HETAS Technical Bulletin

November 2013

Exclusively for HETAS Registered Installers

Welcome to first edition of our new-style HETAS Technical Bulletin, where our team keep you updated with the latest installer-specific news. In this edition we cover the latest changes to rules regarding flue pipe connections, the new in-house Technical Helpline, the important work HETAS do in Europe, CE marking, Refresher Training and articles on fire surrounds and neighbours of your customers. We hope you find it interesting and informative.

Bruce Allen, CEO

Contents

Connection of Solid Fuel Appliances to a Chimney

HETAS Technical Director Robert Burke keeps you apprised of the newest updates in standards concerning the installation of appliances to chimneys:

Until recently, the guidance has been very clear on how to safely connect solid fuel appliances to chimneys. Information on complying with Building Regulations requirements is readily available in the guidance given in *Approved Document J*, HETAS Training Manuals, and the HETAS *Technical Handbook*.

The British Standards ***BS 8303:1994 Installation of domestic heating and cooking appliances burning solid mineral fuels. Part 1 Specification for the design of installations, Part 2 Specification for installing and commissioning on site, and Part 3 Recommendations for design and on site installation*** and ***BS EN 15287-1: 2007+A1:2010 Chimneys. Design, installation and commissioning of chimneys. Chimneys for non-room-sealed heating appliances (pre July 2013)*** give the advice that Building Regulations guidance is based on.

The First of Three Major Changes

At the end of July 2013 BSI published a revised version of ***BS EN 15287-1*** though the document retains the same title and publication date. This new version contains some substantial changes to the National Annex, which have been brought about to bring UK installation methods up to date with some of the more common installation practices used in other European countries.

It should however be stressed that some other European countries give far higher emphasis to the correct and ongoing maintenance of appliances and chimneys than is common within the UK. The tendancy not to regularly maintain appliances in the UK has meant STRICT CONDITIONS have been imposed on the use of the changed installation techniques.

90° Swept Bend

A 90° swept bend is now allowed on the back flue outlet of an appliance. However there are some caveats on the the use of the elbow in this situation.

The bend radius of the swept bend isn't defined within the standard, but *the minimum bend radius should not be less than 1.5 times the diameter* (which is standard for a long elbow in pipe-fitting terms).

It's clear from Figure 1 that only modern very flexible sweeps brushes will be able to navigate their way around this type of bend. It is advisable to consult with your local chimney sweeps to ensure they have suitable equipment to clean this bend. If you are in any doubt, don't use it.

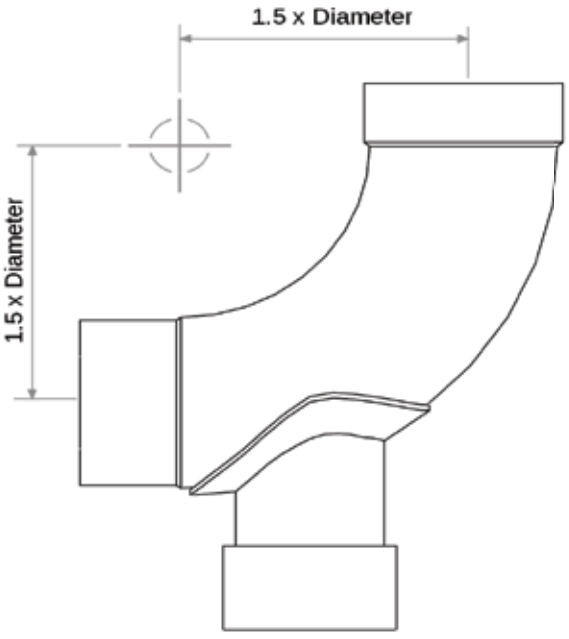


Figure 1: 90° swept bend with debris collector

These exit configurations can only be used with a maximum horizontal distance from the back of the appliance to the chimney of 150 mm.

The swept bend must also contain a debris collection trap. The debris trap must be accessible for removal and cleaning purposes and given that the volume of the debris trap on available swept bends is very limited, it is recommended that this configuration should *only* be used with Defra exempt clean burning appliances or smokeless fuel only appliances.

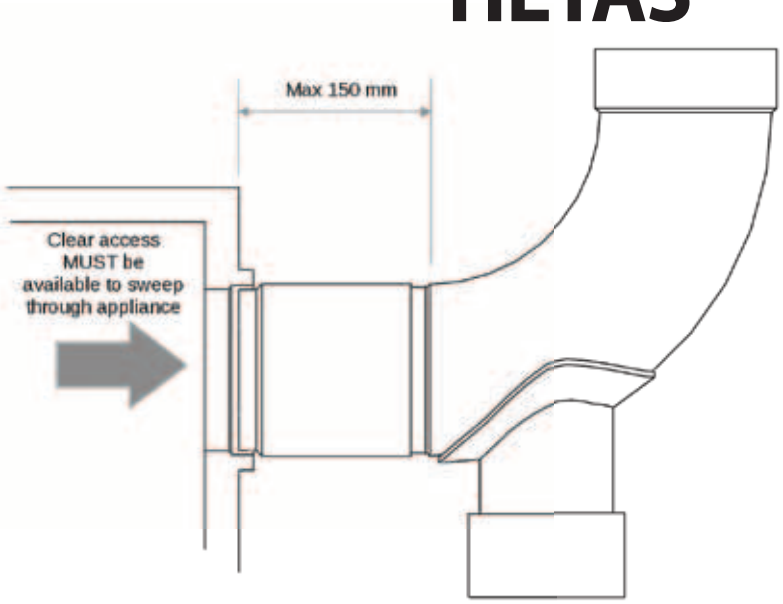


Figure 2: Maximum 150mm Horizontal

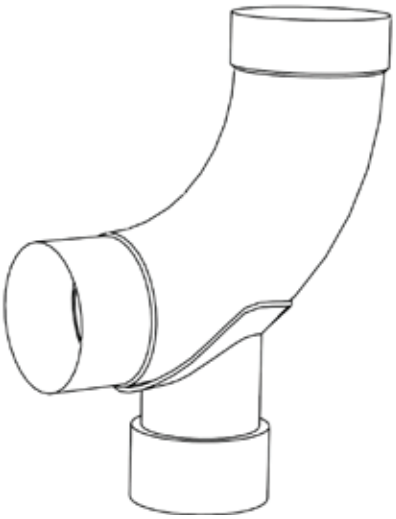


Figure 3: Swept Bend

Please Note: If used with bituminous coal or non-exempt wood burning appliances it is likely the debris trap will soon become overwhelmed with soot deposits and there is an increased likelihood of the flue pipe becoming restricted or blocked.

In installations that are likely to have an increased rate of soot build up such as of non-clean burning appliances the rear outlet of the appliance should be connected using a Tee piece, with the bottom of the Tee serving as both a large volume debris trap and cleaning access.

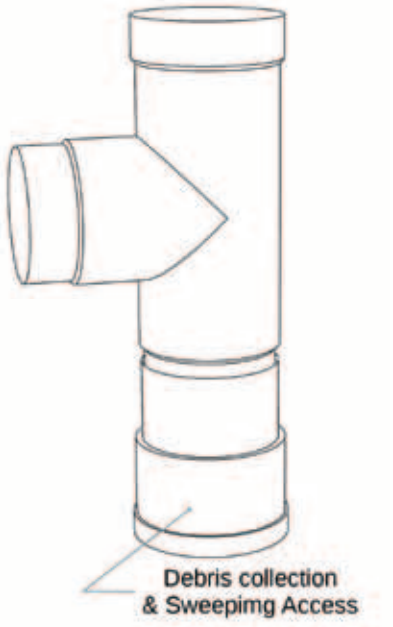


Figure 4: Tee with Access & Debris Collection

In this configuration it must be possible to sweep through the back of the appliance and into the Tee piece. Access must also be available to empty the debris collection and sweep either the whole length of the chimney from the bottom entry of the Tee piece, or at least to the next point of sweeping access..

