

HEATBASE FACTSHEET 3

Oil supply line and associated items

If your Installation has been marked as “Does not comply with current regulations” or any part of the Installation has been marked as “Fail” please read the following.

Oil supply systems should contain some or all of the following components:

Isolation valve. Fail if not fitted or does not turn off. Also fail if additional valve needed as fuel filter is not easily visible or accessible from isolator on tank.

Contents gauge. Fail if not fitted, not working. If a sight tube is fitted it must have a spring loaded isolation valve to the tube which prevents the loss of fuel if the gauge becomes damaged.

Oil filter. Should be fitted close to the oil tank, and an additional filter may need to be fitted close to the appliance. If an oil filter is located away from the tank, an isolation valve should be fitted in the oil supply line before the filter so that it can be safely worked on and isolated. Fail if not fitted, fitted incorrectly, buried in ground or inaccessible.

Oil supply lines are normally run in plastic coated annealed copper and some approved types of plastic pipe. Soft soldered fittings cannot be used, nor can galvanised fittings as they can cause electrolytic corrosions of dissimilar metals. Exposed oil lines should be fixed to a permanent rigid structure such as brick walls and not to non-permanent structures such as fences and sheds. Uncoated copper and screwed steel pipe should be secured to hold the pipe work away from the corrosive elements of the structure e.g. Mortar and masonry. Buried pipe work must be installed in compliance with OFTEC’s guidelines. Fail if VISIBLE pipe work is not installed correctly. Approved plastic oil line can only be installed below ground, therefore any exposed section of this pipe will be classed as a fail.

Tiger loop or de-aerator. Fitted to boilers if the oil tank is lower than the burner, a two pipe system can be used instead, but de-aerator is the preferred method. Fail if fitted inside a property, unless internal de-aerator is used.

Remote sensing fire valve. Any Domestic Oil Appliance fitted after 1st April 2002 must incorporate a remote sensing fire valve to shut off the oil supply outside the building or occasionally inside, immediately where the oil line enters, in the event of a fire. External boilers also require a remote sensing fire valve and should be fitted installed in such a manner that the oil shuts off at least 1 metre away from the appliance. Fail if not fitted, not working, or fitted incorrectly. It should have separate “sleeve” through wall, so faulty unit can be replaced. Fail also if electronic fire valve is used and fitted upside down.

Internal Isolator. Fail if not fitted or not operating.

Flexible Oil lines. 1 or 2 fitted to burner so it can be removed for service without disconnecting main oil lines. Copper pipes joining to flexi oil lines should be inside boiler casing. Fail if solid oil lines used or flexi protrudes from casing.

Although any domestic oil appliance or domestic oil tank of 2500 litres or less, installed prior to 1st April 2002 are not governed by these regulations, and therefore the owner cannot be forced to bring their Installations in line with the current regulations until they move or replace the Oil tank or Oil appliance, it is strongly recommended that they check with their insurance companies as there may be a clause to void any insurance if the system is not compliant.

This factsheet is designed only to give a basic guide to the legality of installations both before and after the introduction of Building Regulations Approved Document J 2002, it should only be used as a guide, for full details please see the Building Regulations Approved Document J 2002 and any amendments made to it.