



The Lord Callanan

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

Minister.Callanan@beis.gov.uk

02nd March 2023

Dear Lord Callanan,

Removal of Biomass Boilers from Boiler Upgrade Scheme Product Eligibility List

I am writing to you to request a meeting regarding the recent removal of several wood pellet boilers from the Product Eligibility List (PEL) of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS).

We at the REA are particularly concerned that this decision was made without any warning, consultation or grace period. Significantly, the lack of warning around the decision has caused some of our members to cease trading, as well as stopping their customers from being able to install low carbon heating systems and benefit from the BUS.

These boilers have been on the PEL list for many years, some for a decade, and previously supported under the Domestic RHI. All these appliances and factories have also been MCS certified.

This action will impact the BUS Scheme, which as you are aware is already facing issues due to the low uptake of vouchers. The removal of these models represents a very significant proportion of the biomass installations so far supported by the scheme. Furthermore, it leaves mainly utility scale biomass boilers on the PEL list which, while suitable for large properties, with high heat loads and space for an outbuilding, are not the primary target of the BUS scheme. As such, the removal of these smaller models will result in many hard-to-treat homes in rural areas effectively being excluded from support.

We have not received an official explanation for why these systems have been removed from the PEL. We believe all these models meet the eligibility criteria of the BUS scheme, given that they all primarily work by heating water within a central heating system to heat the home. Through discussion with industry, we understand that there may be concerns that some of these models have incidental features, such as also having the ability to provide heating for cooking, but that is not the primary operating function of these systems.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

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For example, two of the removed models, Smart 80 and Smart 120, were previously reviewed under the RHI and specifically included in the PEL due to their central heating function, despite also having the ability to be used for cooking. Our members estimate that these two models alone could account for half of the biomass boilers so far installed under the BUS scheme.

The removal of these models has come without consultation or warning. Overnight, it has undermined the viability of several of our members businesses, without providing them the opportunity to either demonstrate why these systems meet the scheme requirements or an opportunity to consider alternative options. In addition, this abrupt change will have significant implications for customers in hard to treat homes, who could be using the BUS to decarbonise their heating needs. We believe that these biomass boilers provide homeowners in rural areas with a renewable heating alternative to oil, coal or fossil LPG.

We urge you to reconsider the removal of these systems from the PEL, and properly engage industry in the process. As such, we would also welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter in more detail as a matter of urgency.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'N. M. Skorupska', is displayed within a light grey rectangular box.

Dr Nina Skorupska CBE FEI
Chief Executive, REA

cc
David Capper, Director of Clean Heat Directorate
Tommy Moody, Head of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme

Annex 1:

We understand that the list of removed system include:

MCS Certification Number, Technology Type and Model

HTSMCS1801/01 Biomass Belvedere 18 (BV16)
HTSMCS1801/03 Biomass Belvedere 22 (BV22)
HTSMCS1806/03 Biomass Diva Slim (DSL, DSLW)
HTSMCS1801/06 Biomass Pellet Fire Place 18 (PFP18)
HTSMCS1801/07 Biomass Pellet Fire Place 22 (PFP22)
HTSMCS2104/01 Biomass PFP 160 Glass
HTSMCS2104/02 Biomass PFP 240 Glass
HTSMCS1801/09 Biomass Smart 120 (SM120)
HTSMCS1801/08 Biomass Smart 80 (SM80)
HTSMCS1801/11 Biomass Star 18 (ST18)
HTSMCS2102/01 Biomass Style 120 Plus
HTSMCS2102/02 Biomass Style 140
HTSMCS2102/03 Biomass Style 180
HTSMCS2102/04 Biomass Style 220
HTSMCS1901/01 Biomass THERMOAURA