



# The Support Scheme for Renewable Heat

## Design Report - Guidance (Grant scheme)

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## Introduction

This document provides guidance to Design Engineers on the minimum level of detail SEAI expects to see in Design Reports accompanying SSRH applications. In some cases, additional guidance is provided that further reduces risk to applicants.

The Design Report is required as a part of the online application process and is a prerequisite to any application evaluation and approval.

The Completion Report is required when the approved project is completed. The Completion Report forms part of the Declaration of Completion, which is a prerequisite to the Project Governance Review and Inspection Stage.

Further information is available in the [Grant Scheme Operating Rules and Guidelines \(GSORG\)](#) on the SEAI website. There is an accompanying guide and an example design report also available on the website.

## The Design Report

At application stage, the applicant must submit a Design Report that clearly addresses the following:

1. Details of Design Engineer
2. Executive Summary (brief overview of the project)
3. Description of Scope of Works
4. Heat Metering
5. Compliance with relevant Building Regulations
6. Compliance with relevant Health and Safety Regulations
7. Compliance with relevant Fire Safety Regulations
8. Compliance with relevant Planning Regulations
9. Compliance with relevant Environmental Licencing and
10. Level of Design Warranty.
11. Subsequent clarification of design detail
12. Design Declaration

### 1. Details of Design Engineer

#### 1.1 Credentials of Design Engineer

- Name of Design Engineer
- Name of company Design Engineer is working for (or if they are working as a self-employed engineer)
- Copy of PI insurance in name of company (or individuals name if they are self-employed)
- Evidence of competence i.e., a Competent Design Engineer holding one of the following qualifications: M&E (Mechanical and Electrical) Engineer or Building Services Engineer, holding a level 8 degree, and is registered with a Reputed Engineering Body.
- The term 'Reputed Engineering Body' means Engineers Ireland, the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) or an equivalent organisation or body recognised by SEAI.

#### 1.2 Appointment and Commitment of Design Engineer

If the design engineer is a different person to the applicant, the Design Report must provide evidence of appointment by the applicant of a competent person, i.e., either the named design engineer or the company employing the design engineer according to the template described in [section A1](#).

### 2. Executive summary (brief overview of the project)

The design report shall state:

- The name or business name of the applicant
- The address of the proposed installation
- The SSRH application number (as assigned by the on-line application portal)
- The buildings/process that the eligible installation is designed to heat

## 2.1 Description of heat use and heating systems (old and new)

Summary written description of the proposed scope of work (including buildings associated with the heating system such as the plant room (as required); the heat generation, distribution, and emission equipment;).

The two aspects to this section are:

**a) *The operation, business, or premises to be heated.***

The Design Report shall give a written introduction to the site, and the business operation including a short summary of the proposed project. A general description of the building(s) / operation(s) to be heated, should also be included. This section should complement the maps/photos and drawings as requested in section 3.

**b) *The existing and new heating systems***

The design report should provide an overview of the new heating system including heat pump make, model, capacity, efficiency, and a description of the operation of the heating system including heat distribution and emission.

If there is an existing heating system, the design report should provide an overview of this system including make, model, capacity, existing fuel type, efficiency of existing boilers, and a description of the operation of the heating system including heat distribution and emission.

The design report must clearly identify any of existing heating system components that will be retained either as back-up or ancillary heat source in the final heating proposal.

There should be a description of the points of connectivity between the old and new components to ensure the combined system is fit for purpose and components are compatible.

A description should also be provided of any existing boiler house or fuel store.

## 3. Description of Scope of Works

### 3.1 Scope of Works

The design report should set out the design intent and at a minimum, include the following:

- A clear diagram and description of the proposed heating system including all components as described in section 2 above and, identifying old and new components (guidelines for drawings and schematics are listed in [section A2](#)).
- Where old or existing heat sources (boilers) are being retained, the conditions of use of the old boilers e.g., back up or top-up/peak load, must be clarified.
- The Design Engineer's opinion on the design life and, durability of each of the major components and of the complete heating system.
- The description\* of the existing heating systems may be based on a non-intrusive survey and reference any appropriate maintenance or condition records, if available.
- The basis of the proposed design showing a heat profile for one annual cycle, i.e., operating conditions, heat use/delivery profile (process linked heating cycle and annual cycle of heat use including peak load), inclusion of top up and / or back-up heating systems.

