



# ACCREDITATION, COMPETENT PERSONS and QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEMES



As more energy efficiency measures and government guidelines on carbon reduction come into force, the way you currently work may need to change. This may mean that you will require additional training or certification to undertake some types of work. Indications are that all Trades and Professionals will need to be part of an Accreditation, Competent Persons or Quality Assurance Scheme to undertake future works. This leaflet provides information on MCS, Trustmark, OVEZ (electric vehicle changing), DEA (energy assessors) and a range of Competent Person Schemes for all technologies and construction sector roles.

A separate leaflet is available outlining current training routes for local, regional and national courses for trades and professionals – please contact Scottish Borders Construction Forum for a copy.

*(See back page for contact details.)*

## 'Quality Assurance Schemes Membership: MCS and Trustmark

As we move towards Net Zero energy, efficiency and retrofit installers will need to be part of quality assurance scheme. In their 'Heat in Buildings Strategy, Quality Assurance Policy Statement', Scottish Government outlined that these changes will begin to come into force during 2022.

*'The Scottish Government has committed to work with TrustMark to create a new quality assurance scheme which will become a requirement for its upcoming successor to the Home Energy Scotland (HES) loan and cashback scheme for energy efficiency measures. The TrustMark scheme will be in accordance with the principles of the British Standards Institution (BSI) Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 2035/30 standards.'*

*Some key actions from this policy statement include: Scottish Government will work with TrustMark to develop a quality assurance scheme for Scotland in accordance with the principles of the BSI PAS 2035/30 standards. A new requirement of the upcoming HES loan and cashback replacement will be that applicants must use a supplier that is approved under this new TrustMark scheme. The Scottish installer skills matrix will be integrated into both the BSI PAS 2030 and MCS installer standards in 2022. The development of an online portal powered by Trustmark and MCS to help consumers find approved suppliers in Scotland will be investigated.'*

Energy Saving Trust June 2022



**20%**  
of Scotland's  
greenhouse gas  
emissions  
come from our  
homes and  
buildings.

Source: gov.scot



### **MCS stands for Microgeneration Certification Scheme.**

As an organisation, they create and maintain standards relating to low-carbon products, installers and installations.

MCS accreditation is a sign of excellence in a renewable installer.

**Heat Pump Installers (air, ground or water source) can apply for a 75%/£1,000 Grant to become MCS Certified.**

The Scottish Government's MCS certification fund provides heating engineers with an interest in installing heat pumps (either air, ground or water source) with a grant to become MCS certified on heat pumps. The grant will pay 75%, up to a maximum of £1,000, of the certification fees and will run until funds run out or until the end of March 2023, whatever comes first.

You can apply for the grant if you meet the following criteria:

- Be an SME in accordance with European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC (ie have fewer than 250 FTE employees and a turnover not exceeding £42 million) and/or a balance sheet total not exceeding £36 million.
- Have at least one registered office in Scotland.
- Conduct heating installations in Scotland.
- Not currently be MCS certified for any kind of heat pump technology.

**Applications can be made at:**  
<https://bit.ly/3Q1F4pB>



## How to become MCS Certified

**To become MCS certified you will need to join a consumer code and a certification body - there will be a fee for each. Once you have the relevant information from both organisations you can apply for MCS certification. This step of the process is free as MCS collect their fee through your certification body.**

1. Join your chosen Consumer Code (Renewable Energy Consumer Code, (RECC) or Home Insulation & Energy Systems Quality Assured Contractors (HIES), in which MCS partner with RECC. Membership of the Code shows that you are committed to complying with the Code's high standards of consumer protection. The links to their websites are the following:  
[www.recc.org.uk/join](http://www.recc.org.uk/join)  
and  
[www.hiesscheme.org.uk/installers/accreditation-process/](http://www.hiesscheme.org.uk/installers/accreditation-process/)
2. Register with a UKAS accredited Certification Body. You can choose the Certification Body (NICEIC, NAPIT, SNIPEF, OFTEC) that best aligns with your business and the renewable technologies that you plan to install. The Certification Body that you chose will be able to include your MCS membership within the application form.

The MCS certification process, which will be carried out by your chosen Certification Body, is described in **MCS 001-2** <https://mcscertified.com/installers-manufacturers/becoming-certified/>

All MCS contractors will be assessed against the MCS 001 Standard and the specific technical Standard for the technology you wish to become certified for.

Your company will be asked to demonstrate the skill, capacity, competency, and experience of an individual, or individuals, involved in the various roles required to deliver an MCS-compliant system for all aspects of work falling within scope of the Scheme. That scope covers: the supply, design, installation, set to work and commissioning of the type of technologies for which the company is seeking certification.



There are essentially two ways in which an installation company may prove the competency of its employees.

