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| ANNEX | I Essential requirements |
| SECTION | 3 Design and construction |
| PARAGRAPH | 3.4.3 |
| SUBJECT | Combustion |

“Appliances connected to a flue for the dispersal of combustion products must be so constructed that in abnormal draught conditions there is no release of combustion products in a dangerous quantity into the room concerned.”

Question

Does this requirement mean that a special safety device must be incorporated into the appliances and will there be conditions, where this safety device is not needed, since release of combustion products does not create a dangerous situation?

Discussion

The essential requirement is referring to the design of the appliances, connected to a flue in a way where there can be possibilities that a release of combustion products into the room can occur in the event of blockage of the flue or as result of down draught of the combustion products in the flue.

If these appliances are installed in a room i.e. occupied areas, these appliances must be fitted with safety devices (e.g. a TTB), which close the gas supply to the burners in case of release of combustion products into the room, since these conditions will create a risk of CO poisoning of persons in the house or flat.

However, appliances might be installed in locations, where the release of combustion products cannot build up a CO concentration in the room which will be dangerous to persons.

Such types of installations can be installation of appliances in very big rooms or in rooms, where the ventilation will assure that the release of combustion products cannot affect persons under normal or foreseeable situations.

The following types of installations are not considered to give rise to a dangerous quantity:

1. Boilers in boiler rooms, which are specifically designed to maintain the provision of an adequate level of controlled ventilation and to which it is not usual that persons, other than authorised persons, have access.
2. Overhead radiant heaters which are installed at such a height relative to the persons who may be exposed to combustion products that natural dilution ventilation would prevent the build-up of a dangerous quantity.

This guidance is for information only; it has no formal status

Reference: 90/396/EEC “Gas appliances directive” O.J. L 196, 26.07.90, p. 15

Source of guidance document: GADAC

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Conclusion

Installation of appliances with an open flue in normal rooms in houses or flats will require a safety device incorporated into the appliances.

However, there will be examples as indicated or types of installations, where these safety devices will not be needed, since a dangerous situation will not occur.

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