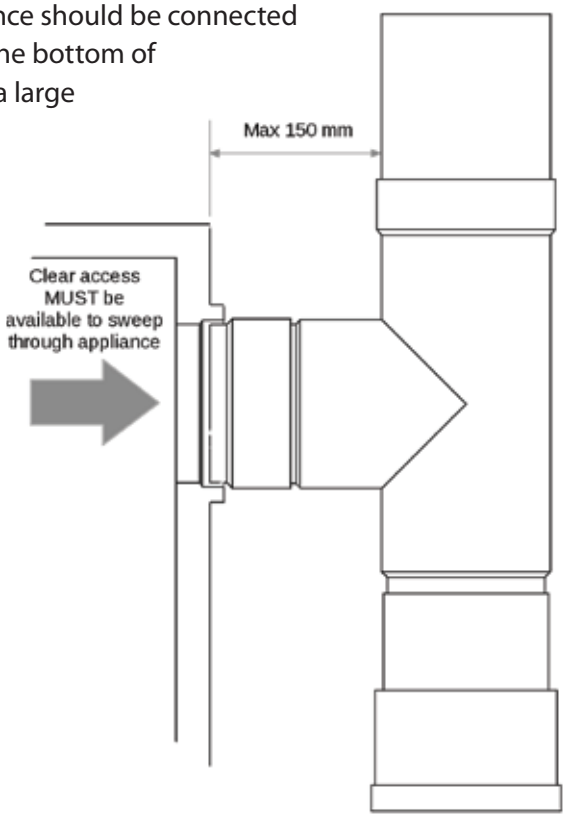


Figure 5: Maximum 150mm Horizontal

The Second Major Change

Increased Length of Allowed Horizontal Section

Until the recent change to the National Annex of ***BSEN 15287-1*** it has only been possible to have a short horizontal length of 150mm from the back of an appliance. This requirement will remain for the majority of installations, however a number of very specific exemptions have been included in the annex; that when all the new requirements are complied with a horizontal length of up to 450mm can be used. This is intended to allow installation of clean burning appliances using a horizontal flue pipe/chimney out through the external wall of a house, reducing installation costs compared to a 45° chimney through the wall.

*The following criteria **MUST be complied with** in order to use a horizontal length greater than 150mm and **no more than** 450mm.*

- The total horizontal length of flue MUST NOT exceed 450mm.
- The appliance MUST be either:
  - a Defra exempt clean burning appliance or;
  - the appliance has been designated by the manufacturer to only burn authorised smokeless fuel and the user accepts that they can only use smokeless fuel with the appliance.
- A chimney calculation in accordance with ***BS EN 133841: 2002+A2:2008 Chimneys. Thermal and fluid dynamic calculation methods. Chimneys serving one appliance*** has been carried out and the results of the calculation show the chimney will operate safely. One copy of the calculated results must be retained by the installer and another left with the user.
- Where an appliance with a vertical chimney exit is used, there is at least 600mm between the top of the appliance and centre line of the horizontal section (see Figures 7 & 8).
- There is access to inspect and clean the horizontal section. This can be either through the appliance (with a rear outlet appliance), or via an inspection plate on the flue pipe.
- The minimum required distance to combustible material or wall surface required by the appliance, connecting flue pipe and chimney MUST be maintained.
- The ***appliance*** manufacturer has seen a dimensioned layout drawing for the installation, together with the chimney calculation and gives written consent that their appliance can be used with the proposed chimney configuration.
- The ***chimney*** manufacturer has seen a dimensioned layout drawing for the installation, together with the chimney calculation and gives written consent that their chimney system can safely be used with the proposed configuration.

*Only when all of the above requirements have been fully met can a horizontal length of connecting flue pipe (greater than 150mm but **no more than** 450mm) be used.*

Please Note: BS EN 15287-1 permits the use of a twin wall system chimney as a connecting flue pipe. When this was written it was only envisaged that connecting flue pipes would be installed either vertically or up to 45° from the vertical as this was the only test requirements in ***BS EN 1856-1*** for system chimneys. The use of a twin wall system chimney as a horizontal connecting flue pipe will require the system chimney to also be tested as a connecting flue pipe to ***BS EN 1856-2*** as this standard includes a test carried out in the horizontal position. If you use a system chimney as a horizontal connecting flue pipe, please ensure the manufacturer of the system chimney has tested their system in this manner as it significantly affects the distance to combustible materials.

Give Advice to the User

Besides all of the requirements above it is advisable to instruct the user in the safety aspects regarding the operation and maintenance of the appliance. The appliance will be safe to use as long as the user abides by the following information and guidance which should be given to them on completion of the installation:

- The correct authorised fuels must only be used with the appliance, outlining the hazards that may occur if the wrong fuel is used.
  - Wet non-seasoned wood causes excessive smoke and soot deposits that can restrict or block the horizontal section, leading to fumes spilling into the property and an increased risk of CO poisoning.
  - Bituminous coal burns with high volumes of smoke and ash again increasing the risk of the flue becoming blocked and fumes spilling back into the property.
- Regularly check the CO alarm is functioning by carrying out the alarms test procedure (usually by pressing a test button).
- The requirement for regular maintenance, inspecting the flue for build up of soot or other blockages is adhered to.
- Only operate the appliance with the fire door shut. Leaving the door open will allow smoke or fumes to spill into the room and increase the likelihood of CO poisoning which could lead to a fatality.

If the user suspects fumes are escaping from their combustion appliance into their home, or the carbon monoxide alarm goes off;

- Open doors and windows to ventilate the building.
- Leave the building immediately and don't return until the appliance or boiler has extinguished and the air in the room is clear.
- If you feel unwell go to your Doctor, call NHS Direct (phone 111) or, if it is urgent phone 999 for an ambulance. Tell them you feel your symptoms may be related to Carbon Monoxide poisoning.
- Before you reuse the appliance, have it serviced by a HETAS Registered Installer and have the chimney swept by a HETAS Approved Chimney Sweep.
- Do not use the appliance until you are told it is safe to do so.

After the initial installation it is advisable to check the appliance and flue frequently during the heating season, giving special regard to any build up within the horizontal section and appliance. Over time the maintenance engineer/sweep will become accustomed to how much soot builds up during the normal usage rate of the appliance and set a maintenance schedule accordingly.

Example Installations

The following drawings show possible installations using the new guidance:

It is clear from the following scaled drawings that the 450mm horizontal installation will only be suitable with wall constructions of around 250mm to 275mm maximum.

It should be stressed that a great deal of work is required to bring together all the necessary permissions and carry out the specific chimney calculations for your installation. Only when all of the above conditions have been satisfied should you consider using a horizontal length greater than 150mm but no more than 450mm.

Given time, chimney and appliance manufactures may agree to publish standard details where calculations have been proven and both the appliance and chimney manufacturer agree to authorise the design. With a number of standard details for each appliance it is likely one may be a suitable match for the installation you intend to carry out. This will considerably reduce the amount of work required in gathering together all the required details.

