CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Consultation on Planning Standards for Permitted Development Installations of Air Source Heat Pumps

Thank you for taking the time to comment on this consultation. MCS values the input from all interested parties in the development of its Scheme as, without you, we would not be able to define and raise the quality of installations. We would be grateful if you could use this form for your response which helps with collation and consideration of responses.

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| Responses are welcome to all, or a selection of, the consultation questions included in this [consultation document on the MCS website](https://mcscertified.com/consultation-mcs-020-planning-standard-for-permitted-development-installations-of-air-source-heat-pumps). General feedback is also welcome. Please submit responses by 26 January 2024 to [consultations@mcscertified.com](mailto:consultations@mcscertified.com) or The MCS Service Company Ltd, Violet 3, First Floor, Sci-Tech Daresbury, Keckwick Lane, Daresbury, Cheshire, WA4 4AB. Please state below whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation and if you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential. |

| Respondent Name: | Individual or organisation: | Organisation name (if applicable): | Organisation type: |  |  | Date |
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**Consultation Questions**

Current Clauses in MCS 020

* 1. Are there any circumstances (e.g. distance to nearest property) that could mean a noise assessment is not necessary to meet the conditions in Permitted Development Rights?

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* 1. Contractors are required to obtain the A-weighted sound power level of the heat pump from manufacturer’s data to calculate heat pump noise. To avoid confusion over which value for sound power level should be used, we propose having a single database to obtain the sound power level, for example the MCS Product Directory, instead of the manufacturer’s data. Do you agree with this proposal, if so, where should the information be held?

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* 1. The methodology requires contractors to establish whether there is a solid barrier between the heat pump and the assessment position. We intend to clarify what can and cannot be considered a solid barrier. In this respect, what types of barriers (e.g. different types of fence panels, walls, hedges) are likely to be encountered when installing heat pumps on domestic properties?

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* 1. The current background noise assumption used in the methodology is 40dB. We are proposing to maintain this assumption for urban areas but decrease the background noise assumption to 35dB for rural areas. To determine whether an area is rural or urban, we propose using this postcode lookup tool. Do you agree with this method? Are there other considerations we should make in determining whether a domestic property is in an urban or rural area?

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Additional Noise Clauses in MIS 3005-I

* 1. What steps could be considered appropriate to strengthen the requirements in the Heat Pump Installation Standard to ensure the acoustic impact of heat pumps on domestic properties is minimised? For example, should we consider orientation, location, avoiding reflective surfaces, the use of anti-vibration mats or other steps, and how?

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Multiple Heat Pumps in the Curtilage of a Property

* 1. Are there any circumstances where it would not be appropriate to install multiple cascaded heat pumps on the same property? For example, due to the heat load or system design to the property, or the location of the property?

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* 1. The proposed methodology would likely be based on a spreadsheet in order to make calculations simpler for installers on-site, but is there additional benefits to making a paper-based methodology available too?

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Multiple Heat Pumps in a Neighbourhood

* 1. What methods could be sued to determine the number and relative positioning (both distance and angles) of heat pumps already installed or likely to be installed in a neighbourhood?

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4.2 What precautions should be taken to avoid raising background noise above agreed levels when multiple heat pumps are being installed in a given area?

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