

REGULATIONS 2002

March and April 2002 saw the biggest shake up in the regulations regarding Oil Installations.

Firstly any Installation or movement of an Oil fired Appliance or Oil storage tank after these dates requires a formal application for PLANNING PERMISSION to the relevant Local authority. The only exception for this is if the Installer has the relevant registration with OFTEC (Oil fired Technical Association for the Petroleum Industry). This enables the Installer to Self-Certify their OWN work, but to finalise the job they must fill in a Completion of Installation certificate, the Installer is also responsible to ensure the appliance is commissioned. The Commissioning Technician also fills in a Commissioning Certificate. The Customer must retain these Certificates to prove the legality of the Installation. If the Installer is not OFTEC registered, after applying and receiving approval from the Local authority the work can commence, and when finished the same documentation must be completed but the Building Inspector must also check the Installation and paperwork and then sign off the job. No one other than the Building Inspector has the power to sign off another Installers work.

March saw the Introduction of the Control of Pollution regulations regarding Commercial/Industrial Oil Storage Installations. In basic Terms any Oil storage tank used in a Commercial/Industrial Installation of over 200 litres, or domestic Installation of over 3500 litres must incorporate a Catchpit or Bund for secondary containment of the fuel in the event of an Oil leak or overflow situation.

Any tank, which is classed to be "at immediate risk" had to conform by 1st, September 2003, any other tank by 1st September 2005. After this date any Commercial/Industrial Oil storage installation which does not conform will be deemed an illegal installation leaving the owner liable to prosecution with a fine of up to £20,000. In addition to any cost relating to damage or clean up costs will be solely liable by the owner of the tank.

April also saw the Introduction of Part J and Parts L1 and L2 of the Building Regulations regarding Domestic Installations.

Part J concerns the Installation of Combustion appliances, flues and Storage of Liquid fuels.

Any Domestic Oil Storage tank over 3500 litres must be classed as commercial and falls under the Control of Pollutions regulations.

The regulations concerning Oil Storage can be broken into two sections:

PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE

Adequate fire protection must be given to protect the oil tank from a fire within a building as well as a building from an oil tank fire. Therefore, a radiation barrier with a minimum of a 30 minute fire resistance must be installed to give protection and must be at least 300mm bigger in every direction of the side of the tank, unless the tank is situated at least 1.8m from a flue terminal, window or door or the eaves of a building, or a wall of a building that has less than a 30 minute fire resistance. These buildings can be any building in which a fire could start such as a house, garage, greenhouse, garden shed, even an old pigsty or derelict building at the bottom of your garden or beyond your boundary! In addition, if the tank is closer than 760mm from a boundary line, the same applies. Regardless of any of the above, the non-combustible base of the oil tank should extend a minimum of 300mm each side of the tank.

SECONDARY CONTAINMENT (BUNDING, DOUBLE SKINNED Etc.)

Any ordinary, single skinned oil tank can be used for a domestic Installation unless ANY of the following apply:

If the tank:

Has a capacity over 2500 Litres,

Is located where Oil could run into an open drain or loose fitting manhole cover,

Is located within 50m of Potable water sources such as boreholes, wells or springs,

Is located within 10m of Controlled Water, which includes Coastal waters or Fresh

Inland waters, streams, rivers, reservoirs and lakes as well as ditches, field and garden drainage, septic tanks or any surface drainage leading into them,

Is located where oil spilled from the Installation could reach any of the above by running across hard ground,

If the vent pipe is not visible from the filling point of the tank e.g. extended or offset fill pipe.

Or if there is any other potential hazard individual to the site.

If any of the above apply, the Installer must provide Secondary containment of the Oil storage tank by either utilizing a Pre-bunded tank, or a masonry catchpit. If a masonry catchpit is the preferred option, then it must be built to a Standard specified by British Standards and Building Regulations, obtainable from the Environmental Agency.

Energy Efficiency Regulations change on the 1st April 2005.

As far as we know the new regulations state that as of 01/04/2005, any new build property must fit one of the new High Efficiency **CONDENSING** Boilers, while any replacement appliance, or changes of fuel type have until 01/04/2007 before they need to comply.

Further information will be added at a later date.