

Boiler testing requirements for on/off boilers

The PCDB application portal for boilers has energy balance validation (EBV) checks embedded in it. This requires that the measured values for specified parameters are taken from testing reports and entered in the portal. The EBV method is based on measurements at full load and part load.

For modulating boilers these measurements can be made by continuous firing at full load and at 30% load to provide the information required by the relevant regulations in the UK and EU.

For boilers using burners that have limited or no modulating capability the part load is achieved by cyclic firing. This does not provide the information needed to enable the EBV check to be completed. So, the method specifies provision of measured values from an additional continuous firing test.

However, it is noted that the additional continuous firing tests are not required to demonstrate compliance with the relevant regulations. This has been considered and it has been concluded that it is not proportionate to require additional testing. Therefore, applications for such products will not be required to achieve a “PASS” in the portal regarding the EBV check. The available test data will still be required to be submitted and will be entered in the relevant fields as a matter of record. It remains open to applicants to provide the results for the additional continuous firing test.

Boilers that fall into this category will be identified by the following note in the entry record in the portal:

“This boiler model is identified as an on/off boiler and as such some measured data is not available. The application was processed through the PCDB portal with available test measurements recorded but without being required to achieve a ‘PASS’ of the EBV check.”

If in the future evidence emerges showing that the omission of use of the EBV checks leads to entries with inaccurate efficiency information the right is reserved to re-instate the requirement for passing the EBV check for such products and to require the results to be provided for any additional testing needed to achieve this.