

OFTEC IRELAND WORKS HARD ON BEHALF OF THE OIL HEATING AND COOKING INDUSTRY AND PLUMBING & HEATING PROVIDES AN INSIGHT INTO WHAT THE TEAM HAS BEEN UP TO IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND...

## Commercial oil storage to be bundled

Oil is an excellent adaptable product for heating and transport purposes.

However, it can cause serious environmental problems if not stored correctly or if accidentally spilt.

The DOE in Northern Ireland has issued a consultation document on the draft Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010. The document refers to almost 200 substantiated oil-related pollution incidents in 2008.

The new regulations propose bunding for all commercial tanks and will include industrial, commercial, hospitals, institutions and oil depots. Oil storage over 200 litres will be included in the regulations and they are proposed to be phased in as follows:

- New premises – within 6 months
- Existing premises within 10m of a waterway - within 2 years
- All others - within 4 years

The regulations are expected to be introduced by this October. If you are advising commercial businesses on existing or new proposed storage then now would be a good time to consider the bunding requirements.

OFTEC Ireland Manager, David Blevings, said,



“We welcome this initiative as the legislation clearly supports the safe storage of fuel oil. This will encourage best practice and reduce the number of oil related incidents. “Ultimately the businesses themselves will benefit from these bundled installations through safer fuel storage, reduced spills and potentially reduced insurance premiums due to good environmental practice.”

**Further information on the draft document is available by visiting the website at [www.doeni.gov.uk/oil\\_storage\\_consultation.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/oil_storage_consultation.pdf)**

## Grant evening to promote condensing boilers

Grant Engineering recently hosted an installer's forum in partnership with Robert McKendry Plumbers' Merchants, Ballymena, to promote the benefits of the company's condensing boilers. OFTEC Ireland Manager, David Blevings and Billy Gillespie from Northern Ireland Building Control were on hand to give advice and answer questions from the technicians in attendance.

Mark Eccles from Grant Engineering said, “We welcome the opportunity to interact with technicians and promote the benefits of our condensing boilers. “Consumers are becoming more knowledgeable about energy-efficient products and are now asking more questions about the efficiency of boilers and how they can save money.

“The evening with McKendry's was very positive and the partnership between building control and OFTEC at the same event proved very effective”. OFTEC Ireland Manager, David Blevings, added, “We welcome these initiatives and are pleased to support them. The ultimate benefactors are oil consumers who can look forward to more efficient boiler installations as technicians are better informed about current products and how to comply with local building regulations when installing new and replacement products.”



Pictured at the Grant Engineering information evening are (from left) David Blevings, OFTEC; Davey Campbell, OFTEC Technician; Mark Eccles and Joe Conroy, Grant Engineering; Billy Gillespie, Northern Area Building Control and William and Hazel McKendry of Robert McKendry Plumbers' Merchants.

## Condensing technology now in Stanley Cookers!

Waterford Stanley has launched the Brandon Condensing Range cooker – an oil-fired range cooker complete with condensing technology that offers heating efficiencies of 93%.

This new range cooker is available in an 80,000BTU (23.4kW) output which can heat up to 16 standard radiators. Two fully automatic burners allow the heating and hot water to be controlled independently of the cooker, while the condensing technology means that the boiler uses less fuel and has lower running costs than regular boilers which typically have efficiency rates of 85%. Connection of the heating system to an external timer gives the flexibility to change heating and hot water with the time of day



and throughout the seasons. A separate integrated digital control panel allows the ovens and hotplates to be programmed over 24 hours a day, seven days a week thus minimising energy wastage and fitting comfortably with today's lifestyles.

Michael Stack, Technical Director for Waterford Stanley, said, “The Brandon Condensing range cooker is a remarkable appliance. Stanley has long been associated with effective combined cooking, heating and hot water systems. Now we've created a range cooker that offers everything that is synonymous with Stanley range cookers with the added bonus of superior heating efficiency and complete controllability.”

**For further information visit the website at [www.waterfordstanley.com](http://www.waterfordstanley.com)**

## Passports now standard issue in Ireland

**B**oiler passports have been supplied with all new oil boilers from Firebird, Grant, Turkington and Warmflow since September 2009.

