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Mr.
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KANADA

26.11.2013
Dr.B/KF

Dear Mr. Grandbois,

Thank you for your enquiry.

FIGAWA is the German technical-scientific association of gas and water appliances manufacturers, representing more than 1,000 members. We have been deeply involved in the recent amendment of the German Energy Saving Regulation [EnEV 2014]. This regulation defines limits of the primary energy demand and use of all domestic and non-domestic buildings based on a complex calculation scheme of the building including its heating, cooling, warm water, ventilation and lighting technology.

The European directive 2009/28/EU (promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources) requires from all member states a minimum amount of use of renewable energy on new buildings and from 2014 on existing buildings. In consequence the German Renewable Heat Energy Law [EEWärmeG] requires on all new buildings that the energy provided to be generated by renewable sources either

- a) 15 % by solar heat or
- b) 30% by biogas in power and heat cogeneration appliances or
- c) 50 % by liquid/solid biomass or geothermal/environmental heat (in heat pumps).

As an alternative instead of using renewable sources the Renewable Heat Energy Law can be fulfilled either by

- d) 50% of the needed heat generated through heat recovery or
- e) the building being 15% better insulated and using 15 % less primary energy than prescribed in the Energy Saving Regulation.

The new Energy Saving Regulation [EnEV 2014] that will come into force in Germany in May 2014 now increases these minimum requirements of building insulation and primary energy demand by 25 % from January 2016 on for all new buildings.

Decentralized direct fired gas infrared heaters for all buildings [rooms] exceeding a height of 4 meters [13 foot] are exempt from this increase. The reason for this exception is the high efficiency and economical advantages of gas fired infrared heaters in large non-domestic buildings in relation to any conventional heating systems.

I hope that I have answered your questions and remain at your disposal for additional information.

Best regards,



Dr. rer. nat. Norbert Bürger
General Manager Gas