- Provision and positioning of heat meters according to the Scheme requirements and appropriate to the heating system design characteristics to achieve the best accuracy.
- The Design Report will explain the size of the proposed heat pump, operational characteristics, and an explanation as to how they have been sized.
- Statement of compliance with the GSORG.

*\* At the Design stage, the Design Engineer should determine the extent to which the existing building and heating system(s) should be surveyed. A non-intrusive survey may suffice. If good records are in place, the Design Report may be able to rely on them. If few, or no, records exist this section of the report may explain what is visible from a non-intrusive survey. For example, it might be a few paragraphs with information such as “the boiler house is constructed of concrete block walls, there is a concrete floor, and the roof is made of timber supports with a felt covering; there are two existing oil boilers, and they appear in good/fair/poor condition”. The Design Engineer may determine that intrusive surveys are necessary in some part or more extensively.*

### Additional Guidance

- The Design report should provide summary evidence of a methodical design approach having been undertaken to ensure that the heating system is appropriately dimensioned and sized. Heat loads must be matched to heat sources to ensure the maximum cost benefit can be achieved, while preventing inefficiencies due to system over or under-sizing, resulting in excessive use of fuel or difficulties controlling the heat delivery.
- Heat meters must be matched to heat loads and consequent pipework flowrates and temperatures to ensure accuracy. The following are good design practice steps:
  - Determine the system loads and locations to ensure accurate thermal sizing.
  - Generate initial hydronic design, with pipework sizes, flowrate, and heat source sizes to ensure correct dimensioning.
  - Refine this base to a robust system design, to ensure a reliable system with long service life.

### 3.2 Seasonal Coefficient of Performance (SCOP)

The Design report should provide all relevant information used for calculating should be provided as listed below

- the (S)COP of the Heat pump(s) at the design operating conditions as per Eco Design guidance
- Heat Pump the model number,
- size of the unit(s) selected,
- the working temperature,
- seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER), and
- the seasonal performance factor (SPF) of the heat pump(s)

A table or summary of annual total energy demand vs consumption, calculations explaining how heat pumps were sized, and an up-to-date BER Cert (can be attached to the Design report) mentioning the building U-values should also be included in the Design report.

Additional Guidance on eligibility of the Heat Pumps is provided in [Appendix A3](#).

### 3.3 Estimated Project Costs

The Design report will include an estimation of the total costs associated with the SSRH project.

#### Additional Guidance

These should allow for at a minimum:

- Equipment ex VAT
- Equipment incl. VAT
- Labour ex VAT
- Labour incl. VAT
- External Project Management Cost ex VAT
- External Project Management Cost incl. VAT
- Other Costs ex VAT
- Other Costs incl. VAT
- Total Cost Supplied & Fitted ex VAT
- Total Cost Supplied & Fitted incl. VAT

## 4. Heat Metering

Evidence of suitable heat metering is critical. Factors to be addressed include:

Factors to be addressed	Additional Guidance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Selection</i></li> </ul>	<p>How heat meters have been selected, determining the upper and lower flow limits as well as the main operation range for the flow sensor, as required by operating conditions. Selection of a suitable flow sensor.</p> <p>Determining suitable temperature sensors for the temperature range of the thermal conveying medium and for the pressure conditions that occur at the measuring point. Ensuring the maximum cable lengths on the wired temperature sensors is not exceeded.</p> <p>Determining a suitable calculator for the nominal operating and ambient conditions that exist at the measuring point.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Location of heat meters and sensors</i></li> </ul>	<p>All structural design options shall be used to achieve straight inlet pipes of sufficient length.</p> <p>Complying with manufacturer’s guidelines in relation to any factors such as the minimum inlet and outlet pipe lengths. Design should address any interference sources with the measurement signal lines.</p> <p>Location and type of all remote temperature sensors should include end to end cable routes, method of sensor fixing and retention. (this information can be provided in the schematic as explained in <a href="#">section A2</a>)</p> <p>Consideration of the locations must be taken into account in areas with extreme temperature or humidity conditions for both the calculator and flow sensors.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Environmental conditions</i></li> </ul>	<p>Environmental considerations must be taken into account where heat meters may be exposed to locations with vibrations, chemical, corrosive environments, wash-down spray, direct sunlight, or outdoor weather (temperature and humidity) The design should include details</p>

