

## **Complaints Procedure**

## The aim

A complaint is any expression of dissatisfaction by our customers when they want us to do something about it.

Where a customer has a complaint, we will consider it and try to find an agreed course of action to resolve the complaint speedily and effectively to the customer's satisfaction.

## The procedure

- 1. The customer can contact us initially by phone, email, or post. They should do so as soon as possible after first noticing the problem.
- 2. We will take the details of the complaint, log them into our Complaints Log and make a thorough note.
- 3. We will inform the customer that we will do our best to resolve the complaint but that they have a right to pursue the complaint if we cannot reach a satisfactory resolution (see point 10).
- 4. For complaints by phone, if we can't resolve the matter immediately, we will ask the customer to put the complaint in writing, in an email or letter, so that there is a clear record for everybody. We will offer help with this if the customer wants it.
- 5. If necessary, we may have to ask the customer to provide us with paperwork or other material. We will note anything received from the customer in the Complaints Log.
- 6. If we need to inspect the system or visit the customer to investigate the complaint, we will do so within 7 days of receiving the complaint. But if the customer is without heating or hot water because of the situation that led to the complaint, we will attend within 24 hours.
- 7. If a visit is necessary, we will let the customer know the outcome as soon as possible after the visit. We will also record this in the log of the complaint.
- 8. We will keep a note of contacts (or attempted contacts) with or from the customer while we are trying to resolve the complaint, including telephone conversations.
- 9. We will respond to the customer with our findings and a summary of

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actions/communications within 10 working days of receiving the complaint.

Whenever we can, we will aim to sort the complaint out more quickly than this and informally, for example with a phone call to give advice that solves the problem. We will still log complaints resolved in this way.

- 10. If we cannot resolve a complaint and the customer is not satisfied with the remedy offered, we will advise where they can pursue their complaint.
- If the complaint is (partly or wholly) about technical aspects of the installation of an energy generator, we will direct them to our MCS installer certification body NAPIT Certification - 4th Floor, Mill 3, Pleasley Vale Business Park, Mansfield, Notts, NG19 8RL - 0345 543 0330 info@napit.org.uk.
- if the complaint is about matters within the remit of the Renewable Energy Consumer Code (RECC), we will direct the customer to RECC. The RECC dispute resolution process is set out in the 'How to Complain' section of the RECC website.
- if the complaint is regarding FCA regulated activities, we will direct the customer to the Financial Ombudsman Service should they still not be satisfied by our final response, as they may be entitled to refer their complaint to the Ombudsman for its consideration. Where they wish to do so, they should do so within 6 months (from the date the final response was issued) as their complaint may otherwise be time-bared under the Ombudsman's rules.

The Ombudsman can be contacted at the following address: Financial Ombudsman Service, South Quay Plaza, 183 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9SR - Tel no: 0845 080 1800 http://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/

- 11. We will cooperate with MCS, RECC or FCA complaint-handlers to assist them to resolve the complaint.
- 12. We will not take, or threaten to take, action against a customer through the courts without first trying to solve the problem as set out here and in RECC's dispute resolution process.
- 13. We will regularly review the Complaints Log; to identify any actions we may need to take to prevent complaints recurring.

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