

The RVA has been asked by HETAS to consider the guidance associated with Mechanical Ventilation and Heat Recovery, when used with an open flue solid fuel appliance.

The RVA is of the view that installer should follow the guidance below, taken from Approved Document J 2010 and created and agreed by the RVA.

Approved Document J – 2010

P17 - Performance

1.1 In the Secretary of State's view requirements J1 to J5 will be met if the building provisions for the safe accommodation of combustion appliances

c. incorporate an appropriate means of warning of a release of Carbon Monoxide for fixed appliances that burn solid fuels;

P21 - Interaction of mechanical extract ventilation and open-flued combustion appliances

c. For solid fuel appliances: avoid installing extract ventilation in the same room. An open-flued appliance in a kitchen may satisfy the requirements of Part F through passive stack ventilation. Refer to Approved Document F. If mechanical extraction is unavoidable then seek specialist advice to ensure safe operation of the appliance.

Additional RVA guidance

Mechanical Ventilation with (or without) Heat Recovery (MVHR) is not recommended for use with an open flued appliance where there is a risk of spillage of poisonous combustion gases being drawn back into a dwelling.

MVHR extract points should never be located in a room where an open flued appliance is installed.

If MVHR is considered for use the installer of the heating appliance or MVHR unit must ensure that there is no risk of poisonous gases being drawn back into the dwelling which may be lethal.

When assessing this risk, the operation of the MVHR unit should be fully understood by the occupant and the installation engineer.

MVHR units may have sophisticated programs such as frost, boost programs and filters that may block if they are not changed when due. These may cause the de pressurisation of an open flued appliance. We recommend that in all cases the installer should seek expert advice. Where a decision is made to install an MVHR unit, there must be functioning/serviced carbon monoxide sensors fitted with compliance to Approved Document J of the Building Regulations and it must be noted that this is not a substitute for annual servicing of the appliance.

Document dated: 4th July 2022