

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

PRODUCT: ALL NEW HEATING SYSTEMS

CHANGES TO PART L AFFECTING NEW HEATING SYSTEMS:

Changes have been made to Building regulations Part L for England and Wales, Section 6 in Scotland. These changes came into force on October 1st 2010.

These changes affect new heating systems, if the property has had any major alterations or if there has been a change of use to the property. Installers will need to take extra care when specifying systems and will have to ensure that the new guidelines are adhered to.

Single storey open plan dwellings with a living area greater than 70% of the total floor area do not require zoning. For any other installation it is suggested one zone will be for the living area and the second zone would be for the sleeping area. Further zones can be added if it is felt desirable. If the hot water is not provided instantaneously, say from a combination boiler, then there would need to be a separate temperature and time controlled zone for the stored hot water zone.

If the installation is just a boiler replacement then a single heating zone which is controlled from a programmable room thermostat or time control incorporating a room thermostat and using thermostatic radiator valves (where practical), are the minimum requirements

If the dwelling is below 150m² total floor area then the two zones can be controlled from a single time control, although each zone will require its own temperature control. To install two heating zones on a combination boiler, the heating circuit should be split using two zone valves rather like an 'S' Plan with a room thermostat for each zone.

Another way of zoning a heating system can be by using a centrally controlled thermostatic radiator valve system. A non instantaneous hot water supply would still require a separate time and temperature control. Normal thermostatic radiator valves would not achieve this.

Where the total floor area is over 150m² then each of the zones will need both temperature and time control. A simple way of achieving this would be to use programmable room thermostats for each zone or a multi zone programmer with room thermostats for each heating zone. If the hot water is not instantaneous and from a hot water storage cylinder then this zone will need its own time and temperature control. The time control for the hot water storage cylinder can come from the multi zone programmer.

If the dwelling is over 150m² then it is recommended that a second hot water zone is considered. In this case a second hot water cylinder should be used. An alternative to this for a very large hot water system is to incorporate a secondary circulation for the DHW circuit, provided the cylinder has the necessary connections.

When speaking to home owners or landlords it may be worthwhile reminding them that up to 84% of energy use in the home is for central heating and hot water. Any improvements that can be made to the heating, hot water and the property would make an impact on saving energy which would in turn make savings on carbon emissions and costs to the customer.

Improvements can be made such as ensuring thermostatic radiator valves are installed where practical, improving insulation levels in the property, providing programmable room thermostats, using a modern condensing boiler or a hot water cylinder with good insulation levels.

The energy Savings Trust can provide good advice about further energy saving measures. The award winning Worcester Technical Support team can also help with advice about our boilers, controls and heating the home efficiently and there is plenty of information on our web site www.worcester-bosch.co.uk. We have a very helpful brochure called "Heating and hot water handy hints" which is available to download.

Guidance for this Technical Bulletin has been taken from Building Regulations Part L, the guidance document published by TACMA and the Building Services Compliance Guide.

Information from TACMA can be found on their web site <http://www.beama.org.uk/en/energy/heating-controls.cfm>

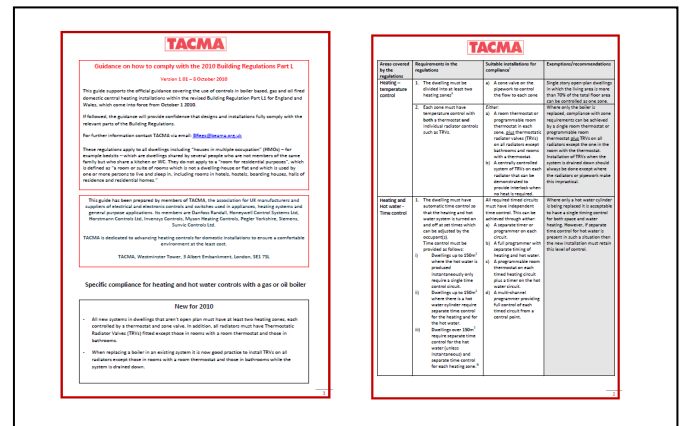


Fig 1: Image of TACMA guide

The Building regulations Part L and the Building Services Compliance guide can be found on the Planning Portal web site www.planningportal.gov.uk

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