



## SMOKE CONTROL AREAS



In a Smoke Control Area, a solid fuel heating appliance must be either:

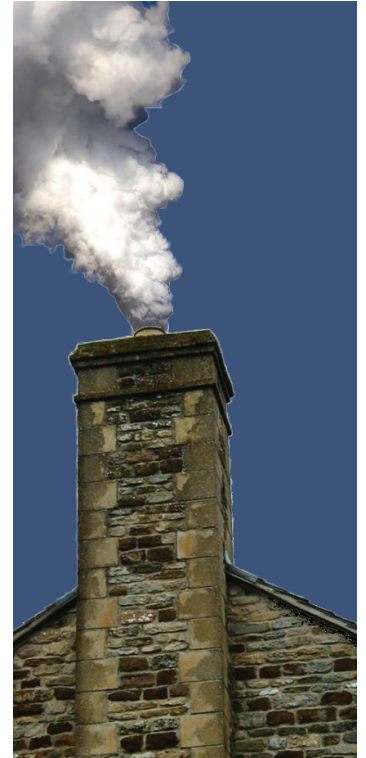
- An 'exempt appliance' using only fuel specified in the appliance instructions or see 'exempt when burning' on the DEFRA website (multifuel stoves can also burn 'authorised smokeless fuels')

or

- Using an 'Authorised Smokeless Fuel'

**Failure to adhere to this could lead to a fine of up to £1,000 for each offence**

Are you in a Smoke Control Area? check the DEFRA link listed below



### Legislation for Smoke Control Areas

The Government has the power to authorise 'smokeless fuels' (*fuels authorised for use in a Smoke Control Area*) or 'exempt appliances' for use in Smoke Control Areas in England. In Scotland and Wales this power rests with Ministers in their respective parliaments. Separate legislation, the Clean Air Order 1981, applies in Northern Ireland. It is a requirement that fuels burnt or obtained for use in smoke control areas have been 'authorised' in regulations and that appliances used to burn solid fuel in those areas (other than 'authorised smokeless fuels') have been exempted by an Order made and signed by the Secretary of State or appropriate Minister.



Your local authority is responsible for enforcing legislation in smoke control areas.

## Authorised Smokeless Fuels

Stoves that are not an 'exempt appliance' which are used inside of a smoke control area must use 'authorised smokeless fuel'. A popular choice is **anthracite** which is high in carbon and low in volatile matter (less than 10%vm). The DEFRA website has a list of 'authorised smokeless fuels' searchable by country.

Exempted appliances are tested to show they meet the DEFRA smoke control standards for emissions when they burn non 'authorised smokeless fuels' such as wood. **Firewood** is not an 'authorised smokeless fuel' and is only permitted for use with an 'exempt appliance', which has been exempted specifically for wood burning.

Unseasoned, wet wood will burn inefficiently with lots of smoke. Seasoned wood, either air dried or kiln dried will burn with minimal smoke. Look for HETAS certified wood or wood that has a stated moisture content of under 25%. Although this moisture content is not legally required, it is considered best practice to only burn firewood that has a moisture content below this figure. In the exemption notice for appliances, it may state that the wood must be dry seasoned logs or even specify a maximum moisture content.



## Exempt Appliances

Exempt appliances are appliances (ovens, boilers and stoves) which have been exempted under the Clean Air Act 1993 or Clean Air Order 1981 (Northern Ireland).

These have been tested to confirm that they are capable of burning an unauthorised fuel and only emit minimal quantities of smoke.

*Note: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland may have different definitions of what constitutes an exempt appliance. Check the DEFRA website to ensure that the appliance you wish to purchase is suitable for your area.*

## Helpful Links

Government body DEFRA has the definitive list of exempt appliances, Authorised Smokeless Fuels and guidance on smoke related issues.

**Tel:** 08459 335577

**Web:** [smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk](http://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk)



The Government also have a website with all the specific legislation relating to air quality and use of solid fuel appliances.

**Web:** [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)



The HETAS guide marks DEFRA approved 'exempt appliances' as: **(Smoke Exempt)**.

**Web:** [guide.hetas.co.uk](http://guide.hetas.co.uk)

