

INFORMATION REGARDING SMALL WASTE OIL BURNERS (SWOBS)

On the 18th July 2011 Thermobile UK Ltd were made aware that The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) were conducting a review of guidance on the implementation of the European Union Waste Incineration Directive (WID) and it's application to small waste oil burners (SWOBS) in England and Wales.

Thermobile attended a meeting at Defra on Wednesday 10th August 2011 together with representatives of the Garage Equipment Association (GEA), the Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI) and the Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC).

SWOBS have been exempt from WID since it's inception in 2000 as the UK produced guidance which took the view that small waste oil burners lacked the technical specification to amount to "incineration plant" for the purposes of the Directive.

It seems a strange coincidence that at the same time a scheme is under way to class processed fuel oils (PFO) as a non waste. This "Quality Protocol" sets out end of waste criteria for the production and use of processed fuel oil from waste lubricating oils. In other words, the waste oil recycling companies can sell back to garages the waste oil which the garages have had to pay these companies to collect, as fuel oil for the garages to burn in their waste oil fired heater!!

If SWOBS are included in WID it will spell the end of the feasibility to burn waste oil, as besides the extortionate fees involved, the flue gases of the heaters would have to be monitored which would not be cost effective for an operator.

Manufacturers of SWOBS, the GEA, RMI, OFTEC and other trade organisations will fight the case for current and potential operators of SWOBS as to the benefits of burning waste oil on site at the point of it's arising as against that of being transported, recycled and sold back to the end user at great profit to the oil recycling companies.

Defra stated in our meeting that the new Coalition Government wished to be seen as "green" however this new initiative rails against the logic of the obvious sensible carbon footprint of burning waste oil on site and reducing the operator's heating bills in these difficult economic times.

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