

OFTEC Information Sheet

Expand your business with OFTEC solid fuel registration



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Solid fuel heating such as open fires, room heaters and stoves is back in demand with homeowners. The traditional look of these appliances has become very popular and can reduce central heating bills by providing useful room heating - especially in large houses. This surge in popularity has provided welcome new business for solid fuel technicians and OFTEC offers registration for technicians wishing to demonstrate their competence to consumers.



Why you should register with OFTEC

New and replacement solid fuel burning appliances must be installed in accordance with regional building regulations and manufacturers' installation instructions. If they are not installed and maintained correctly they can present a dangerous risk to life and property. Badly installed or maintained appliances can cause fire, explosions or dangerous carbon monoxide (CO) emissions.

OFTEC has been recognised since 1991 for promoting standards and excellence in heating through the training, assessment and registration of competent technicians who in turn provide a professional installation, commissioning and maintenance service.

OFTEC's registration scheme is recognised by governments as an accredited scheme for competent persons operating in the heating sector. As well as offering registration for technicians working on renewable and oil heating systems, OFTEC offers the following scopes of solid fuel registration:

OFT15-108(D)

Installation, commissioning and servicing of solid fuel burning appliances (dry space heating).

OFT15-108(W)

As OFT15-108(D) but with the addition of hot water heating.

OFT18-108(S)

For solid fuel technicians who do not install but wish to service, commission or repair solid fuel burning appliances.

Under the OFT15-108(D/W) scopes, technicians can install, commission or service solid fuel appliances such as room heaters, stoves and associated equipment/systems in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, industry practices, standards and legislative requirements. For regions where the relevant governments adopt a self-certification scheme, technicians can use the OFTEC work notification scheme to self-certify that their own solid fuel installation work has been carried out in accordance with building regulations. Householders in these regions will receive a building regulation compliance certificate from OFTEC and a workmanship warranty.

The OFT18-108(S) scope covers servicing, commissioning, fault diagnosis and repair of solid fuel domestic appliances. This includes the combustion process, ventilation, flueing, suitability of hearths/fire surrounds and identifying unsafe situations.



How to register for solid fuel

In order to join OFTEC you have to have appropriate qualifications and experience. Suitable qualifications are those mapped to the current minimum technical competences (MTC) for solid fuel or NVQ level 3 diploma in plumbing and heating with solid fuel option.

If you don't already hold these qualifications, there are a number of OFTEC approved training centres around the UK and the Republic of Ireland offering solid fuel training and assessment courses – full details can be found at [OFTEC website](https://www.oftec.org.uk). Choose the appropriate course for the work you wish to undertake (servicing, repair, commissioning or installation), and your local training centre will be able to advise you on the pre-requisite experience or qualifications required to access the assessment process.

Once you have completed the necessary training, please visit [OFTEC website](https://www.oftec.org.uk) to complete a registration application form. The solid fuel scope can also be added to existing OFTEC registrations by completing form R526 and sending to our registration team.

Biomass

For those looking at installing renewable biomass stoves or appliances, OFTEC offers a scope of registration called the OFT505 that covers the installation and commissioning of biomass combustion appliances and systems. This scope is available under the OFTEC competent person scheme, that enables work to be self-certified for building regulations, and microgeneration certification scheme.

Benefits of registering for solid fuel include:

- Free listing on OFTEC's 'Find a Technician' website so new customers can find you
- The ability to self-certify installation work in participating regions
- Exclusive use of the OFTEC solid fuel logo on vans, stationery and other marketing materials
- Access to low cost business insurance through OFTEC Insurance Services
- Workmanship warranty available on work self-certified through the notification scheme (in regions operating building regulation self-certification)
- Free technical support from qualified staff via telephone or email
- Essential technical updates about industry changes
- A range of free of charge consumer-friendly information leaflets to help you win quotations and market your business
- Discounts on control documentation and publications from OFTEC Direct
- Free quarterly magazine and a monthly electronic newsletter
- Free to attend events including roadshows and exhibitions
- OFTEC's consumer complaints service helps to mediate on issues or disputes arising between consumers and technicians
- A reporting system for non-compliant work carried out by non-registered technicians.
- Vehicle fuel discount card offer

To find out more details about solid fuel registration please visit the [OFTEC website](https://www.oftec.org.uk) or email us for information to registration@oftec.org or call 01473 626 298 (UK) or 01 864 5771 (RoI).