

Welcome to the second issue of the BSL newsletter

Our aim is to provide regular updates of recent and upcoming BSL activities on policy changes, statistics, ongoing developments and improvements within the scheme.

There are some important changes to the BSL scheme which came into force last October - for more information, see below.

Important information

Quarterly reporting is now due for Q1 2019 (relevant to Producer-Traders, Producers and Traders).

To continue to have your authorised fuels on the BSL, you are required to submit your quarterly reporting data and pay your membership fees. This quarter, you are required to submit the total amount of woodfuel sold between **01/01/2019 and 31/03/2019** for each of your approved fuels on the BSL.

To submit your quarterly reports, please log in to your BSL account in the 'Registered Suppliers' section of the [BSL website](#).

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Scheme Update

New Fuels added to the Scheme

Last October, Thermally Modified fuel (also known as torrefied fuel) was added to the BSL Application Portal to enable suppliers to register their thermally modified fuel as BSL authorised fuels.

Suppliers can now sell this fuel to participants who have boilers that are designed to burn thermally modified fuel and have an emissions certificate to confirm this. The participants can then use the BSL number to demonstrate that the fuel is from a sustainable and legal source.

BSL has published an updated Issue (1.9) of [Applications and Audit Guidance](#). The changes include the references to Thermally Modified fuel.

Quarterly submissions

There is a revision to the way Quarterly Reports are completed on the portal since Q4 2018. Further questions have been added to the portal. When entering the quantity sold to the market, you are asked to now include the total quantity sold to customers and the total quantity sold to other RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) industry participants.

When submitting your quarterly reports, please ensure you enter a figure in all fields. Enter '0' tonne in the box that is not applicable to you.

EVENING WHA conference

This year, Imogen Jamie – the Delivery Manager of Biomass Suppliers List, presented at the Wood Heat Association and the UK Pellet Council annual conference, held at Quarry Bank, Cheshire.

The conference included speakers from Government, Industry and the public sector, providing insight and knowledge of the evolving industry. The BSL presentation gave an update on the current and future activities, raising awareness of the scheme and informing the industry about the plans to include a new BSL quality framework. [See here](#) for more information about the event.

BSL meetings

Past Meeting - BSL Advisory Panel Meeting

Wednesday 17 April 2019 at Gemserv office, 8 Fenchurch Place, London, EC3M 4AJ.

To view last meeting's Decision and Actions reports, please [click here](#).

The Decisions and Actions reports for the April meeting, will be accessible via the BSL website two weeks after the meeting.

Ofgem update

Ofgem have recently revoked several RHI participant's installations, and permanently withheld just under £20,000 of their payments for failing to present adequate fuel records to the compliance team. To date, 14 accreditations have been revoked from the GB Non- Domestic RHI because they did not provide satisfactory evidence that they were meeting their ongoing obligations.

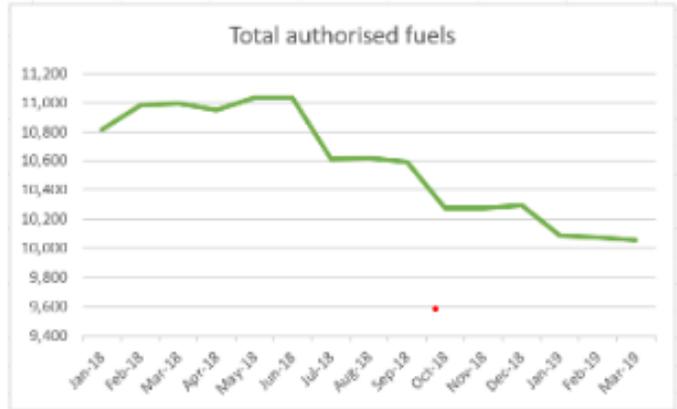
Breaches of the Non-Domestic RHI regulations are taken seriously. So if you have an installation which generates heat using solid biomass (including that contained in waste) or biogas, make necessary environmental permits, and that it complies with any local and national laws – including those relating to the protection of the environment. To find out more about these requirements, read Chapter 4 of [Guidance Volume 1: General eligibility requirements](#). Quarterly reports are published on the Ofgem website, which provide snapshots of the Scheme's progress.