Key:

A. Clear access to inspect and clean the horizontal section.

B. Minimum clearance to either combustible materials or the wall surface required by the appliance manufacturer must be maintained.

C. Minimum clearance to either combustible materials or the wall surface required by the chimney manufacturer must be maintained.

D. Debris collection and access point to sweep the chimney.

E. Wall sleeve incorporating a seal between the sleeve and chimney/flue pipe.

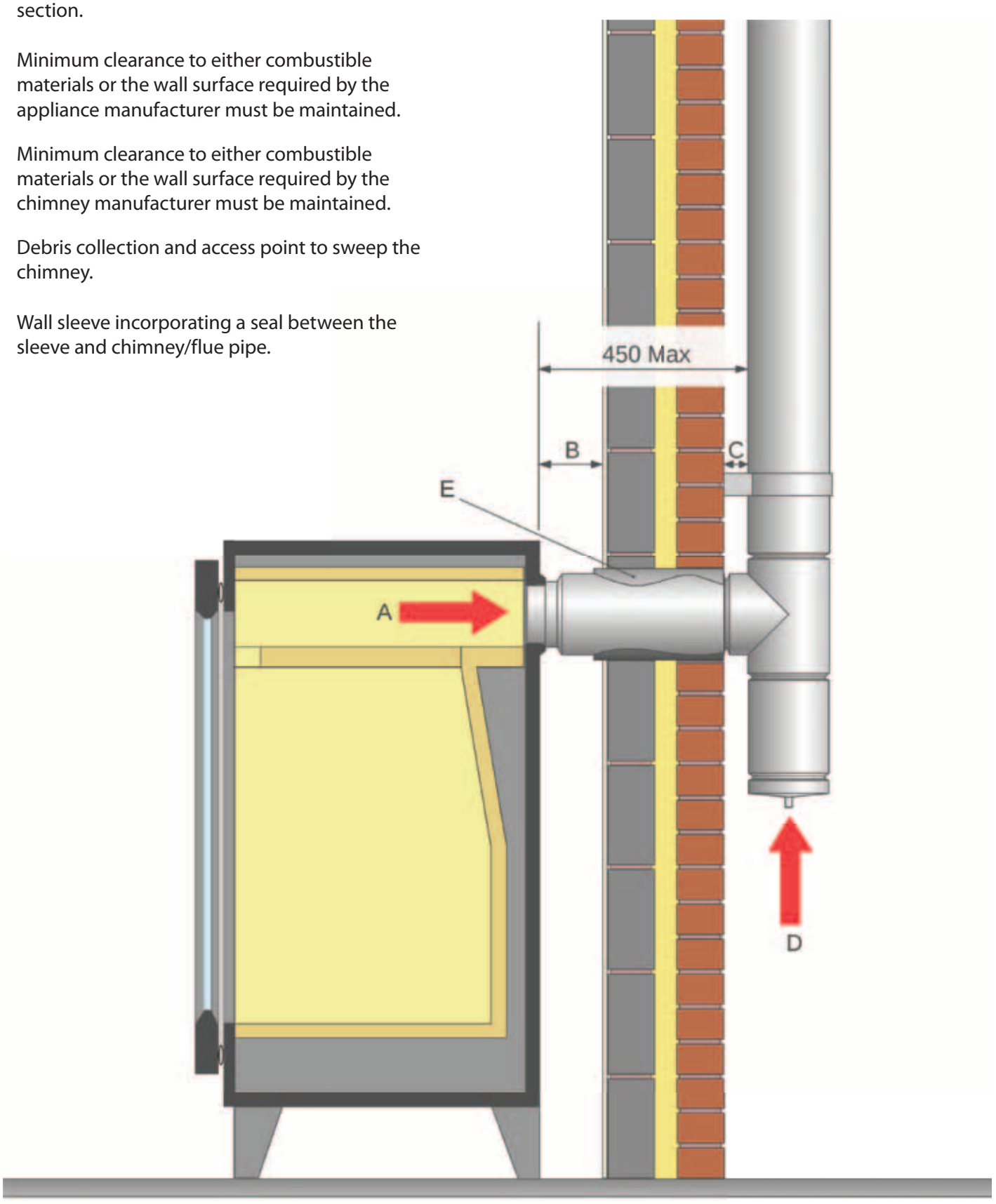


Figure 6: Typical installation using an appliance with a horizontal rear flue outlet to an external system chimney

Key:

A. Clear access to inspect and clean the horizontal section.

B. Minimum clearance to either combustible materials or the wall surface required by the appliance manufacturer must be maintained.

C. Minimum clearance to either combustible materials or the wall surface required by the chimney manufacturer must be maintained.

