



The Certification Mark for Onsite  
Sustainable Energy Technologies

## Microgeneration Installation Standard: MCS 002

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*Information on Building Regulations and European  
Directives  
Issue 1.5*

This standard has been approved by the Steering Group of the MCS.

### **REVISION OF MICROGENERATION INSTALLATION STANDARDS**

Microgeneration Installation Standards will be revised by issue of revised editions or amendments. Details will be posted on the website at [www.microgenerationcertification.org](http://www.microgenerationcertification.org)

Technical or other changes which affect the requirements for the approval or certification of the product or service will result in a new issue. Minor or administrative changes (e.g. corrections of spelling and typographical errors, changes to address and copyright details, the addition of notes for clarification etc.) may be made as amendments.

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Issue: 1.5	MCS	MCS:002
Date: 25/02/09		Page 2 of 9

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.	REGULATIONS .....	4
3.	DIRECTIVES.....	5
	REVISION OF MCS REQUIREMENTS .....	8
	AMENDMENTS ISSUED SINCE PUBLICATION .....	9

Issue: 1.5	MCS	MCS:002
Date: 25/02/09		Page 3 of 9

# 1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out some basic information and links to the Building Regulations and European Directives that may be applicable to Microgeneration technologies. It is a non-exhaustive list and readers are advised to ensure that they are using the most up to date information.

# 2. REGULATIONS

Building Regulations and Planning Permission England and Wales.

[www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)

Building Regulations Scotland

[www.sbsa.gov.uk](http://www.sbsa.gov.uk)

Building Regulations Northern Ireland

[www.DFPNI.gov.uk](http://www.DFPNI.gov.uk)

## **Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999**

[www.wras.co.uk](http://www.wras.co.uk)

Applies to all fittings in contact with the utilities' supply of water. Responsibility of compliance lies with the householder and installer, although certain approved contractors can issue certificates of compliance that provide immunity from prosecution to the householder. All solar water heating work is normally notifiable to the water utility and permission must be awaited for ten days, except when installed in extensions or if alterations of water systems in existing houses. Water (over 15 litres) must not be stored in domestic premises above 100°C, while avoidance of water contamination and undue consumption is mandatory. There are requirements for protection from freezing, use of certified fittings, methods of pipe fixing, safety devices on water stores plus extra requirements for non-metallic fittings. Note that different rules apply in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Issue: 1.5	MCS	MCS:002
Date: 25/02/09		Page 4 of 9

## **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 1994**

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

Require employers to assess the risks from hazardous substances and take appropriate precautions. This requires precautions to reduce legionella poisoning.

## **The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (RoHS) 2006 SI 1463**

The RoHS Directive stands for “the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electric and electronic equipment”. This Directive bans the placing on the EU market of new electrical and electronic equipment containing more than agreed levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent, chromium, polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants from 1st July 2006. Manufacturers will need to understand the requirements of the RoHS Directive to ensure that their products, and their components, comply.

### **3. DIRECTIVES**

Note some directives are forthcoming, some in process of UK adoption into regulations but all are expected to impact during the life of the scheme.

#### **Low voltage: 73/23/EEC**

Applies to all electrical equipment designed for use with a voltage rating of between 50 and 1000 V alternating current. Particularly would cover pumps or controller in solar heating systems. It takes in health aspects of noise and vibrations, and ergonomic aspects of electrical equipment. This may be placed on the market only if, having been constructed in accordance with good engineering practice in safety matters, it does not endanger the safety of persons, domestic animals or property when properly installed and maintained and used in applications for which it was made. Where machinery has an electricity supply, it must be designed, constructed and equipped so that all hazards of an electrical nature are, or can be, prevented.

#### **Airborne Noise: 86/594/EEC**

Relates to airborne noise emitted by household appliances.