- ◆ The first way is via in date qualifications held and/or short courses attended. The list of accepted qualifications and courses is included in the MCS Competency Guide: <https://mcscertified.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/MCS-Competency-Guidance.pdf>  
There is also a more up to date list of the recognised qualifications available here <https://mcscertified.com/qualifications/?subitem=Qualifications>
- ◆ The second way to prove competency, is through demonstrating experience to your MCS Certification Body.

Insurance requirements for each installation you undertake once MCS Certified are set by the consumer codes and are detailed within their code of practices. For each installation there is also the requirement to guarantee workmanship for a minimum of 2 years, backed by an insurance backed guarantee - see <https://mcscertified.com/consumers-communities/insurance-and-warranties/> Once certified each installation that an installer registers on the MCS database is charged as £30 plus VAT, charged at the end of the certificate creation process.

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## Trustmark

To find out more about joining Trustmark visit: <https://www.trustmark.org.uk>

Fees: Trustmark Initial joining fee of £160 followed by monthly ongoing payments of £27



# Guidance notes and application form

Competent Person Scheme guidance can be found here:

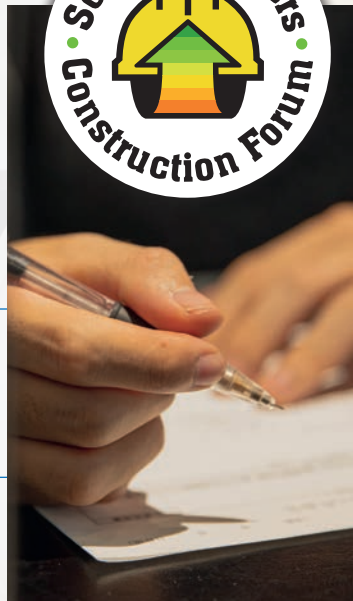
[www.gov.uk/guidance/competent-person-scheme-current-schemes-and-how-schemes-are-authorized#current-schemes](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/competent-person-scheme-current-schemes-and-how-schemes-are-authorized#current-schemes)

OZEV Installer scheme notes:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/residential-and-commercial-chargepoints-become-an-authorized-installer](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/residential-and-commercial-chargepoints-become-an-authorized-installer)

OZEV authorised installer application form:

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/07N0HA/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/07N0HA/)



**OZEV** =  
Office for  
Zero Emission  
Vehicles

**OFTEC** =  
Oil Firing  
Technical  
Association

**NICEIC** =  
National  
Inspection  
Council for  
Electrical  
Installation  
Contracting

## Domestic Energy Assessor Accreditation

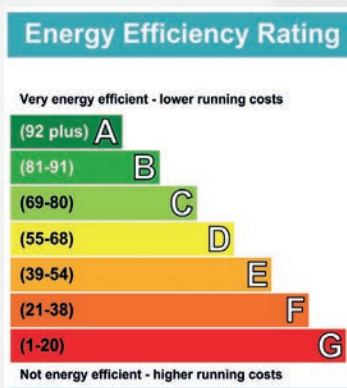
If you operate as a domestic energy assessor in Scotland, you must be a member of an organisation which has been approved by the Scottish Government to deliver services in relation to energy performance certificates (EPCs).

A domestic energy assessor is qualified to assess the energy efficiency of houses and other residential properties and prepare EPCs and reports containing recommendations for the cost-effective improvement of the energy performance of those buildings. This is a legal requirement when homes over 50 square metres are sold or rented.

Your approved organisation is responsible for ensuring that you're suitably qualified and accredited to conduct energy assessments. Some organisations

are only approved to provide EPC services for certain types of building, for example commercial buildings, so make sure you check this before applying.

When you apply to join an approved organisation you must provide any supporting documents and application fee that the organisation requests. Each approved organisation has its own application process and requirements for membership, but you'll usually be required to provide details of your qualifications, training and fitness to carry out energy assessments.



[www.gov.uk/domestic-energy-assessor-accreditation-scotland](http://www.gov.uk/domestic-energy-assessor-accreditation-scotland)

You can apply for accreditation through OFTEC, MCS, Trustmark or a Competent Persons Scheme.

## Competent Persons Schemes

- Air Tightness Testing and Measurement Association - ATTMA
- Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors (Certification) Limited - APHC
- Assure Certification Limited
- Blue Flame Certification Limited
- British Board of Agrément - BBA
- Building Engineering Services Competence Assessment Limited - BECSA
- Capita Gas Registration and Ancillary Services Limited - Gas Safe Register
- Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency Limited - CIGA
- Certass Limited
- Certsure LLP trading as ELECSA or NICEIC
- Fensa Limited
- HETAS Limited
- Independent Air Tightness Testing Scheme - IATS
- NAPIT Registration Limited
- National Federation of Roofing Contractors Limited

To find out more or get involved please get in touch! - Julie Nock, Southern Uplands Partnership  
<https://sup.org.uk/projects/scottish-borders-construction-forum/> Whatsapp/Mobile 07552 365637



UK Government

'BordersConstructionForum'

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