

Technical Bulletin – December 2021

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A Message from the Managing Director



To say 2021 was an interesting year would be quite the understatement – we kicked off the year with a new lockdown, but throughout the pandemic, the resilience of Energy Assessors and the Industry has really shone through.

This year saw ever-greater focus on the push towards a net-zero future, as the UK hosted the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow. Although the debates may still rage on about whether enough is being done to reduce carbon emissions, anyone who has a homeowner or tenant questioning their EPC rating will know that consumers are becoming more and more savvy on energy efficiency matters and pushing the Industry to improve. We've also seen the growth of the PAS 2035 retrofit agenda, with more and more projects being completed. Being able to focus on how improvements impact the whole dwelling is an exciting and innovative approach that we're eager to grow further.

Looking into 2022, the latest version of the SAP specification will be a watershed in more stringent new build requirements and the decarbonisation of the electricity grid will be reflected in much better carbon scores for all-electric buildings. Whilst we will have to wait longer for EPCs to be better reflective of energy use over cost, SAP 10 – and the subsequent RdSAP 10 – will be powerful stepping-stones.

From a business point of view, Quidos has gone from strength-to-strength in the last year, with more staff and additional business areas opening that will be a benefit to all of our members. Some of the most exciting areas of change are the ongoing links between the zPlan floor plan software and our iQ-Energy lodgement portal. Over the next year, we hope to have these linking up so that floor plan dimensions and details can be directly ported into iQ-Energy and included in your assessment data. A clear and good quality floor plan is the bedrock of any good energy assessment and with the intuitive nature of zPlan, we hope this integration will benefit lodgements moving forward.

To all of our members, everyone at Quidos wishes you a merry and happy Christmas and all the best for a successful New Year.



Revised Audit Upload Deadline

Due to the Christmas and New Year bank holidays, the audit reminder emails sent out by iQ-Energy will not be correct.

The deadline for all random/RBAS audit uploads will be 6pm on:

Thursday 13th January 2022

The deadline for all follow-on/RFA/RFC audits will be **29th December 2021**

Please be reminded that the auto-generated emails will not factor in the bank holidays so these will be different to the date above.

Unrecognised heating controls

We have had a number of queries lately about what to do in situations where specific heating controls do not appear with the RdSAP methodology.

Room thermostat and TRVs

Where room thermostat and TRVs are the present controls, you should input as "Room thermostat only". This is because the TRVs will have no direct control over the boiler, therefore if these were turned off, the boiler would still be operating and producing heating. As the room thermostat will perform this function of turning off the boiler when the temperature is met, it will be the primary control.

Heat pumps: Programmer, room thermostat and TRVs

With heat pumps, an option for "Programmer, Room thermostat & TRVs" is missing. As per the previous example, given the room thermostat will have direct control over the boiler, this control should be included ahead of the TRVs. This would make "Programmer & room thermostat" the most appropriate inputs.

For both of the above examples, RdSAP 10 will resolve these issues and have the appropriate heating controls available.

EPB Register downtime – 4th January 2022

We have received notice that the EPB Register - which holds lodgements for **England & Wales and Northern Ireland** - will be performing database management at the start of the New Year which will mean that no lodgements will be able to be completed for England & Wales and Northern Ireland.

The downtime will prevent the lodgement of all report types on:

Tuesday 4th January 2022

0900 - 1700

Address lookups will still be available, so Energy Assessors will be able to input reports into their software and find addresses, however it will not be possible to lodge any reports.

The Register could have completed this task over the Christmas break, however this would mean there would be no support available to Energy Assessors by the Schemes during this period.

The EPB Register apologises for any inconvenience this might cause to Energy Assessors.

Lodgements to Scotland or for Retrofit will be unaffected by this downtime.

Quidos Christmas Opening Hours

*Have a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year from everyone at*

Quidos

The Qidos Main Office will be closed for the Christmas break for the following dates:

CLOSED: 23rd December 2021 - 3rd January 2022

**The office will be open as usual from 9am on
4th January 2022.**

There will be limited online technical support for Energy Assessors over the Christmas period.

All queries should be submitted to the Support Log:
<http://support.quidos.co.uk> or
email support@quidos.co.uk



And finally...

Have a very merry Christmas, and prosperous New Year to all of our Energy Assessors – we wish you all the best for 2022.

David Jones Quality & Technical Director

Billy Say Technical Manager

William Atkin QA Manager

Alexander Marcelle Technical Support Assistant

Jon McChesney Non-Domestic Support Expert

2022 highlights

- Updated RBAS rules for RdSAP lodgements
- Full implementation for RBAS rules for Northern Ireland
- Possible return of high lodgement auditing for RdSAP
- Introduction of SAP 10 for new Building Regulations
- Introduction of new SBEM for new Building Regulations
- Confirmation of updated MEES regulations for domestic/non-domestic private rental
- New operational ratings opportunities for large commercial dwellings
- Possible change in EPB Register lodgement fees
- Scottish/Northern Ireland Building Regulations amendments
- End of Domestic RHI
- ECO4
- More, more, more heat pumps
- PAS 2038 non-domestic retrofit
- Further improvements to PAS 2035 domestic retrofit