What compliance means for you

Mark Foster, chief executive of HWA member Gledhill Building Products, explains some key points that installers need to know about Part L regulations, manufacturers are now required to detail the standing heat loss of each cylinder on the product's label, in line with the measurement techniques specified by BS5156 (vented cylinders) and BS EN 12897 (unvented cylinders).

The minimum requirements for a vented cylinder depends upon whether it is being fitted as part of a newbuild project or being used as a replacement in an existing home.

For replacements in existing homes the requirement is slightly less than that for newbuild projects. This is in recognition of the often restrictive size of existing UK airing cupboards, so it would be difficult to fit a cylinder with the same storage capacity as the previous unit without significantly greater levels of insulation as adding insulation inevitably increases the size of the cylinder.

However, the step up in insulation levels for vented cylinders is still very significant and requires a performance that is the equivalent of double-lagging.

The regulations assume that newbuild projects will have factored an increased cylinder diameter into the planning stage, so additional space will make it possible to achieve a lower standing heat loss. When it comes to unvented cylinders and thermal-store, the new acceptable levels of standing heat loss will be the same for newbuild and replacement heating systems.

BETTER INSULATION

Since 1 October, manufacturers have had to label each cylinder with its standing heat loss as well as other data, and all cylinders supplied by manufacturers after this date must be Part L 2010 compliant.

To allow the merchant trade to clear their existing stocks of cylinders it is permissible for them to be sold and installed up to April 2011, but any new cylinders supplied from manufacturers must comply.

To make it straightforward for the trade to identify which products are Part L 2010 compliant for which application, the Hot Water Association (HWA), which comprises leading companies in the UK hot water storage industry, has introduced a new and instantly-recognisable labelling scheme for cylinders.

This clearly identifies whether each product is a newbuild and replacement cylinder, or a replacement cylinder.