



Department for the
Economy
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**Trading
Standards
Service**

BUSINESS SUPPORT GUIDANCE

for Home Heating Oil Suppliers



NORTHERN IRELAND TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE BUSINESS SUPPORT

This guidance has been produced for Home Heating Oil Suppliers in Northern Ireland and provides information intended to promote compliance with Trading Standards legislation and help businesses avoid consumer disputes.



HOW IS HOME HEATING OIL MEASURED?


In Northern Ireland home heating oil is mainly sold from bulk measured by the litre using a bulk fuel road tanker equipped with a calibrated meter (road tanker).

DELIVERING HOME HEATING OIL FROM A ROAD TANKER

Home heating oil is pumped from a compartment on the road tanker through a meter that has been tested for accuracy and sealed. Each meter has a ticket-printing mechanism, which must be set to zero before each delivery.

There is often a minimum delivery associated with road tanker metering systems depending on the specific road tanker. This information is displayed on the data plate.

Metering systems for the measurement of fuels are 'in use for trade' and controlled by weights and measures legislation that contains the limits of error within which they must measure fuels.

MEASURING INSTRUMENTS DIRECTIVE 2014/32/EU		
Manufacturer's Name and Address		
 Notified body <input type="text"/>	TYPE EXAMINATION CERTIFICATE NUMBER:	
	MIN DELIVERY – HOSE REEL:	
MAX FLOW RATE:		MIN DELIVERY – BULK HOSE:
MIN FLOW RATE:		MAX OPERATING PRESSURE:
ACCURACY:	OPERATING TEMP RANGE:	DATE:
LIQUIDS MEASURED:		SYSTEM SERIAL No:



CONFORMITY

All meter measuring systems put into use for trade, including road tankers used for the delivery of home heating oil, require a Declaration of Conformity. This confirms that production samples of the design meet all essential regulatory and technical requirements.

Conformity assessment is carried out by a recognised body. In the UK these are known as Approved Bodies, and throughout the EU as Notified Bodies.

These bodies have a unique identification number. Once a conformity assessment has been carried out, the identification number is added to the data plate, alongside the other conformity and metrological markings which must be shown on the road tanker's data plate.

The Northern Ireland Trading Standards Service's Approved Body identification number is **0326**.

In Northern Ireland road tankers can be assessed by a UK Approved Body, in which case the road tanker will have a UKNI + CE marking affixed.

Or the road tanker can be assessed by an EU Notified Body, in which case the road tanker will have a CE marking affixed.

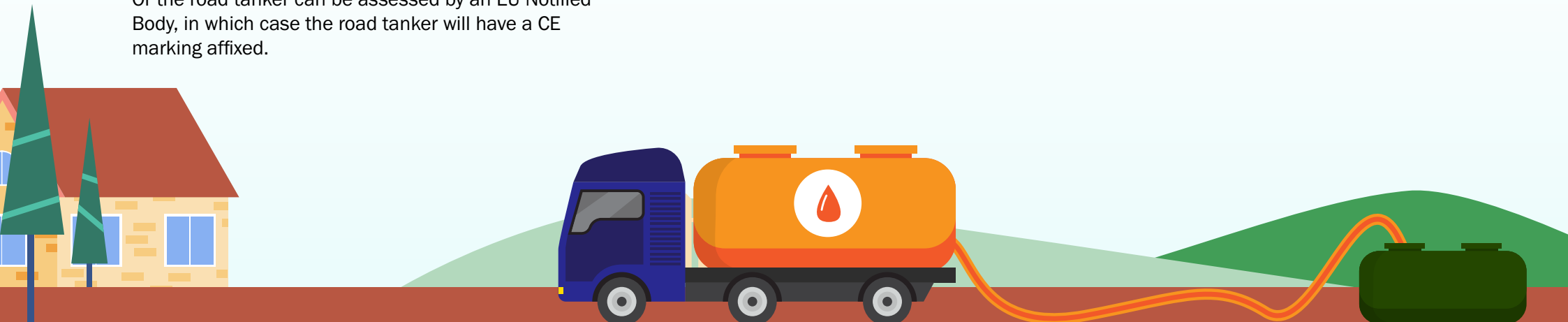
Road tankers which only bear another marking are non-compliant in Northern Ireland. **This includes the UKCA conformity marking.**

Road tankers which have been assessed by an EU Notified Body, and bear a CE mark, can operate lawfully in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

A supplementary metrology marking (M) should also be affixed.

All markings must be affixed visibly, legibly, and indelibly to the road tanker's data plate.

An incomplete marking (e.g. where the number of the Approved or Notified Body is missing) is not compliant with regulatory requirements.



Before testing, it is important that all sealing arrangements described in the type approval or design examination certificate are adhered to. Whilst a broken seal does not mean a fraud has been committed, it does invalidate the metrological control on the equipment.

All necessary conformity and metrology marking should be present and visible.

Equipment passes if it is within a maximum permissible error (MPE). A MPE is the legal limit of error when an instrument is in use for trade. The Table opposite sets out the MPE for different accuracy classes. “MMQ“ means minimum measured quantity.

	Accuracy Class		
	0.3	0.5	1.0
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Quantity delivered	Maximum possible error	Maximum possible error	Maximum possible error
MMQ to and including MMQ x 2	$\pm 0.6\% \times \text{MMQ}$	$\pm 1\% \times \text{MMQ}$	$\pm 2\% \times \text{MMQ}$
>MM2 x 2	$\pm 0.3\% \times \text{quantity delivered}$	$\pm 0.5\% \times \text{quantity delivered}$	$\pm 1.0\% \times \text{quantity delivered}$



ARE YOU REALLY FROM TRADING STANDARDS?

Trading standards officers carry photographic identification that displays their name and related departmental details.

Unlike other parts of the UK, the Northern Ireland Trading Standards Service is the only trading standards organisation operating in this region.

If you ever have any concerns, please call us on **0300 123 6262** to check.

CALIBRATION AND VERIFICATION SERVICES

The Northern Ireland Trading Standards Service also provides a range of [calibration and verification services](#) for measuring instruments that can be requested by businesses.

Please note, this guidance is not an exhaustive list of legal requirements and detailed reference should be made to all necessary legislation.

CONTACT US

If you have further questions about the supply of home heating oil not covered in this guidance or wish to discuss another matter, please get in touch.

You can reach us by contacting Consumerline at **0300 123 6262** or via [email](#).