	of any necessary protection for the meters or sensors (e.g., splash protection, knock protection, etc).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Integrity of metering (tamper evidence)</i></li> </ul>	Integrity of the metering design should address prevention of the inadvertent removal or omission of a sensor (tamper evidence) and detection of sensor failure or any failure in the metering arrangement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Calibration</i></li> </ul>	Calibration should describe the initial calibration requirements (if any), recommended time interval to next calibration and any required design features to enable maintenance, replacement, or calibration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Maintenance and servicing of all components</i></li> </ul>	Maintenance and servicing should include details of how heat meters will be replaced in service. This process can be greatly simplified and accelerated by the provision of isolation valves on installation of the meter, at either end of the flowmeter component.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In case multiple meters are present</i></li> </ul>	Where multiple meters are included, describe the method to calculate eligible heat including a formula for addition of all eligible heat and subtraction of ineligible heat meters, e.g., $HM1 + HM2 - HM3 = HM_{eligible}$ .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aeration and desludging</i></li> </ul>	Confirmation that aeration and de-sludging has been incorporated into the design as appropriate, indicating where a filter or a de-aerator has been incorporated to the design

SEAI understands that the heat meter details may change during detailed design. However, at application stage it is important to understand that the applicant, and Design Engineer are aware of the metering requirements and have developed a metering strategy that is linked to expected design performance criteria.

## 5. Compliance with Building Regulations

The Design Engineer must confirm that they understand the principles of the BCAR (Building Control Amendment Regulations), provide their opinion as to whether BCAR is relevant to the proposed building and proposed heating system including requirements for a commencement notice, the need to appoint an Assigned Certifier and the costs associated with BCAR. If BCAR applies a Design Certifier must be appointed.

If it is proposed that any part of the eligible installation (boiler room, fuel store, flue, access roads and associated elements) will use an existing structure, the design report will make a specific opinion on compliance associated with change of use.

The Design Report will provide an initial opinion as to whether the works within the existing / proposed building(s) and associated heating system(s):

- *May require BCAR*  
If the Design Engineer concludes BCAR may not be relevant, the Design Engineer must undertake to clarify this with the Building Control Section of the Local Authority prior to design commencing.
- *Requires BCAR*  
Where the Design Report concludes that BCAR is required, a Certificate of Completion from Building Control will be required to be attached to the commissioning report. No further action is required at this stage.

- *Does not require BCAR*

Where the Design Report concludes that BCAR is not relevant, the Design Engineer will sign the Design Report clarifying why BCAR is not required and confirm that all works will be in accordance with relevant Building Regulations.

In such cases, the Design Engineer will either clarify why a non-intrusive assessment of the building and existing heating system is sufficient and then conduct a non-intrusive assessment and / or recommend necessary testing & inspection; all with a view to listing any upgrades required to bring the building into line with the current building regulations. Any necessary upgrade(s) must be addressed in the design with an appropriate design solution.

Where a BCAR certificate of completion is not required, this section of the design and subsequent completion will be known as the 'Building Regulations report'.

Later, upon completion, the Design Engineer will sign the Completion Report confirming that all works have been installed in accordance with Building Regulations.