Issue: 1.5	MCS	MCS:002
Date: 25/02/09		Page 5 of 9

### **Construction Products Directive: 89/106/EEC**

Requires that products produced for incorporation in a permanent manner in construction works are to be fit for the intended use in respect of the following:

- mechanical resistance and stability
- safety in case of fire
- hygiene, health and the environment
- safety in use
- protection against noise
- energy economy
- specific sections are tabled for energy capturing appliances.

### **Electromagnetic: 89/336/EEC**

Requires that equipment be not degraded by an electromagnetic phenomenon. If an apparatus, when used as intended, does not degrade the performance of others in its electromagnetic environment, both present and foreseeable, it should be considered compliant with the essential requirement of the Directive. Particularly applies to both AC and DC pumps and controls that may interfere with radio signals. Compliance is demonstrated by a CE mark on a pump or control.

### **Energy labelling Directive: 92/75/EEC**

To harmonise national measures relating to the publication of information on the consumption of energy and of other essential resources by household appliances, thereby allowing consumers to choose appliances on the basis of their energy efficiency.

### **Machinery Directive: 98/37/EEC**

Applies to assemblies of linked parts or components, at least one of which moves, with the appropriate actuators, control and power circuits, etc, joined together for a specific application.

### **The Pressure Equipment Regulations (PED) 1999**

[www.eurodyn.com](http://www.eurodyn.com)

Applies where the equipment could hold pressures in excess of 0.5 bar above atmospheric under any foreseeable circumstances. Applies to the manufacturer (where placed on the market as a functional assembly) or else the commissioning engineer.

Issue: 1.5	MCS	MCS:002
Date: 25/02/09		Page 6 of 9

Requires equipment to be safe and either to a sound engineering practice or CE-marked to a higher safety requirement.

**Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE): 2002/96/EC and 2003/108/EEC**

The WEEE Directive is European environmental legislation. It is one of a small number of European Directives which implement the principle of "extended producer responsibility". Under this principle producers are required to take responsibility for the environmental impact of their products, especially when they become waste. The WEEE Directive applies this in relation to electrical and electronic equipment (EEE). The broad aim of the WEEE Directive is to address the environmental impacts of WEEE and to encourage its separate collection and subsequent treatment, reuse, recovery, recycling and environmentally sound disposal. Note! The UK position is that installed systems are not covered, however there is a lobby in Europe to have all products within the scope

**Energy Using Products Directive (EuP): 2005/32/EEC**

The Council and the European Parliament adopted a Commission proposal for a Directive on establishing a framework for setting Eco-design requirements (such as energy efficiency requirements) for all energy using products in the residential, tertiary and industrial sectors. Coherent EU-wide rules for eco-design will ensure that disparities among national regulations do not become obstacles to intra-EU trade. The directive does not introduce directly binding requirements for specific products, but does define conditions and criteria for setting requirements regarding environmentally relevant product characteristics (such as energy consumption) and allows them to be improved quickly and efficiently. It will be followed by implementing measures which will establish the eco-design requirements. In principle, the Directive applies to all energy using products (except vehicles for transport) and covers all energy sources.

Issue: 1.5	MCS	MCS:002
Date: 25/02/09		Page 7 of 9

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Issue: 1.5	MCS	MCS:002
Date: 25/02/09		Page 8 of 9



## AMENDMENTS ISSUED SINCE PUBLICATION

DOCUMENT NO.	AMENDMENT DETAILS	DATE
1.1	'UK' removed from scheme name; 'Department of Trade and Industry' MCS mark replaced by 'BERR ' MCS mark	11/01/2008
1.2	Revision details added; website address updated from ukmicrogeneration.org to microgenerationcertification.eu	25/02/2008
1.3	Gemserv details added as Licensee. Document reformatted to reflect brand update. References to BERR updated to DECC, MCS logo updated accordingly. Website and email addresses updated to reflect new name.	01/12/2008
1.4	Quality review	10/01/2009
1.5	MCS Mark Updated	25/02/09