D. Debris collection incorporating a drain and access point to sweep the chimney.

E. Wall sleeve incorporating a seal between the sleeve and chimney / flue pipe.

F. Clear access to inspect and clean the vertical connecting flue pipe section.

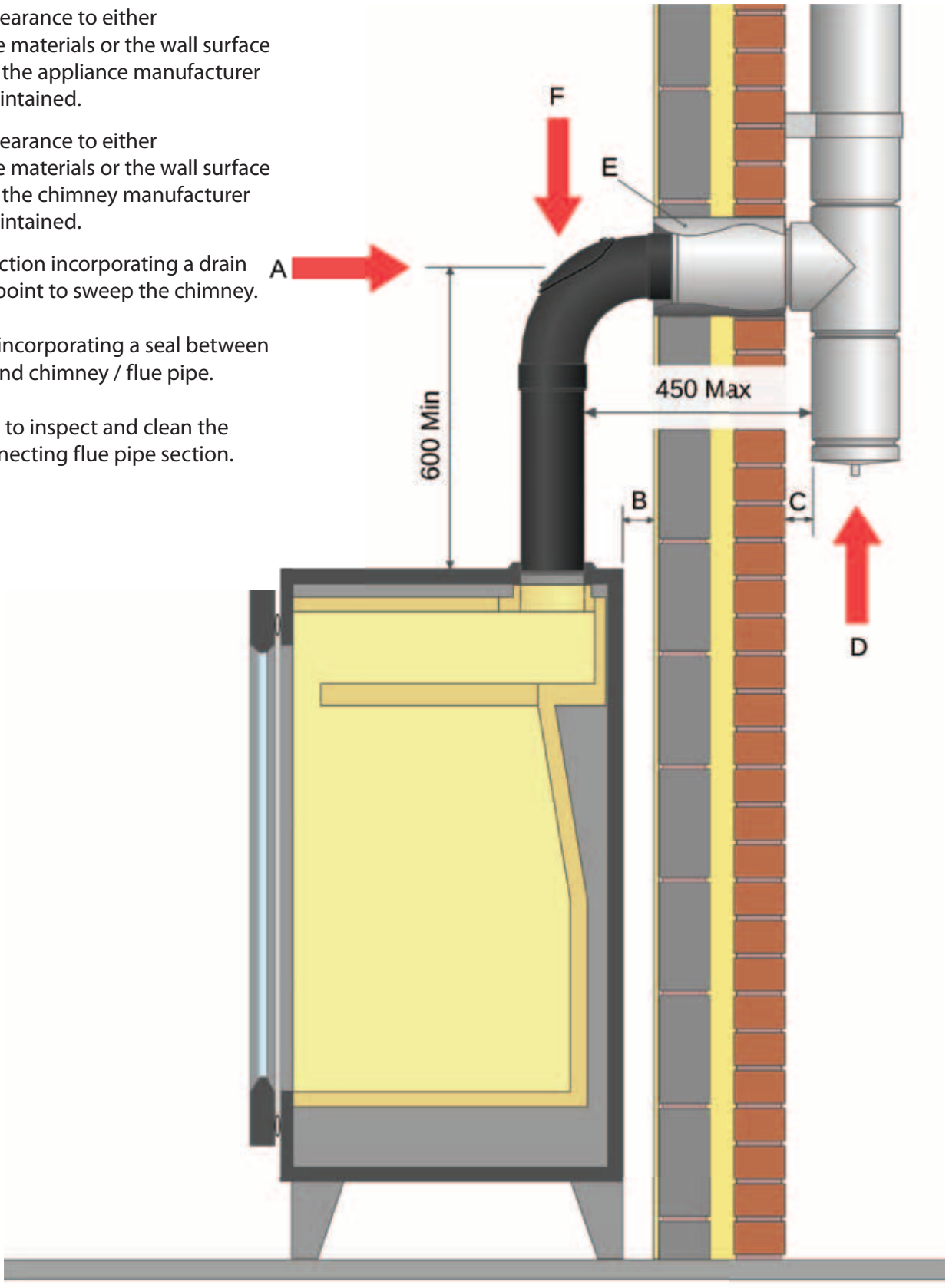


Figure 7: Typical installation using an appliance with a vertical flue outlet to an external system chimney

Key:

A. Clear access to inspect and clean the horizontal section

B. Minimum clearance to either combustible materials or the wall surface required by the appliance manufacturer must be maintained

C. Clear access to inspect and clean the chimney, via soot door.

D. Clear access to inspect and clean the vertical flue pipe

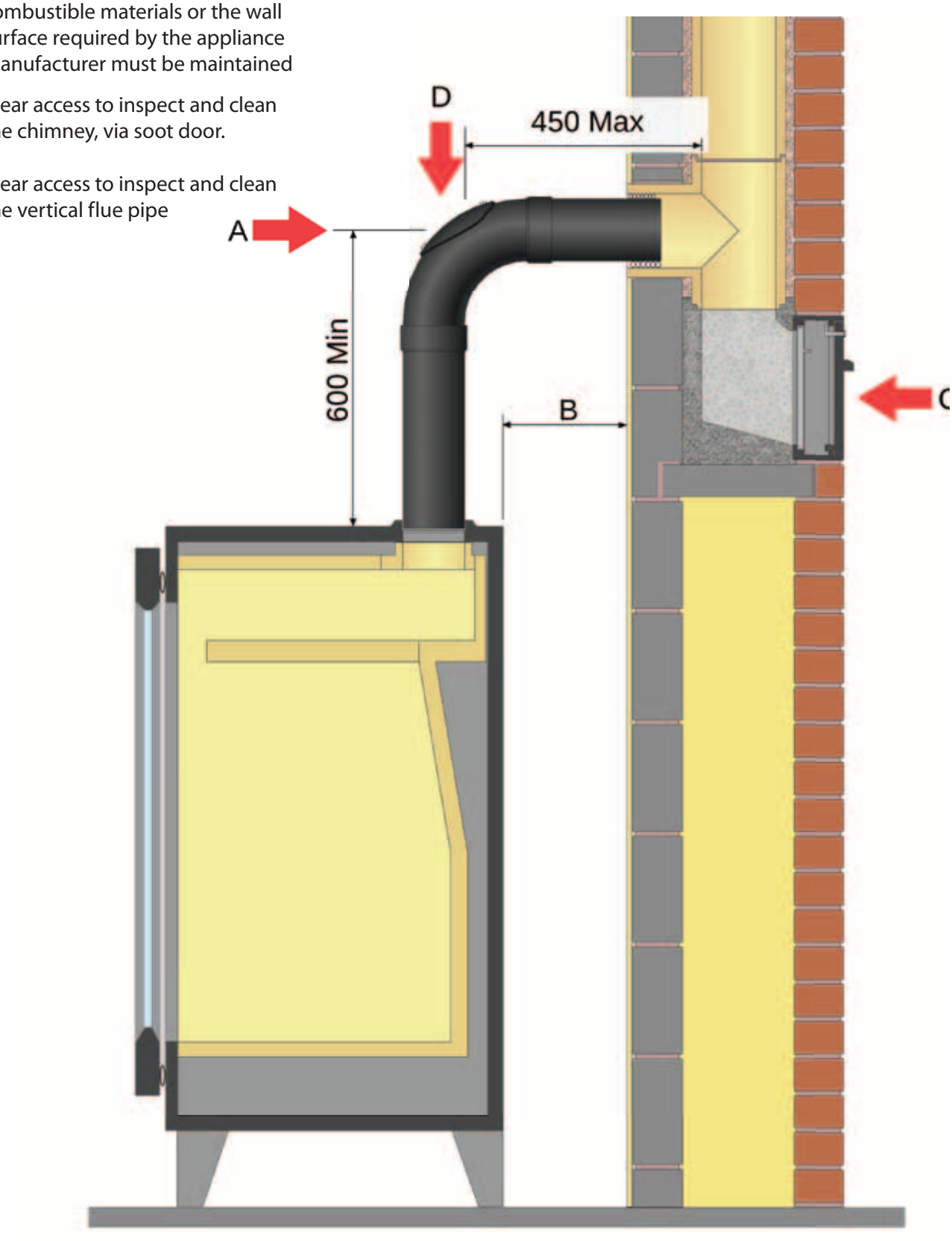


Figure 8: Typical installation using an appliance with a vertical flue outlet to a masonry chimney

Key:

A. Clear access to inspect and clean the horizontal section

B. Minimum clearance to either combustible materials or the wall surface required by the appliance manufacturer must be maintained

