

Final Decisions and Actions

Meeting Title: Green Deal Installer Forum (GDIF 04)

Date of Meeting: 12th September 2013

Attendees:

No	Participant	Name
1	Building and Engineering Services Association (B&ES)	Bob Towse
2	British Standards Limited (BSI)	Brian Such
3	Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)	Tony Howard
4	Competent Persons Forum (Benchmark Certification)	John Martin
5	DECC	Carolina Valsecchi (part)
6	DECC	Paul Wilson
7	Energy Saving Trust (EST)	Katie Searle
8	Federation of Master Builders (FMB)	John Pratt
9	Glass and Glazing Federation	Giles Wilson
10	GD ORB (Gemserv)	Daniel Barnes
11	GD ORB (Gemserv)	Inga Jirgensone (Chair)
12	Heating and Hot Water Industry Council (HHIC)	Glyn Thomas
13	Institute of Domestic Heating and Environmental Engineers	Peter Thom (Dial in)
14	Insulated Render and Cladding Association	Mike Threadgold
15	The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS)	Gideon Richards
16	NAPIT	Dennis Colley
17	National Insulation Association	Neil Marshall
18	Ofgem	Lakhvinder Sandhu (part)
19	Ofgem	Cassie Sutherland (part)
20	Ofgem	Michelle Toussaint-Bourne (part)
21	National Federation of Roofing Contractors	Gary Simcock
22	Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)	Mark Elton
23	Trustmark	Ray Ferris
Apologies		
24	DECC	Dean Thomas

Final Decisions and Actions

25	DECC	Rob Davis
26	GD ORB	Brendan McGarry
27	Scottish Government	Kathleen Robertson
28	Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation	Alan Wilson
29	Summit Skills	Tony Beecher

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed the meeting attendees to the Green Deal Installer Forum and invited introductions from the Forum participants.

2. Actions from the previous meeting

Action GDIF 01-05 regarding centralised course listings and Action GDIF 02-08 in relation to testing of CO monitors had been directed to the PAS 2030 Steering Group ahead of the PAS 2030 revision.

With regards to Action GDIF 03-02, Route 4 to demonstrating competence and a perceived lack of standardisation, it was reiterated that the Certification Body Forum did not consider this to be an issue. The GD ORB also reminded the forum that this issue has been logged for consideration at the PAS 2031 revision next year.

Action GDIF 04-01: GD ORB to liaise with UKAS and Certification Bodies, as appropriate, with an aim to establish a Commonly Agreed Position to assessing route 4 to demonstrating competence.

With regards to Action GDIF 03-04 the Forum heard that, considering the early stages of market development, a Commonly Agreed Position has been discussed at the recent Certification Body Forum and will be drafted shortly to enable Certification Bodies to take a pragmatic approach to the annual re-certification process.

In terms of the Common Minimum Technical Competence Annexes, a letter was drafted and submitted to DECC on the 30 July 2013 on behalf of the Installer Forum. The letter was calling for the process for updating the competencies to be reviewed. The Forum heard that DECC and DCLG are just about to write to relevant organisations to request an initial meeting similar to that proposed in the letter. Action IF03-07 was closed.

Action GDIF 03-08 relation to the proposal for introducing an alternative route to accessing Cashback was on the agenda. This action was therefore closed.

3. ECO Update

Ofgem drew the Forum's attention to the consultation on requirements for demonstrating characteristics of hard-to-treat cavities (HTTC). Proposed requirements for demonstrating

Final Decisions and Actions

cavity characteristics were discussed and the forum was reminded that these would apply to measures installed from 1 October 2013. The three requirements proposed by Ofgem are:

- i. 100% verification of narrow HTTC measures;
- ii. Increased requirements on HTTC measures that require a chartered surveyor's report; and
- iii. Increased technical monitoring.

The latter of the three areas instigated discussion amongst the group, one participant outlined that increasing the size of the initial sample for technical monitoring from 5% to 10% may augment existing logistical issues for monitoring visits. A call for a streamlined surveillance/ monitoring process was made whereby one assessment could suffice for all assessment requirements.

The consultation on the HTTC led to a discussion regarding the number of insulation measures installed. The latest statistical release from DECC was referenced and one participant highlighted the significant fall in the number of insulation measures installed.

Ofgem requested two Installer Forum nominees for the ECO Technical Working Group and two candidates were agreed by the Forum.

4. GD ORB Update

The GD ORB provided an update on the number of market participants and the main installer measures that companies are certified to install. The GD ORB also referenced the letter circulated to all authorised Green Deal Installers on the 2nd August 2013 encouraging them to consider becoming a Green Deal Provider. The GD ORB noted that there has been a substantial increase in the number of queries and interest generated since the letter was dispatched.

5. PAS 2030 Review, Revision and Extension

BSI provided an update with particular emphasis on the eight measures to be provided for in the 2014 revision. Measures due for inclusion in the next update are:

- i. High heat retention storage heaters;
- ii. (low energy) circulator pumps;
- iii. Storage waste water heat recovery devices;
- iv. Low temperature heat emitters (as part of a system with heat pumps);
- v. Transpired solar collectors;
- vi. Cavity wall insulation (for party walls);
- vii. Glazing upgrade; and
- viii. Thermal linings.

The aim is to finalise the draft by the latter part of December or early January with a view to publish the final document by the end of January 2014.

Final Decisions and Actions

6. Green Skills Alliance Update

CITB representative updated the forum on their work. It was noted that CITB are on plan with Solid Wall Installer training. Funding will be allocated after all the profiling is completed. If this would delay delivery, it could be released on a phased basis (a ratio per company) to ensure a split between large companies and SMEs.

