HEATBASE Ltd FACTSHEET 5
Oil supply line and associated items

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If your Installation has been marked as "Does not comply with current regulations" or any part of the Installation has been marked as "Fail" or a warning sticker has been issued or you have been informed that there is either a potential or immediate risk please read the following:

An Oil supply line should contain some (or all) of the following components:

Tank isolation valve: Fail and potential environmental risk if not fitted or does not turn off.

Working and correctly installed contents gauge: Fail if not fitted, or not working. If a sight tube is fitted its tube should be in good condition, securely supported and must have either a spring loaded isolation valve or be left in closed position for the supply to the tube which should prevent the loss of fuel if the gauge becomes damaged. Otherwise it is a Potential Environmental risk.

Oil filter: An oil filter should be fitted close to the outlet of the oil tank. It must be positioned in a manner to allow the removal of the bowl for cleaning or replacement of the filter. If the bowl cannot be removed due to insufficient space beneath it, or if the bowl is seized into place, or if the bowl is partially buried or touching the base or ground it is a Fail and a Potential Environmental risk.

Oil supply lines: 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 corrosion 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 and potential Environmental risk if **VISIBLE** pipe work is not installed correctly. Approved plastic oil line can only be installed below ground, therefore any visible exposed section of this pipe will be classed as a fail and also as a Potential Environmental risk.

Component Isolation Valve: An additional isolation valve should be fitted to the oil line prior to any additional oil filter, remote sensing fire valve or De-aerator. Fail if not fitted and Potential Environmental risk.

Additional fuel filter: Although only required if there is no or an inadequate form of filtration at the oil tank, any additional filter must be fitted correctly and be accessible. Fail if not fitted, fitted incorrectly, touching masonry, buried in ground or inaccessible, this could also constitute a Potential Environmental risk.

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. It should have a separate "sleeve" through wall, so a faulty unit can be replaced. External boilers also require a remote sensing fire valve and it should be fitted/installed in such a manner that the oil shuts off outside of the appliance casing. Fail and Potential Safety risk if not fitted, not working, or fitted incorrectly; or if the owner declines testing of the fire valve. If an electronic fire valve is used and is fitted upside down or fitted to a vaporising appliance; Fail and Potential Safety risk.

De-aerator: Fitted to boilers if the oil tank is lower than the burner, a two pipe system can be used instead but a de-aerator is the preferred method. Fail if fitted within 500mm of a flue terminal or inside a property; unless an internal de-aerator is used. Also Potential Safety and Environment risk if fitted within 500mm of a flue terminal or below the flue of a condensing boiler.

Oil lifter: Usually fitted with vaporising appliances when there is insufficient head of pressure from the tank. They should be fitted externally in a weather proof compartment, or internally in a heat resistant compartment which is vented to the outside and incorporate a remote sensing fire valve with the sensor above the oil lifter and the body located external to the building. An additional fire valve should also be fitted after the oil lifter with the sensor at the burner. Fail if not fitted to specifications and Potential Safety Risk.

Internal burner Isolation valve: An additional isolation valve should be fitted near or within the appliance casing to allow fuel to be turned off when replacing oil related burner components. Fail if not fitted or not operating.

Flexible Oil lines: 1 or 2 fitted to a Pressure Jet burner so it can be removed for service or repair without disconnecting the main oil lines. Copper pipes joining to flexi oil lines should be inside boiler casing where applicable. Fail if solid oil lines used or flexi protrudes from casing or if the connections to the flexi lines are inaccessible.

Any domestic oil appliance or domestic oil tank of 3500 litres or less installed prior to 1st April 2002 was not governed by Building Regulations; therefore the owner cannot be forced to bring their Installations in line with the current regulations until they either 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 with Current Regulations. 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, it should only be used as a guide, for full details please see the Building Regulations Approved Document J and any amendments made to it.