C. Clear access to inspect and clean the chimney, via soot door.

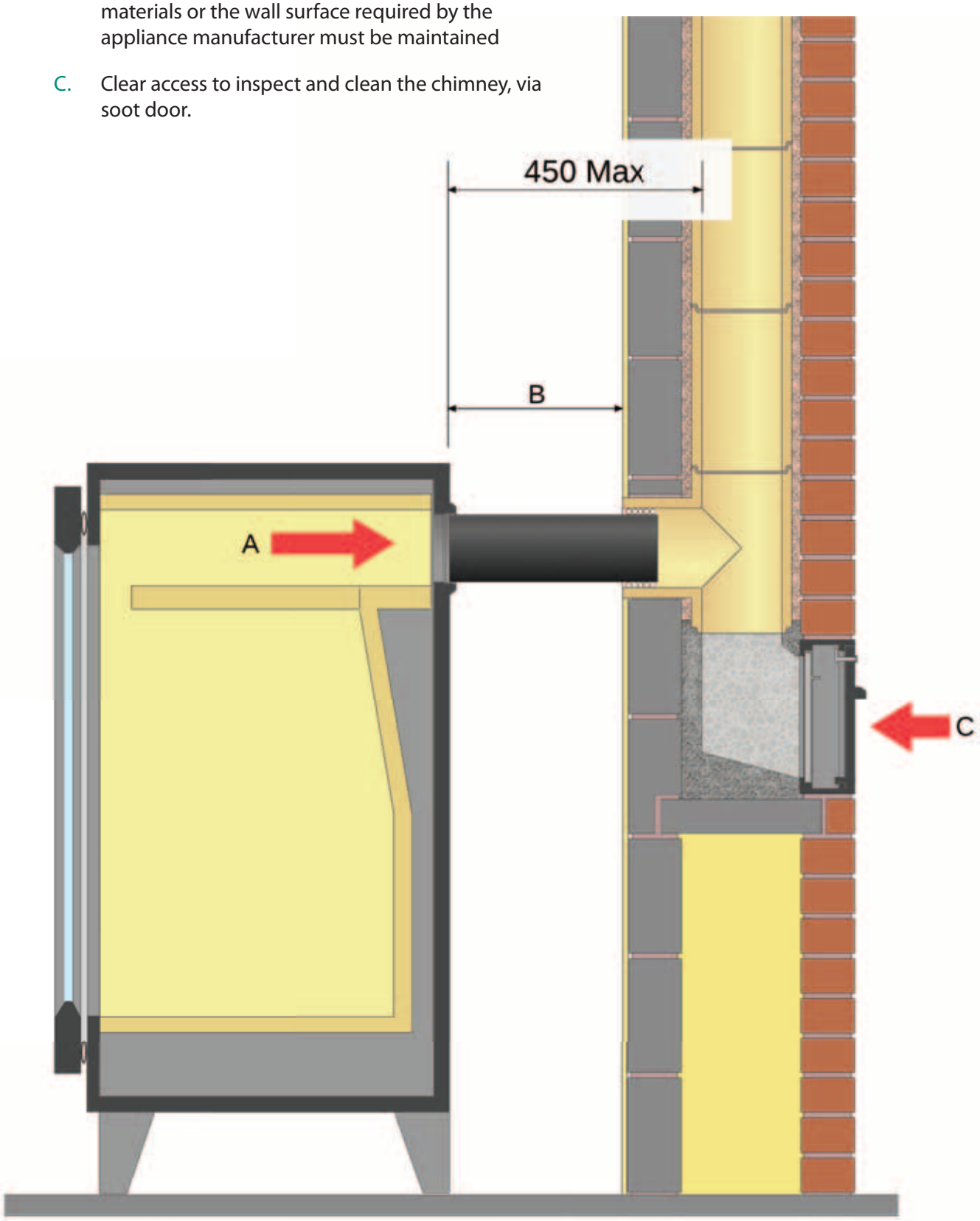
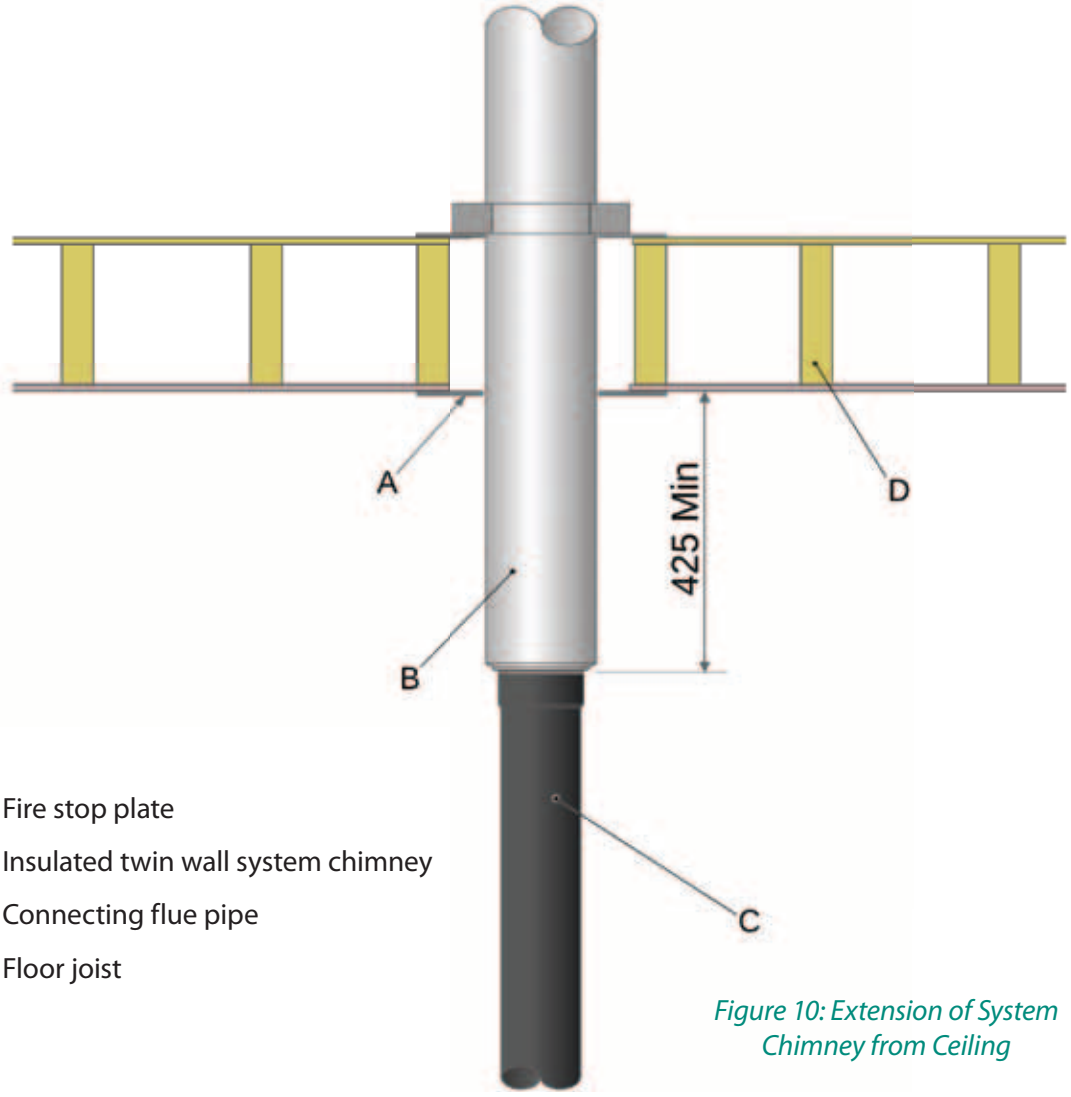


Figure 9: Typical installation using an appliance with a rear flue outlet to a masonry chimney

The Third Major Change

Distance of Flue Pipe from a Ceiling

There has always been a requirement for a separation distance from a connecting flue pipe to combustible materials of at least three times the diameter of the flue pipe. It was noted that this isn't always observed where a connecting flue pipe is connected to a system chimney at the ceiling level.



Key:

A. Fire stop plate
B. Insulated twin wall system chimney
C. Connecting flue pipe
D. Floor joist

Figure 10: Extension of System Chimney from Ceiling

The vast majority of dwellings in the UK are constructed with combustible timber floor joists. Where an insulated system chimney usually gives a small distance to combustible materials and can often safely fit between the joists with minimal trimming required, a connecting flue pipe needs a much greater distance. A 150mm diameter connecting flue pipe using the three times diameter rule will need to terminate 450mm from combustible floor joists and a 200mm diameter flue pipe termination would be 600mm from combustible material.

It was felt that this requirement (often ignored by installers) was a little excessive as the increase in diameter of the system chimney offers a degree of shielding of the ceiling and any combustible materials. It was agreed that a drop of 425mm of twin wall chimney would provide sufficient shielding to give the required straight-line clearance for the single wall connecting pipe to the ceiling. This was found to be the case for up to the largest flue diameters likely to be used in domestic installations. For further information please see ***HETAS Technical Note HTN004*** at the following link:

www.hetas.co.uk/wp-content/mediauploads/HTN004-combustiblesandsystemchimney.pdf

Fixing Stone Fire Surrounds

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has recently published a safety bulletin drawing attention to a number of deaths caused by incorrect fitting of stone fire surrounds.