BSL Suppliers registered to the RHI Scheme are encouraged to keep accurate records of all of the fuel purchased (if applicable) and used in each installation. Any accredited installation may be selected for audit, and records would be asked for where applicable: Ofgem may take enforcement action on any of the participant's accreditations if they are not available or forthcoming. Ongoing obligations relating to biomass fuel records are detailed in [Guide to keeping fuel records for biomass](#), as well as in Chapter 4 of [Guidance Volume 2: Ongoing Obligations and payments](#).

Statistics

Total authorised fuels

Month	Total authorised fuels
Jan-18	10,813
Feb-18	10,979
Mar-18	10,995
Apr-18	10,952
May-18	11,033
Jun-18	11,034
Jul-18	10,613
Aug-18	10,622
Sep-18	10,594
Oct-18	10,275
Nov-18	10,274
Dec-18	10,296
Jan-19	10,088
Feb-19	10,076
Mar-19	10,056



The reduction in authorisation was mainly due to the removals of non-compliant suppliers.

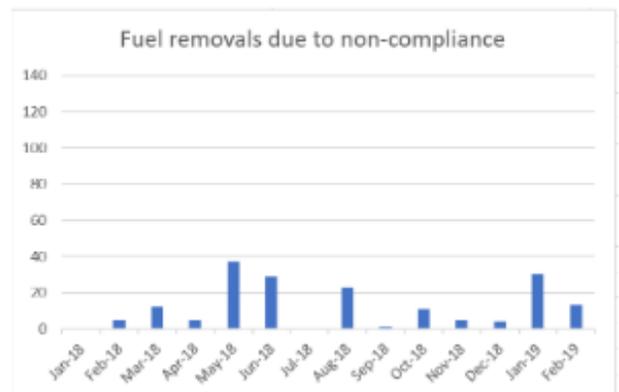
Non-compliance were mainly from suppliers that failed to pay their membership fee and/or complete their quarterly reports. Additionally several suppliers were non-compliant for not responding to our email about scheduling an audit.

BSL Authorised fuels are a list of wood fuels that has met the sustainability and legality criteria.

This graph shows the total authorised fuels listed on the Scheme from 2018.

Total authorised fuels

Date	Fuel removals due to non-compliance
Jan-18	0
Feb-18	5
Mar-18	12
Apr-18	5
May-18	37
Jun-18	29
Jul-18	0
Aug-18	23
Sep-18	1
Oct-18	11
Nov-18	5
Dec-18	4
Jan-19	30
Feb-19	13

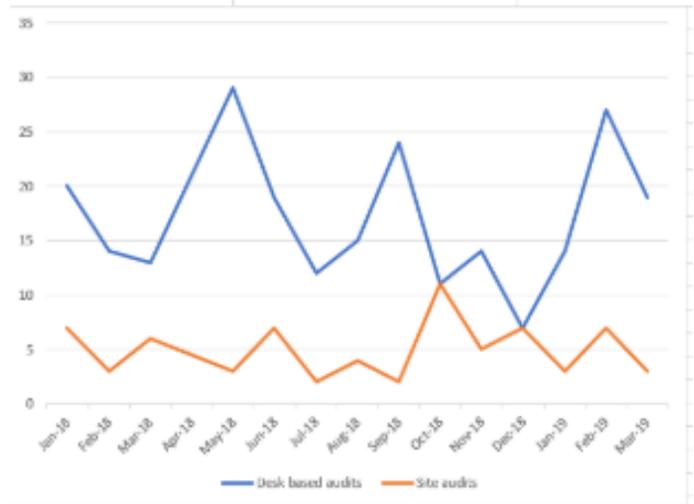


All major non-compliance discovered after an audit can result in removal from the BSL.

Statistics presented in the table show the number of removed fuels due to identified major non-compliance during an audit.

