**Boiler Plus Changes to The Domestic Building Services Compliance Guide**

Following the publication of the Heat in Buildings Consultation response at the end of 2017, the UK Government published amendments to the 2013 Domestic Building Services Compliance Guide that came into force on the 6th April 2018.

Informally referred to as ‘Boiler Plus,’ these amendments aim to improve the efficiency of installed heating systems, particularly through the installation of additional controls. The specific requirements that installers will now have to follow when replacing a boiler are as below:

1. Ensure that the system meets minimum standards for boiler interlock, time and temperature control as they would for a new system. (This was generally accepted as a requirement by industry and Building Control in the current building regulations, but it is good that this is now more clearly stated.)
2. When installing a combination boiler (both new and replacement) in an existing building one of the following should also be installed:
   * Flue gas heat recovery
   * Weather compensation
   * Load compensation
   * Smart thermostat with automation and optimisation

Obviously, the intention is to promote the implementation of technologies that are less common in UK homes, but the very fact that these are uncommon means that many installers face a requirement to use new products and learn new skills. In addition, Building Control Officers whose job it is to make sure that installations comply with the regulations also need to be up to speed.

One of the most basic issues can be simply knowing which controls meet the specified definitions. This is not necessarily as straightforward as it sounds. Looking at the various legislative instruments applying to boilers and controls for residential applications in the UK it is possible to identify six separate definitions for weather compensation (including the one in the new Compliance Guide) – all of which are slightly different and can therefore be fulfilled by different technologies.

It is this complexity that BEAMA is attempting to unravel. Work is underway, in conjunction with HHIC, to establish a set of industry defined ‘functional definitions’ for controls so that it can be made clear to everyone what technologies will fulfil the requirements of the Building Regulations and other legislation.