Whilst it may seem implausible that an inert stone block can kill, stone mantels can be very heavy and their design means they are often seated on vertical jambs with the mantel having a large overhang that makes them unstable and close to the point of toppling. Whilst any death or injury is unacceptable, what makes this situation worse is that the deaths have happened to the most vulnerable in our society; young children. Toddlers learning to walk often use furniture to pull themselves up onto their feet. A young child pulling on an insecurely fixed stone mantel can easily load the mantel beyond the point of stability and cause it to topple onto themselves.

Bonding the surround's back to the wall isn't considered a suitable method of fixing as bonds can break or be weakened by the thermal movement between the chimney breast and fire surround. Correct mechanical fixing is the only safe option for the surrounds. The surround should be fixed using brackets that are designed to take both the dead load of the fire surround components and any imposed load from objects placed on the mantel, and children or adults pulling against the surround.

Manufacturers have been instructed by HSE to take the necessary measures to ensure the surrounds are securely fixed, giving the following guidance for the information that should be provided to the installer of the surround:

- Which wall/floor types the fire surround may be suitable for and those on which it should not be mounted (e.g. non-structural walls such as demountable partitions or lightweight metal stud walls, etc).
- How the surround is to be assembled including the correct sequence.
- The recommended bonding products and the *extent of their application* (e.g. area and joint thickness) to bed the individual stone components together, and the recommended *method of using the bonding product* - given the type of stone involved (e.g. pre-wet porous or impervious).
- How the fireplace surround should be secured to different forms of wall construction and finish.
- The number and type of mechanical fittings to be used, where they are positioned, and how they are to be fixed to both the stone components and to the wall to hold and secure the stones in position.

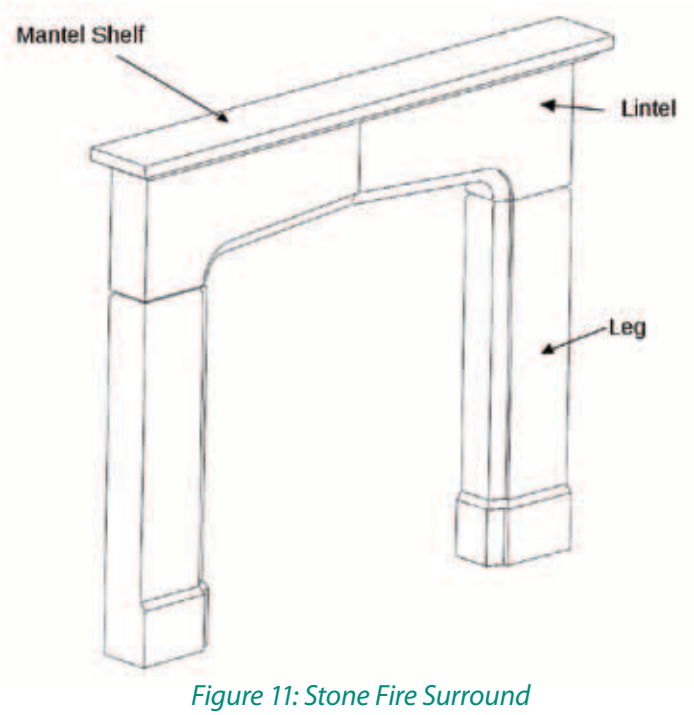


Figure 11: Stone Fire Surround

- The curing time before the fireplace can be used with a lit fire or appliance.
- Any additional information for the home-owner e.g. how much weight may be placed upon the mantel.

To help strengthen the requirements for fixing fire surrounds; ***BS 1251:1987 Specification for open-fireplace components*** is currently being redrafted to include extra guidance on fixing both cast stone and cut stone fire surrounds.

For more information visit the HSE bulletin; ***Risks to occupiers from the installation of modular, stone and artificial stone fireplace surrounds*** *www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/fireplace-surrounds.htm*

Download the Stone Federation of Great Britain's guidance on fixing fireplace surrounds; *www.stonefed.org.uk/uploads/2013%20Fireplace%20Surrounds%20Data%20Sheet.pdf*

HETAS in Europe

Technical Director Robert Burke explains some of the often unsung work HETAS do on the continent, and it's far-reaching implications:

Though most installers see HETAS as the administrator of the UK's solid fuel and biomass Competent Person Scheme, there is very little knowledge of some of the other crucially important work that has been carried out by HETAS to ensure this industry isn't adversely affected by outside influences.

For many decades HETAS has been the kingpin of both UK and European Appliance Standards, taking on the lead position within the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), to ensure the solid fuel and biomass standards emanating from Europe haven't had an adverse affect on the safety and efficiency of the UK appliance market. Professor Bill Kaye, one of the founders of HETAS has, since the formation of the first European appliance standards committee in 1991, been the Chairman of CEN/TC295. During this time most of the UK's appliance standards have been incorporated into the European ***BS EN*** standards that we use today. You would think that over the 22 years of standardisation there would be nothing left to do, but unfortunately the European Commission have different ideas. New Regulations and Directives are being created at an alarming rate and many of these impact on the current EN standards, which then need to be modified or rewritten.

The European Commission

The latest threat to standards that is coming to the boil within Europe is the Ecodesign and Energy labelling of Energy Related Products for Local Space Heaters. This Directive is nearing the end of a six year study and is expected to be finalised in the near future. Ecodesign aims to add new challenging limits for efficiency and emissions of local space heaters (room heaters/stoves and open fires to you and me). The labelling element of the directive will then add an 'A' to 'G' label similar to those seen on fridges and freezers to all appliances. Ecodesign doesn't specify how the limits should be measured, but instead calls up the relevant European Standard. However many of the requirements that have been specified in the latest Ecodesign draft aren't included within the current appliance standards. This has necessitated the members of CEN/TC295 to completely revise the current appliance

standards into a single suite of standards under the heading prEN 16510. This work is expected to be ongoing for the next two to three years, with revisions following quickly after once the new requirements are fully understood.

I mentioned Ecodesign being a threat, and it really is a significant threat to the manufacturers of appliances across Europe. In the UK we have prided ourself on the robust nature of our Clean Air Act requirements, which have protected the air quality in our cities since 1956. The testing regime for appliances sold into smoke control areas is considered the toughest in Europe, and rightly so. However the limits for particulate emissions, set in the Ecodesign proposal, is up to 95% tougher. Even if we apply the significantly less robust European test methods, this will result in almost all but the very best of the current batch fired stoves being withdrawn from sale once the directive is implemented. It isn't just particulate emissions that are causing concern. There are also new requirements to test the levels of Organic Gaseous Compounds (OGC) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx). Neither have agreed European test methods, yet the Ecodesign proposal has set limits at levels at which the EU member states feel are far too onerous and unachievable using their own current testing methods.

Again HETAS haven't been quiet when it comes to Ecodesign. Having an in depth knowledge of the requirements we have lobbied hard at the European level, writing to both the Commission and each European government detailing our fears and giving sound technically backed arguments as to why they have got the proposals so wrong. We are asking each member state to support changing the draft document to one that will achieve the EU goals of improved carbon reduction and reduced emissions, without devastating the appliance industry across Europe. We have attended numerous meetings with CEFACD (the European Trade Association) for appliance manufacturers to try and get a united response across Europe. In the UK we frequently meet with the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to update them on the consequences of this proposal.