## 6. Compliance with Relevant Health and Safety Regulations

The Design Engineer will review the Health and Safety Authority's guidance, advise the Applicant of their duties to appoint a Project Supervisor Design Stage (PSDP) and Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS)

If required, the PSDP, will be appointed by the applicant. Where a PSDP is required, they must be appointed early in the design process in conjunction with the safety and health plan. The Design Report will include Stage 1 Design Risk Assessments, as detailed at [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Your\\_Industry/Construction/Construction\\_Duty\\_Holders/Designers/](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Your_Industry/Construction/Construction_Duty_Holders/Designers/), to ensure relevant Health & Safety legislation is incorporated into the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the new installation and into any key systems upon which the new installation depends.

## 7. Compliance with Relevant Fire Safety Regulations

The Design Report will provide an opinion as to whether the proposed installation will require a fire safety certificate and any upgrade works that may be necessary to comply with Fire Regulations.

The Local Fire Officer should be informed of the design intent.

## 8. Compliance with Relevant Planning Regulations

The Design Report will provide an opinion as to whether any part of the installation, in either existing or proposed building(s) associated with the SSRH project complies with Planning Regulations.

In all cases the Design Report must confirm that the project will be in accordance with relevant Planning Permissions (including change of use). The Design Engineer may need to procure the advice of a planning expert.

If it is proposed that any part of the eligible installation will use an existing structure, the design report will make a specific opinion on whether a change of use is required.

The Design Report will confirm the proposed design takes into account any conditions cited in any relevant, existing Planning Permission.

The following options apply:

- *Will require Planning Permission*  
 If the design report concludes that Planning Permission is required, no further action is required at application stage. However, once the installation is complete, a Certificate of permission granted by the competent authority must be included in the Completion Report, together with evidence that relevant planning conditions have been considered by the Design Engineer and discharged.
- *May require Planning Permission*  
 The Design Report should clarify if the applicant or Design Engineer have contacted the Local Authority to clarify if Planning Permission is required or exemptions are applicable. If a response was received from the Local Authority, this should be attached. If not, the communication to the local authority should be included.
- *Does not require Planning Permission*  
 If the Design Report concludes that planning permission is not required, the Design Engineer must clarify in the Design Report why Planning Permission is not required. If the development is deemed exempt, a section 5 Declaration from the Local Planning Authority may be required. At completion stage, both the design engineer and the applicant will sign a Design Declaration confirming that the project has been completed in accordance with relevant Planning Regulations.

## 9. Compliance with Relevant Environmental Licencing

If the site has an EPA licence, the Design Report will confirm that the EPA licence has been assessed and an opinion provided as to whether the proposed installation and any top-up or back-up heating systems, will comply with the licence. If the site does not have an EPA licence, the Design Report will comment on whether the proposed design is likely to trigger the requirement for a licence.

For sites that operate under an EPA licence, it is critical that any proposed installation is in compliance with the licence. This may necessitate a licence review or an emissions assessment which must be carried out according to the Air Emissions Screening Framework as set out by the EPA.

SEAI will seek confirmation of compliance with EPA licence conditions at the completion stage. However, it is strongly advised that the applicant commences any required review or emissions assessment at the earliest possible date.

The Design Report should also identify whether other licences or permits are relevant for the SSRH project.

## 10. Level of Design Warranty

A minimum of 2 years full warranty cover is required in respect of the heat pump and any ancillary works carried out in accordance with the project. Each applicant should produce documentary evidence of warranty cover having been obtained within 7 working days of receipt of a written request for same being received from SEAI and/or as part of the inspection process.

Each applicant shall procure that they obtain, at a minimum, a warranty from the manufacturer of the Heat Pump.

In the case of a bespoke Heating System, the Competent Design Engineer, warranting that the heat pump and/or Heating System (as the case may be) will continue to be fit for purpose for a period of two years from the Commissioning Date of the heat pump and/or Heating System (as the case may be) on market terms. Such warranty must include an undertaking to repair and replace the Heat Pump or Heating System in the event of the warranty being breached, on market terms.

The Design Report, covered by the Design Warranty, should include a declaration signed by the applicant to confirm that the Design Engineer has explained to the Applicant the impact of all the items listed as requirements of the Design Report and their implications for the applicant and for the project as addressed in the Design Report.