CITB also stated that the 'General Requirements and Guidance for loft insulation' following review by an industry group will be republished on their website shortly. Furthermore, CITB together with the Employer Investment Fund (EIF) and DECC are commencing research into the supply chain of Installers. CITB also reminded participants that there are a series of Renewable Energy Roadshows taking place until the end of September 2013 as part of their Energy Efficiency Exhibitions. Further information on Employers Grants for training outside of the DECC/ CITB initial fund and customer service training can be found on their website.

7. Code of Practice April 2014 Revision

The GD ORB informed the Forum that Code of Practice (CoP) review is underway, and pending ratification once laid in Parliament in February, the aim is to have the revised CoP in force by April 2014. Members were invited to provide their suggestions on areas where the CoP could be improved or indeed where there may be any perceived shortcomings, with a particular emphasis on the Annex C – additional requirements that must be met by Green Deal Installers.

Action GDIF 04-02: GD ORB to circulate a feedback form to Forum participants seeking their suggestions on improvement areas and whether there are any perceived shortcomings in the CoP.

8. Green Deal Cashback Consultation and Proposed Implementation

A DECC representative outlined the current state of play of Cashback take-up and the proposed action required to improve take-up further. DECC outlined three main elements.

Consumer Protection

Discussion focused on the requirements for guarantees and effective delivery and whether consumer protection would be supported prompted some wide-ranging feedback. Principally, there was a general consensus that requirements for guarantees should remain rather than running the risk of potentially undermining the scheme. Furthermore, some noted that once the appropriate guarantee is recognised by ECO it should meet the relevant criteria. One participant emphasised that consumer protection is underpinned by PAS 2030.

One participant stated that guarantees should be declared with evidence. Some suggested that perhaps Independent Technical Monitoring similar to ECO should be introduced. One

Final Decisions and Actions

participant outlined that they have reviewed their requirements and any works carried out under their auspices are guaranteed. Participants agreed that the same level of guarantees should be offered across all measures.

Application and Redemption Process

The forum heard how the process is overseen by the Providers. There was a consensus that the scheme should be open to Installers. The participants were also prompted for their views and discussion followed focusing on a situation whereby a lead installer would notify the administrator once the works have been completed. However, there was agreement that the lead installer scenario would not work in terms of opening the scheme to SMEs.

Separately, many outlined that Cashback should reallocate or seek to target those measures that have experienced a substantially less take up compared to other measures namely condensing boilers for example. This led to a dialogue focusing on voucher allocation and following debate, there were suggestions that rather than an allocation of one voucher per household there should be one voucher per measure, in turn giving the consumer more control.

Boiler Conditionality

Participants were asked whether they had any suggestions on conditionality to avoid Cashback continuing the trend for boiler up-take. One participant suggested that two primary measures that should be targeted to receive a proportion of the Cashback should be heating controls and cylinder upgrade. In addition, a participant stated that, in order to increase take up, building fabric insulation measures should be installed alongside boilers.

The Forum outlined that ascertaining data or information that would determine whether new boilers were being replaced would be highly useful. In terms of boiler eligibility, bearing in mind that current requirements state that the boiler needs to be non-condensing to qualify (10 years old), it should be realigned to target those 3 years or older.

Action GDIF 04-03: Forum participants to provide any further feedback on the Cashback scheme to the GD ORB following DECC's requests for suggestions and observations.

9. External Wall Cladding and Flue Terminals

The Heating and Hotwater Industry Council (HHIC) circulated a paper highlighting concerns regarding external wall cladding and flue terminals. The paper evoked positive discussion amongst the group and participants were in agreement that there may be a lack of appropriate guidance. HHIC referenced the example illustrated in their paper. This example emphasised that wall cladding has been applied using procedures which do not comply with the best practice, which could create unsafe situations. HHIC pointed out that BS 5440

Final Decisions and Actions

covering flue installation is currently being revised and the committee involved in this work intends to give guidance on the issues documented in HHIC's paper.

Participants outlined that the installation highlighted in their paper would not comply with Part J of the Building Regulations. The forum agreed that well placed guidance would be needed. This would provide information for wall cladding installers and others involved.

Action GDIF 04-04: HHIC agreed to take the issue regarding external wall cladding and flue terminals forward via the appropriate channel with the National Occupational Standards.

Action GDIF 04-05: HHIC and NIA to convene a working group comprising EWI representatives and HHIC representatives to work on development of appropriate guidance for external wall cladding and flue terminals.

10. Consumer Search Tool

The Forum heard how the Consumer Search Tool been finalised and the link was circulated amongst the Forum and comments and observations were requested. One participant noted that a postcode locator function would be highly useful and agreed to provide further information to the GD ORB.

Action GDIF 04-06: Participants to provide their feedback to the GD ORB on the Consumer Search Tool.

11. Representative at the Green Deal Advisory Group

The Green Deal Advisory Group (GDAG) is being set up to provide advice on Green Deal strategic issues. The GD ORB invited the Installer Forum to decide on two members of the Installer Forum to attend future GDAG meetings as the main designated representatives and two alternate members.

The Installer Forum agreed and nominated two representatives and two alternate members for future meetings. The GD ORB agreed to circulate the names of the nominated representatives.

Action GDIF 04-07: GD ORB to circulate the names of the nominated representatives and the Terms of Reference of the Green Deal Advisory Group, together with a briefing note from the designated Installer Forum representatives following the inaugural GDAG meeting.



Final Decisions and Actions

12. AOB

Dates of Next Meeting:

The next Installer Forum meeting of 2013 will take place on the 9th December 2013.