The OFTEC Boiler Passport is designed to ensure that all the necessary information relating to the life of an appliance is correctly recorded, stored and communicated to the manufacturer for the purpose of continued product compliance. It has also been devised to encourage best practice for installation and commissioning of heating systems to current building regulation standards. To progress this initiative, the manufacturers involved with the passport will only offer a warranty on any boiler installed after July 1, 2010 that has been installed to current building regulations and where a completed passport has been returned by a competent person, for example someone who is OFTEC registered.



David Blevings, OFTEC Ireland Manager (left) and Gerry McManus, CCTS, discuss the boiler passport at the CCTS training centre in Tamar Street, Belfast.

David Blevings, OFTEC Ireland Manager, said, "To ensure the viability of the oil sector going forward it is imperative that consumers receive a positive experience with oil - from the installation through to maintenance and replacement.

"In the current economic climate there are plenty of competing fuels trying to displace the oil market share in Ireland.

"We must all play our part to make sure the oil sector continues to be recognised as a market leader with installation and service provision to match."

## Chevron launches OFTEC training in Galway

**C**hevron Training is now offering technicians OFTEC training at its new centre in Galway.

John Conway, Managing Director of Chevron Training, said, "The Galway facility, located on Tuam Road, is the third OFTEC-accredited training centre opened by Chevron Training in Ireland in the last year.

"It reinforces our commitment to deliver quality training in top class facilities by experienced trainers nationwide. Chevron would like to thank our partners in this Galway Venture, Uni-Therm Heating Systems Walsh Wholesale and OFTEC." Damien Keenan, from OFTEC, said, "The number of training centres in Ireland has increased from five to eleven in the last eighteen months. They are well spread geographically and provide opportunities for technicians interested in up to date oil-fired training and up skilling".

He added, "We have seen a huge increase in the demand for OFTEC training in Ireland. We believe this is due to consumers being more aware of the benefits of using a recognised professional to install and service their appliances and the Irish boiler manufacturers' requirement for competent persons to sign off on the boiler passport."

**Further details and the location of training centres can be found at [www.oftec.org/where\\_to\\_train.asp](http://www.oftec.org/where_to_train.asp)**



OFTEC training staff (from left) Richard Burke, Sean McBride, Declan Kelly and Martin Hogan.

## Changes proposed in Republic's Code of Practice



Damien Keenan, OFTEC Ireland.

**N**SAI is currently consulting on two new Codes of Practice which will be of interest to suppliers, manufacturers and installers involved with the design, installation and commissioning of both domestic plumbing

and heating systems as well as solar panels. The Codes of Practice are SR 50-2 Code of practice for building services – Part 1 - Domestic plumbing and heating and SR 50-2: Code of practice for building services – Part 2 – Solar Panels.

The guidelines are intended to assist providers, specifiers and installers of oil heating systems and solar water systems in the interpretation of the requirements and to provide guidance on how they can be met. Damien Keenan from OFTEC, who is a member of the NSAI's Building Services

Consultative Committee, explained, "The introduction of condensing technology over the last number of years has helped to reduce our energy use and carbon emissions.

"Along with properly commissioned and serviced systems, the majority of oil consumers are enjoying a positive experience with oil heating.

"Unfortunately, there are still a number of installers who are unaware of the importance of commissioning a new heating system, which causes unnecessary breakdowns and call outs due to poor installation practice.

"These new guidelines will help to address this and promote the need for heating and solar systems to be installed by competent installers. OFTEC registered technicians and installers should always supply a copy of the boiler passport and/or their commissioning or service record to ensure that all the guidelines are being followed."

**The consultation period ends on August 27. Download your copy at [www.nsai.ie](http://www.nsai.ie)**



The energy behind liquid fuels

The Oil Firing Technical Association represents the oil heating and cooking industry throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland. It gives manufacturers and technicians access to a wealth of information and support while the general public are offered advice on using oil for heating and cooking and also where to find a registered technician. With offices in Belfast and Dublin, OFTEC Ireland promotes the benefits of OFTEC membership to technicians in Ireland.

**For more information on becoming an OFTEC member, visit the website at [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org) or telephone 0845 6585 080.**