## 11. Subsequent clarification of design detail

The design report should address all the elements described above however it is recognised that in some projects some specific details or supporting documents may not be readily available at Application Stage and it may be appropriate to develop and submit some design detail after project approval and before project completion. Examples in this regard might include confirmation of grant of planning permission or grant of environmental licence.

Where any such issue applies the design report must identify the issue to be clarified and the process to deliver clarification before or at completion.

In all cases the Design Engineer will be required to:

- provide the relevant statutory certificates
- Identify all design professionals and specialists,
- co-ordinate and collate all certification of compliance for completion

## 12. Design Declaration by Design Engineer

“I, *The Design Engineer*, acting as nominated Competent Design Engineer, declare that all information submitted in this design report is accurate to the best of my knowledge and I warrant the design and all aspects of the Design of the Eligible Installation which includes the renewable heat, all heat meters, distribution and heat emitting equipment and all supporting infrastructure, electrical installation for a period of five years, and I declare that the heating installation design is

“fit for purpose” and can deliver the required heat. This will be validated during an on-site inspection following system commissioning.

I confirm that the project design has considered all regulatory requirements including:

- Relevant Building Regulations
- Relevant Planning Permissions (including change of use)
- Relevant Environmental Licencing
- H&S Legislation and
- Manufacturer’s Instructions

Documented confirmation of compliance with all regulatory requirements will be provided as part of the Completion Report.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, the applicant, confirm that the Design Engineer has explained to me the impact of all the items listed as requirements of the Design Report and the GSORG and their implications for the applicant and for the project as addressed in the Design Report.”

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix A1 – Guidance on minimum requirements for the Letter of appointment of Design Engineer

### Letter of appointment of the Design engineer

Company name:

SSRH No.:

I, ..... (name of the applicant), hereby appoint ..... (name of the appointed individual(s)/ company) to prepare my design report required for the SSRH scheme.

I also confirm that ..... have explained all aspects of the design report and their implications.

Signed: ..... (applicant)

Signed: ..... (design engineer)

## Appendix A2 Guidelines for drawings/ schematics in the design report

Each drawing must include the following:

- Title of drawing | SSRH application number | Date and document version identifier
- Name of the company or individual who produced the drawing

**1. Site Map:** Each applicant should provide a site map showing the Eligible Installation located within the wider site with all major components of the site and the Eligible Installation including meters clearly labelled.

- A drawing or aerial image of the site, differentiating existing buildings or structures and proposed new buildings or structures as part of the eligible installation. The drawing or aerial image of the site must include labels identifying all the buildings on the site (both eligible and ineligible).
- The site map must include a clear outline of the buildings / assets to be heated.
- The drawing must include all key components of the heating system (the eligible installation, and associated elements).
- Any proposed change of use of existing buildings must be identified.

**2. A schematic (block diagram) showing the proposed heating system**

- Outline of each building (or process) to be heated
- Any proposed headers, buffer tanks, thermal stores and heat exchangers
- Proposed points of connection between the new and existing elements
- Location of the proposed heat meters
- All heating circuits including flow and return directions

## Appendix A3 Heat Pump eligibility Guidance

Each eligible Heat Pump must have obtained a CE Marking, in accordance with the Eco-Design Regulations for Space Heaters and Combined Heaters and have a seasonal co-efficient of performance (SCOP) of at least 2.5, calculated in accordance with European Standard EN 14825 (2016).

The seasonal efficiency of space heating is determined according to EN 14825 in case of heat pump combination heaters. EN16147 specifies requirements for heat pumps being used for domestic hot water production.

In case of a cascade system, the overall SCOP of the combination of the heat pumps should be calculated using the NEAP software in accordance with the EN14825 guidelines.

Heat pumps above 45kWh output must comply with CIBSE Guide B and BISRA Building Applications Guide BG 7/2009 while those with a heat output below 45kWh, must comply with MIS 3005 (as described in the GSORG).