

## **Business Advice**

### **Selling Solid Fuel**

Solid fuel includes coal, coke and any solid fuel derived from coal of which coal or coke is a constituent.

Solid fuel must be sold by weight. It can be sold 'pre-packed' or 'loose'. If the fuel is sold pre-packed, it must be in a securely closed bag or container. It may be sold in packages of 25kg, 50kg or any multiple of 50kg. If you wish to make up packages of less than 30kg the fuel can be sold in any quantity. The net weight must be marked on the bag/container if the fuel is pre packed. If the fuel is sold 'loose' or in open-topped bags then it may be sold in 25kg, 50kg or multiples of 50kg quantities.

#### **What weighing equipment should I use?**

You should use equipment which has been stamped by an inspector of weights and measures or an approved verifier on behalf of an approved notified body. The stamp normally consists of either a crown stamp with the inspector's number and the date or a green sticker with a black M and a sticker with the notified body's number on it.

All weights must be metric (i.e. in kilograms). To ensure that any weighing is accurate, the equipment should be used on a level surface and kept clean and free from debris which may affect the mechanisms.

#### **Delivery Vehicle**

If you deliver open-topped bags you must display a notice stating '**All open sacks on this vehicle contain either 25kg or 50kg**'. The name and address of the seller must also be displayed on the vehicle and should be easily read from either side of the vehicle.

#### **Delivery Notes**

When delivering fuel which has been pre-ordered for a quantity exceeding 110 kilograms, a delivery note must be provided to the buyer. The delivery note must state: the name and address of the seller; the name of the buyer; the delivery address; the type of fuel; the aggregate net weight or, if made up in securely

closed containers, the number of those containers and the net weight in each of the containers. These delivery notes must be made up before the journey begins.

### Weighing of Solid Fuel at Buyers Request

A person receiving a delivery of solid fuel is entitled to request that the delivery is weighed in his/her presence if the delivery has not yet been completed or, if it has been delivered and the person who delivered it is still on the premises and the fuel can be identified.

### Vending Machines

Solid fuel vending machines must carry a notice stating the net weight of the fuel in each item. The notice must be clear and legible and displayed so prominently that it can be read easily. The notice must also state the seller's name and address unless the machine is situated at the seller's business premises.

**For further information and advice contact your local area Trading Standards Officer on the following;**

**Telephone                    01546 605519**  
**Email                         tradingstandards@argyll-bute.gov.uk**

**Bute and Cowal - 22 Hill Street, Dunoon, PA23 7AP**  
**Helensburgh and Lomond - Blairvadach, Shandon, Helensburgh, G84 8ND**  
**Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islands - Area Office, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8QU**

**Oban, Lorn and the Isles - Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW**

**Office Hours: 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday**