



The Complete Building Services Company

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THE BESCA COMPETENT PERSONS SCHEME

BESCA is the HVCA's Competent Persons scheme for the notification of commercial and domestic hvacr work under the Building Regulations. BESCA has been established by the HVCA and authorised by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to operate a Competent Persons Scheme. Covering Approved Documents F, G, J, L1 and L2 of the Building Regulations, BESCA acts as an independent assessment and certification body for the building services industry.

The move towards self-certification will save time and reduce costs for businesses, as there is no requirement to have work inspected by building control. It will also help local authorities with the enforcement of the Building Regulations. BESCA's easy-to-use website provides an essential day-to-day resource, enabling members to store records, refer to completed work and access the very latest information on the new Building Regulations. BESCA provides a knowledgeable, reliable guide to the self-certification process.

Businesses should use BESCA if it operates in the domestic or commercial heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration contracting sector in England or Wales. The scheme provides for any companies that wish to self-certify their work under the following parts of the Building Regulations:

- Parts G, J and L1, covering respectively plumbing, heating and energy efficiency in dwellings; and
- Parts F and L2, covering ventilation and energy efficiency in other buildings

Following Part L of the Building Regulations coming into force on 6 April 2006, together with more extensive regulations covering reporting to Building Control and/or self-certification, failure to comply with the requirement to advise Building Control of notifiable works could expose the contractor, client or customer to prosecution under the Building Act.

Notifiable HVACR work in relation to Part L is anything that will affect the energy status of the building, whether it is in a dwelling or other type building. It may include work such as the:

- Installation of a new or replacement hot water system
- Installation of a new or replacement boiler, ventilation or air-conditioning plant
- Installation of a new heating, ventilation or air-conditioning system or an extension or alteration to an existing one
- Re-commissioning of an existing heating, ventilation or air-conditioning system.
- Additionally, domestic customers are likely to insist on self-certification, as documentary proof of compliance is likely to be a requirement for the Home Information Pack (HIP), which will be introduced in June 2007.

To qualify as a BESCA member we have had to:

- Allow BESCA to audit our company before accepting us into the scheme, to make sure that we produce work that meets the standards set in the Building Regulations, and that we comply with requirements of BESCA's scheme
- Give BESCA access to the technical standards that are appropriate to the work we carry out
- Give details of our compliance with ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 standards and our CORGI registration
- Have one or more persons that are authorised by BESCA to be 'Accredited Certifier', who are able to confirm that work that has been carried out which complies with the Building Regulations
- Employ or use competent persons that can carry out work which complies with the Building Regulations
- Agree to report to BESCA, in a timely fashion, all work that is within scope of the Building Regulations, which has been certified as being compliant
- Have at least £2m of Public Liability Insurance cover and an appropriate level of Employers' Liability Insurance
- Allow BESCA access to the company for subsequent routine auditing

Using the BESCA website we can:

- Register details of completed work online
- Automatically notify that work to any of the 400 or so local authority building control departments
- Print uncontrolled sample certificates for our customers
- Provide details of past work
- Access an expanding knowledge base on interpretation of the building regulations and their technical requirements

Now that we are accredited to this scheme we are able to self-certify any work which is covered by the Building Regulations through BESCA's website. This process provides Comserve with an extremely cost-effective alternative to the existing process of local authority building control inspection.