Ecodesign when finally approved is likely to be enforced from 2018, bringing about a significant change in what appliances can be installed, limiting the market to only closed clean burning appliances. Test methods for particulate, OGC and NOx still need to be agreed within CEN/TC295. The methods will need to be scientifically robust to protect the air quality whilst at the same time allow the technologically better appliances to still be sold. This is quite a challenge for the European Standards committee and presents a considerable amount of work and research that will be required over the next few years. HETAS intend to stay at the heart of this process and will retain the chairmanship of the group when Professor Bill Kaye stands down in November, with myself taking on the role.

The European Commission seemed to be taking scant regards to concerns of industry and individual European states, expecting the proposals to be voted through at a recent Regulatory Committee meeting. The process at the Regulatory Committee stage has moved out of the control of industry and can now only be influenced by Defra in the UK and their equivalents across the other European States. Fortunately enough European countries had become aware of the technical limitations of solid fuel combustion from both HETAS and CEFACD lobbying and at the Regulatory Committee meeting a consensus couldn't be reached on how to handle this range of products.

Solid fuel has for now been removed from the "Ecodesign for Local Space Heaters" proposals whilst the commission reconsider how to overcome the many objections to their first proposal

HETAS will of course continue to try and get the process returned to a Consultation Forum where Industry can again add sense to the proposals. We will continue to lobby European Governments to call for this draft to be returned to the Consultation Forum process.

Besides the work on appliance standards and lobbying the European Commission, HETAS remains central to the development of European Chimney standards. By also funding the work of Peter Jenkins we ensure the large number of chimney standards being developed in Europe do not adversely impact the UK's chimney manufacturers and installation practices. Recently changes to the National Annex of ***BS EN 15287-1*** were challenged by HETAS and changes were secured to ensure we retain a safe installation practice whilst allowing new proven European installation methods to be introduced.

The work in Europe will be an ongoing challenge for HETAS and the UK industry and you can rest assured it is a challenge we will not back down from. History has proven that we cannot just accept what comes out of Europe, but must work to resolve differences that will affect safety and efficiency. Hopefully you will all agree that after wading through Europe's bureaucracy and regulation for the last 22 years, Professor Bill Kaye deserves all our thanks for maintaining the sound and robust appliance standards we currently use. Bill will still be attending the CEN/TC295 meetings to offer his considerable experience and expertise, but now in his eighties, he will be able to operate without the added pressure of also chairing the meetings.

Professor Bill Kaye;
Pillar of the Industry

Nuisance to Neighbours

One area of a new installation that is often overlooked is the effect smoke or fumes discharging from one house can have on neighbouring properties. With the growth in wood burning and biomass installations this is becoming a more common issue, with claims of nuisance being made by neighbours against homes that have newly fitted appliances. In truth this shouldn't really be happening because both Building Regulations and standards dating back many decades have requirements to ensure people's health isn't affected by the products of combustion from any of the available fuels.

Building Regulations Requirement J2. states ***"Combustion appliances shall have adequate provision for the discharge of products of combustion to the outside air"*** The intention of this requirement is to allow the products of combustion to discharge at a point where they will be safely dispersed into the atmosphere without causing localised air pollution either back into the building the appliance is in or into surrounding dwellings.

The old British standard ***BS 6461-1: 1984 Installation of chimneys and flues for domestic appliances burning solid fuel (including wood and peat). Code of practice for masonry chimneys and flue pipes*** gave excellent guidance and included the requirement for ensuring smoke and fumes are discharged safely. Fortunately when this standard was replaced in 2007 by the European installation standard ***BS EN 15287-1:2007 + A1:2010 Chimneys. Design, installation and commissioning of chimneys. Chimneys for non-roomsealed heating appliances*** we had the foresight in the UK to carry these time proven requirements into the National Annex.

Within the National Annex (NA) to ***BS EN 15287-1*** the chimney design includes a requirement that in relation to the roof, terminals should be located to avoid as far as possible zones of wind pressure that are likely to cause down draught. In addition, it is essential to avoid flue gases discharging in a position where they can enter a window or skylight capable of being opened, or an air inlet to a ventilating system. The intention of the design is to discharge the products of combustion high into the atmosphere where they can be dispersed safely and not be pulled back down to ground level by areas of down draught.

The NA to ***BS EN 15287-1*** gives a great deal of advice on design parameters that should achieve this requirement in ***NA.4.7 Height and position of chimney outlets above roofs,*** however section ***NA.4.7*** closes with the statement ***"It should always be borne in mind that topographical features may require heights in excess of the quoted minimum, and local experience should be sought as appropriate".***

As trained competent installers you should always bear this statement in mind when carrying out a survey or installation. It is your responsibility to ensure the installation complies and at point of commissioning you should always check to see that any smoke or visible fumes from the first firing of the appliance is issuing freely from the terminal. This smoke should not be returned to ground level because of localised down draughts.

It may be that your installation has been carried out following all the generic guidance given in Building Regulations ADJ yet smoke nuisance still occurs. This is most likely due to localised topographical conditions such as proximity to tall buildings/trees or the house being situated within a depression or at the base of a steep hill. If smoke does return to ground level it will be necessary for you to carry out remedial work to overcome the situation. Some experimentation may be required to find the cure, but some common remedies to this type of issue can be to extend the height of the chimney termination above any extended recirculation zone, or if a closed-top terminal is fitted change it for an open terminal which will allow the exit velocity of the flue gas to carry the combustion products higher into the atmosphere.

HETAS Technical Helpline

Micheal Harvey on his new role in bringing the HETAS Registered Installer Technical Helpline in-house:

"The new installer Technical Helpline has proved very popular; HETAS Registered Installers are requesting advice and clarification on a wide range of topics, providing us with invaluable information which the team appraises."

"Any call trends recognised give us valuable insight as to what the hottest topics within our Industry are at any given time. This allows us to populate our training, advice and general guidance to clear up any points of confusion and keep topics of discussion relevant and at ground level; with our registrants doing the job they're trained to do, and knowing that our support is only a phone call away if they need it."

"With the Heating season imminent the volume of calls is increasing steadily."

Helpline Trends

✔ ***Highest percentage of enquiries?***

A. Chimneys and Flues

B. Hearths

C. Distances to Combustibles.

✔ ***There has been a recent increase in the number of calls about biomass installations.***

✔ ***Several calls taken on issues surrounding; BS EN 15287 -1:2007+A1:2010. Chimneys. Design, installation and commissioning of chimneys. Chimneys for non-roomsealed heating appliances.***

✔ ***Chimneys in thatched properties has been a popular topic also. As such HETAS are reviewing our installer thatched roof guidelines.***

"The helpline is proving popular not only with Installers; an array of professions have contacted us, including architects, solicitors and insurance claim adjusters. Consumers are showing an interest also, giving rise to the opportunity to take the helpline a step further; consumer calls are being shared with the ***Solid Fuel Association*** providing a service to the end user in which HETAS will bring awareness and educate in our bid to promote the safe and effective use of solid fuels, biomass and related technologies as the leading body within the Solid Fuel Industry."

The HETAS Technical Helpline is offered to HETAS Registrants and industry specifiers 9am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday on 01242 681909 or technical@hetas.co.uk.

