT.
9. The rest of this document details how Ofgem proposes to administer this change.

---

<sup>1</sup> D-rated (Building Regs.) exceptions being the exception

<sup>2</sup> Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) 2008-2011 Supplier Guidance

## **G-rated boilers early replacement**

### *Annual reduction in carbon emissions*

10. The attached spreadsheet provides detail on the annual carbon savings to be accredited to the early replacement of G-rated boilers – by property type and by fuel type. Carbon reductions will be accredited based on the increase in efficiency from G (65%<sup>3</sup>) to A/B rated (market average, 88.3%). The latter efficiency is the same used by Defra (now DECC) for CERT target setting purposes.

### *Lifetime*

11. The lifetime for such early replacements needs to take into account the number of years that the old (G-rated) boilers would be likely to continue working before breaking down and being replaced anyway.
12. Based on the data that has been provided by the industry we have determined the average remaining lifetime of G-rated boilers to be 6 years. While it is possible some of these boilers will operate for longer than this, some will operate for a shorter time. This lifetime represents the average lifetime of all the operational G-rated boilers in households.

### *Technical standards*

13. Replacement boilers should be installed in line with the technical, specific, and best practice guidelines requirements set out in paragraphs 2.6 to 2.9 to the Technical Guidance<sup>4</sup>.

### *Monitoring requirements*

14. All monitoring should be conducted in line with paragraphs 8.24 to 8.28 to the Supplier Guidance.

## **Identifying G-rated boilers for early replacement**

15. It is extremely important that the identification of G-rated boilers to be replaced be conducted by an independent party. The best way to achieve this is through EPCs. Boilers for early replacement under CERT must therefore be:

- a) identified as G-rated; and
- b) confirmed as working,

via an independent assessor and EPC.

16. Only boiler replacements identified via this route will be eligible under the CERT programme. To assist EPC assessors a list of G-rated boilers (make and model) is being collated by industry. This will be made available on the Ofgem website ([www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk)).

---

<sup>3</sup> This figure represents G-rated efficiency of 66% minus 1% to account for poor controls.

<sup>4</sup> Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) 2008-2011 Technical Guidance Manual

### **Next steps**

17. Suppliers wishing to promote these boiler replacements should submit scheme proposals to Ofgem in the usual way.
18. Ofgem will update its guidance documents to reflect this change when it amends the guidance in light of the CERT+ changes, in 2009.
19. If you have any questions please contact Steve McBurney on 020 7901 7063 or at [steve.mcburney@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:steve.mcburney@ofgem.gov.uk).

10 February 2009