

SCARF is a company limited by guarantee (No 94819) and a registered charity (No: SCO 006901)

Fact Sheet

REF: 410 WET CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM CONTROLLERS

These are electronic units that control a central heating system.

Boiler Controllers

Boiler Controllers/Managers are electronic units, which allow very effective control of a central heating system. They contain temperature sensors and a box containing the electronics. The sensors are likely to be set up on the external facing wall of the dwelling, on the pipe returning water to the boiler from the radiator system, to replace the hot water tank thermostat and/or replace the room thermostat.

Boiler controllers make energy savings because: -

- The system learns about the dwelling in which it is situated and about how long it takes the building to warm up at different external temperatures. If it knows the building will take only 20 minutes to warm up, then it will switch the heating on only 20 minutes before the dwelling is required to be heated.
- "Dry cycling" is eliminated in a system. Without this kind of controller the boiler will fire to keep its internal thermostat up to a temperature regardless of whether the radiators or the hot water tank require a higher temperature. In a system with a controller this unnecessary firing of the boiler is eliminated.
- Room thermostat errors are eliminated.
- A hot water tank thermostat is integral to the system - so if the system lacked one before, savings will be made, as water in the tank will be maintained at 60-65°C.
- Frost protection. Many of these systems have a frost protection setting - when on this setting the heating will not be switched on unless it is required.

Delay Circuits

Beware of 'black boxes' that are connected **only** to the programmer and boiler. These only delay firing of the boiler - when heat is requested by thermostats/programmer, these boxes do not pass this signal on for several minutes. So, there is a delay in getting heat when it is needed and you may feel cold.

Mission Statement

SCARF aims to work through partnership to promote sustainable use of energy, eradicate fuel poverty and create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

Core Objectives

- + To provide free impartial and accessible energy efficiency advice and information services to help save energy, save cash and help save the environment.
- + To encourage investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and grant take up for property improvements to achieve affordable warmth.
- + To create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

SCARF Provides

One Stop Energy Advice Shop offers free impartial advice and information:

- + Energy efficiency in the home, business and the community
- + Renewable energy in the home, business and the community
- + Grants for loft and cavity wall insulation
- + Grants for draughtproofing
- + Grants for central heating
- + Grants for renewable energy installations
- + Paying for fuel and fuel suppliers
- + Choice and operation of heating and hot water systems

SCARF also offers:

- + Home visits
- + Home energy checks
- + Presentations and informal training
- + NVQ and City & Guilds Qualifications

May 2005