Compulsory Refresher Training

Technical & Training Manager Andy Mathews on the new requirements for all Competent Person Schemes:

"HETAS Refresher Courses have been available since February 2013 throughout our Approved Training Centres in England and Wales. From June 2014 the Government require that to ensure continued registration with HETAS, engineers who carried out training 5 years and longer ago will need to confirm they have kept themselves informed of changes to regulations, standards, legislation and industry changes. All installers registered with a Competent Person Scheme will be required to ensure and show they are kept up to date - with a continuing requirement to renew their qualifications on a 5 year cycle."

Please see www.hetas.co.uk/professionals/training-centres/ to find out where your local training centre is so that you can book yourself on to a Refresher Course.

Any person that has attended a training course more than 5 years ago (prior to June 2008) ***needs to attend a Refresher Course***, otherwise your registration could be cancelled until successful completion of a Refresher Course has been undertaken.

To avoid disappointment please DO NOT DELAY and book yourself on a Refresher Course.

CE Marking

With the introduction of the Construction Products Regulations (CPR) in July this year, it has become a requirement for all appliances and chimney components that are manufactured to harmonised standards meet the requirements of the CPR and carry a CE mark as recognition. Whilst the requirements for manufacturers are very clear in that every appliance they sell must be CE marked, whether it is straight off the production line or out of their stock, this is not so clear for installers.

The requirements under CPR are based on products placed on the market by the manufacturer. Appliances that were already on the market prior to July 1st 2013 can still be sold without a CE mark, though they must still have been tested to the relevant harmonised standard. Appliances that fall into this exemption include appliances that were already in a retailer's stock, or had been purchased and received by the installer or customer prior to the July 1st 2013 deadline.

As an installer, to make sure you don't fall foul of this new requirement it is prudent to now only buy products that are CE marked. If you are in a situation that requires you to install a non-CE marked appliance, make sure you obtain a written declaration from the retailer you are purchasing the appliance from that the appliance was placed on the market (was in his stock) prior to July 1st 2013.

If you are buying direct from a manufacturer the appliance must be CE marked.

If an installation that was carried out after 1st July is inspected by a HETAS inspector he will be looking to see that the appliance carries a CE mark. If the appliance isn't CE marked he will ask to see a declaration that the appliance was on the market prior to the CPR cut off date.

The National Measurement Office and Trading Standards will be enforcing CE marking. If you have fitted a non-CE marked appliance since July 1st you may be investigated and will ***need to show proof via a clearly auditable trail of documents that show the appliance was placed on the market before 1st July 2013.***

Meet the HETAS Technical Team

Over the last few years there has been a significant commitment for developing the HETAS in-house technical services and we are now operating with a team of technically competent staff with a wide range of skills. The benefit of this is we can now get to directly hear the issues being raised by installers or manufacturers and act on them in a timely manner. By bringing in house the Technical Helpline we can assess what areas of installation practice are giving the most problems and from this we can tailor the advice given through Newsletters or changes to training to combat and resolve these issues.

We are also able to call on the considerable experience and expertise of Professor Bill Kaye and Peter Jenkins who have been instrumental in developing the standards you install to. Working together our significant experience allows us to develop answers to the issues you are facing as an installer and refine our materials to make sure issues are correctly communicated out to all Registered Installers.

Our technical team now comprises of:

Robert Burke

Technical Director Robert Burke has worked in support roles for the combustion industry for over twenty years. His initial work was on product development and standards writing for the masonry chimney industry. In this role he became president of the British Flue and Chimney Manufacturers Association, a position he still holds today. Amongst others, Robert is chairman of the Appliance standards group BSI/RHE/28 and represents the UK industry on European Standards and EU Regulatory groups. Robert also works closely with Government departments liaising on issues with Building Regulations, clean air requirements and carbon reduction. Rob doesn't have much free time, but he enjoys contributing to the online open-source software community and 3D modelling.

Andrew Hopton

Head of Quality and Certification, Andrew is responsible for the management of HETAS quality system maintaining the CPS and other scheme requirements to EN 45011. Andrew is Auditor for MCS Biomass and Solar Thermal installer, a UKAS Technical Expert, and a Member of BSI technical committees RHE/28, B506 & PTI/17. Andrew also sits on several other committees, including the HETAS Technical and MCS committees including the Standards Management Group, Working Group 5 Biomass and the Certification Body Forum.

Andy Mathews

Technical and Training Manager Andy Mathews has worked practically and academically within the heating industry for nearly 30 years. Having trained initially as a plumbing and heating engineer, he set up a successful heating business in the early nineties. Through further education Andy developed himself academically after which he came to work for HETAS where he was initially employed as Senior Inspector and then further to manage and develop HETAS training materials and Approved Centres. Andy is responsible for technical matters relating to solid fuel, wood and biomass and is also chairman for the CIBSE working group that publishes the Domestic Heating Design Guide.

Michael Harvey

Inspections and Complaints Manager Mike Harvey has worked in the heating industry for 28 years as an installer of Gas, Oil , Solid fuel and Renewable Technologies, then as a College Lecturer & Assessor before joining HETAS in the summer of 2013. Taking the initiative with the Technical Helpline & heading up the Inspections Department working alongside Alan and Stephen and the Complaints Team with Kim and Esperanza. Mike enjoys competitive cycling in his free time.

Brian Bailey

The Senior Product Evaluation Officer, Brian coordinates with appliance and component manufacturers and testing laboratories and manages the day-to-day running of the HETAS Product Approvals department. Also involved in representing HETAS in an influencing and standards development role, Brian has over 30 years experience in the industry in a technical role, including product testing and development, installation and servicing. Leisure interests include squash, golf and allotmenteering and he would class himself as a casual twitcher and cosmologist.

Alan Young

A qualified plumbing and heating engineer with experience in installing gas and solid fuel appliances, flues and fireplaces, Alan has worked for HETAS for almost 2 years. His role as Technical Officer is to provide technical support for HETAS and Registered Installers, including on the Technical Helpline. He also liaises with and supports the team of HETAS field inspectors nationwide as well as carrying out site inspections himself. Alan enjoys spending time with his family and has an interest in classic motor vehicles.

Calvin May

A Product Evaluation officer with over 4 years experience in the heating industry working for HETAS, Calvin currently undertakes Product Approval procedures for both the HETAS and MCS schemes. Calvin is involved in standards development through membership of HETAS technical committee and subsequent working groups. Calvin has undergone and passed HETAS installer training on both wet and dry system installations as well as installations on chimney systems. Also involved in project management of the HETAS Guide and management of the ICT system, Calvin's interests include supporting Gloucester Rugby club and playing of other sports.

Stephen Shepherd

The most recent addition to the HETAS team, Stephen joined HETAS in summer 2013 to aid Mike and Alan in the Technical Helpline role, and it may be him you speak to if you call us. Having been in the heating industry for 25 years; he holds the Licentiateship Award in Building Engineering Services, running his own business and more recently spending 7 years in a teaching role developing apprenticeship and bespoke training, Stephen is a firm believer of continual professional development and is looking forward to the challenge in the role of Technical Officer.

What do you think of our Installer Technical Bulletin?

Let us know at marketing@hetas.co.uk and find us on social media! Don't forget to check your inbox for our regular monthly e-newsletter, detailing new Approved Products, highlighting industry events and bringing you the very latest news.

HETAS

Technical Bulletin

November 2013

HETAS Limited

Orchard Business Centre,
Stoke Orchard, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire, GL52 7RZ

Telephone: 01242 681270

Facsimile: 01242 673502

Email: info@hetas.co.uk

Web: www.hetas.co.uk