Month	Number of desk based audits (Commercial and Self-Suppliers)
Jan-18	20
Feb-18	14
Mar-18	13
Apr-18	20
May-18	29
Jun-18	19
Jul-18	12
Aug-18	15
Sep-18	24
Oct-18	11
Nov-18	14
Dec-18	7
Jan-19	14
Feb-19	27
Mar-19	19

Month	Number of site audits (Commercial and Self-Suppliers)
Jan-18	7
Feb-18	3
Mar-18	6
Apr-18	7
May-18	3
Jun-18	7
Jul-18	2
Aug-18	4
Sep-18	2
Oct-18	11
Nov-18	5
Dec-18	7
Jan-19	2
Feb-19	7
Mar-19	3



The objective of an audit is to validate Suppliers' ongoing eligibility to gain or retain their status as BSL Authorised. This could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- To check whether the information given during the application process and quarterly submissions is correct.
- To verify the assumptions of the simple calculator are correct and adjust to provide improvement to the calculator efficiency.
- Verification that Suppliers have obeyed the scheme Terms and Conditions.
- Check compliance with Ofgem and BEIS' reporting requirements.

To ensure that you are following your ongoing BSL obligations, records must be kept, and comprehensive documentation must be made available during a BSL audit. The full list of required documents is available on your authorisation letter and the [Applications and Audit Guidance](#).

BSL useful information

Suppliers listed on the BSL Scheme are selected for a desktop or site audits to ensure that the relevant fuels (and the subsequent BSL application(s)) are compliant with RHI regulations.

BSL is working closely with Ofgem to ensure compliance with the RHI sustainability requirements, through sharing audit outcomes and non-conformities, particularly with consumers using BSL authorised fuels.

Audit information shared by Ofgem are used to target suspected non-compliant BSL authorised suppliers. Any BSL audit findings that falls outside our remit are referred to Ofgem for further action.

So far, 43 non-compliant suppliers and authorised fuels has been shared with Ofgem to undergo further investigation.

BSL authorised supplier instructions

BSL would like to remind suppliers to adhere to all requirements in Annex C: Receipts and Invoice requirements of the [Application and Audit guidance](#) document. All suppliers selling BSL wood fuels, must at a minimum include the following information:

Trader / Producer-Trader name

BSL authorisation number for the fuel in question

Quantity or volume purchased in tonnes/kg/m3 net heat/gross heat

Moisture content (% on a wet basis)

Fuel type

Date purchased

Date delivered / collected

Delivery address

Customer name

If you sell BSL authorised fuel, please ensure that the above information is included in the receipt, invoice and/or delivery note issued to your customer.

Waste vs. Virgin wood

Virgin timber is timber from:

Whole trees and the woody parts of trees including branches and bark derived from forestry works, woodland management, tree surgery and other similar operations.

Virgin wood is also wood processing (e.g. wood offcuts, shavings or sawdust from sawmills or timber product manufacture dealing in virgin timber. This is often referred to as primary processing co-products.

If registering virgin wood on the BSL, Self-Suppliers are required to demonstrate that they have permission to source this virgin wood (e.g. by providing a felling licence or a woodland management plan). Please read the [Self-Supplier fact-sheet](#) for further information. Other suppliers handling virgin wood must comply with the [Land Criteria](#). Please read the [Land Criteria Guidance](#) and [Land Criteria Evidence](#) for further information.

Waste wood - This includes used wood and industry by-products but not primary processing co-products. Used wood includes pre-consumer and post-consumer/post society wood waste; natural or merely mechanically processed wood, contaminated to an insignificant extent during use by substances that are not normally found in wood in its natural state. By-products include joinery workshop off-cuts. Please note that Arboricultural arisings and primary processing co-products (sawmill residues) are not waste wood. Pre-consumer waste is suitable for a boiler with a U4 exemption only if there is a clear line of sight to where it first became a waste and if it is clean and untreated. No other waste wood is allowed with this exemption code.

Newsletter Feedback?

Please send through to BSLhelpdesk@gemserv.com