

All Members Newsletter

27th May 2021



In this issue:

GLA letter to solid fuel suppliers

Pellet stoves in clearSkies

ITV Tonight Programme

GLA letter on solid fuels

Greater London Authority (GLA) has shared with the SIA a letter that is going out to suppliers of solid fuels in London to help raise awareness of the new solid fuel regulations.

The letter, which is co-signed by the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, GLA, Shirley Rodrigues, and Philip Glanville, Chair of London Council's Transport & Environment Committee, highlights the new regulations and how it will affect fuels suppliers' businesses in the London area.



Questions and comments on this newsletter and suggestions for future issues can be sent to:

Erica Malkin, Secretary General
erica@stoveindustryalliance.com
07891 097842

Morley Sage, Chair
morley@stoveindustryalliance.com
07970 006862

James Verlaque, Technical Manager
james@stoveindustryalliance.com
07427 034245

We agreed with our contact at GLA that we would share this letter with SIA members: [you can download a copy here](#) or by clicking on either of the images above.

Please note, we have highlighted to GLA the error in the last paragraph on p.1 of the letter where the term "**bitumen**" is used instead of "**bituminous**" which should have been used. At the time of writing we have not received an amended version but hope that these comments were received and acted upon prior to the letter's circulation date of the 27th May.

[The GLA is already referencing the clearSkies scheme via its website](#) and we are also awaiting sign off on a comment of support for use on the clearSkies website and social media feeds. We will share this with members as soon as it is available.

Pellet stoves in clearSkies

As highlighted to members in the recent round of General Meetings, agreement has been reached in principle to introduce pellet stove appliances to the clearSkies scheme.

This agreement is subject to enough interest from manufacturers to apply for clearSkies certification for their pellet appliances.

In order to make it commercially viable to undertake the scheme database and website development work and scheme administration, which would include revising the scheme rules and developing a new range of logos etc., necessary to facilitate the introduction of pellet stoves to the scheme, we first need to better understand the likely level of interest before we can progress.

At this stage it would be helpful if members for whom pellet stove certification would be applicable could give an indication of their commitment by telling us the likely number of pellet stove models for which you will seek clearSkies certification. You can do this by contacting Erica Malkin or James Verlaque:

Email: erica@stoveindustryalliance.com

Tel: **07891 097842**

Email: james@stoveindustryalliance.com

Tel: **07427 034245**

If we could have this information within the next two weeks please and by no later than **Friday 11th June**.



Pellet appliances will be differentiated within the scheme through the use of a different coloured logo, a separate product listing within the website and revised criteria for assessment for the different levels within the scheme.

For wood log appliances the differentiation between Levels 3 and 4 and Levels 4 and 5 is +15%; for pellet appliances this will be +25%.

ITV Tonight Programme

Members will recall that early last year SIA Chair, Morley Sage, took part in filming for an episode of the ITV Tonight programme about air pollution. Morley was interviewed on the industry's efforts to improve appliance efficiency and emissions through early Ecodesign adoption and the development of the clearSkies scheme. During his interview Morley was also able to explain the real facts behind the commonly cited misconceptions about wood burning stoves.

The programme was shelved due to Covid but the producers have since been in touch to advise that 12th August has been tentatively set as the new air date.

Filming for this was originally done over a year ago and what is clear is that, since then, the programme's editing has been influenced by negative press and growing concerns about air pollution. We therefore do not expect the programme to be supportive of the industry. The script has been heavily edited but the SIA has had the opportunity to discuss these changes with the producer.

Morley spoke to the producer at length earlier this month, and has since sent him a range of further information in an email. This information explains:

- The fact that outdoor burning remains unregulated compared to the strongly regulated indoor burning sector, and is likely to be contributing at least 50% of the PM emissions that are currently being attributed to domestic burning. We have asked ITV to make this point and that further research is needed in this area.
- That the clearSkies scheme is now live and is being referenced by government departments and local authorities. We have asked ITV to reference that clearSkies certified wood stoves are both Defra Exempt and Ecodesign compliant and also distinguish the best performing Ecodesign stoves.
- That the diesel car comparison often used takes no account of emission dispersal levels or the emissions from brakes and tyres. We have also reiterated that the 38% figure is factually inaccurate, significantly overstated and highly misleading, providing details from the recent Kantar study to evidence this.

One item of concern to us in the script changes that ITV has shown us was the line: **"A 2017 study showed that eco design stoves produced the same amount of fine particulate matter as 18 new diesel cars"**. Having highlighted that this is a very flawed and misleading comparison, we have received a commitment that the word **"showed"** will be replaced with **"claims"**.

We know that Morley's original interview has been subject to a great deal of editing by the production team and have concerns about the overall tone of the programme. While we have done what we can to influence this as outlined above, editorial control remains with the producers and we will not know if our efforts have had any effect until the programme airs.

Should we receive confirmation of the air date, we will let members know.

