



CHPQA Workshop and Seminar 2015



Frequently Asked Questions



FAQs

- I am a manufacturer of a CHP technology – can you give me a CHPQA certificate?
 - A CHPQA Certificate can only be issued to a specified CHP Scheme, either proposed/under construction or existing, at a known location with known heat loads (it is thus not a means of gaining ‘type approval’).



FAQs

- I have used fuel to bring my boiler up to temperature – is that part of TFI?
 - All fuel consumed within the scheme boundary constitutes TFI. A scheme cannot exclude fuel used within the boundary at certain times of the year to reflect operational issues.

- When does the ‘Initial Operation’ period start?
 - Initial Operation has started when the CHP scheme generates electricity and supplies ‘useful’ heat – i.e. starts operating as a ‘CHP’.

Once a CHPQA scheme begins operating, all the fuel used within the CHP boundary during the remainder of that calendar year must be accounted for and included as part of the TFI figure submitted on the CHPQA F4 Form. This figure along with the gross electricity and ‘useful heat’ outputs are used in determining the scheme’s annual performance for CHPQA certificate purposes



FAQs

- My scheme lost its heat load part way through the year. What do I do?
 - In the following year's CHPQA submission only the useful heat supplied during the past calendar year can be included. This may result in the QI threshold not being met.
- Heat load is lost at the beginning of the calendar year and no useful heat is generated in the subsequent 12 months.
 - A useful heat figure of zero should be stated in the following year's submission and the scheme will be issued with a "Zero Certificate" so that the Scheme can continue to be certified by the CHPQA programme.
- In both scenarios above, the assumption is that the heat load loss is only temporarily - this should be explained in the notes section of the CHPQA submission so that we are aware of what the situation is.



FAQs

- I have boilers as well as an engine in my energy centre. Can I include them in the boundary?
 - In defining the CHPQA Scheme boundary, it is acceptable to include fired boilers (& associated fuel and heat) within the boundaries of the scheme when boilers are connected to the CHP heat headers and acting as a top-up and or back-up boilers to the CHP.
 - However if the boilers operation regime is “normally operating” and operates independently from the CHP (has own heat header) then the CHPQA scheme boundary should exclude these fired boilers.



FAQs

- My scheme does not meet the QI Threshold/Power Efficiency Threshold. Should I bother submitting?
 - No minimum thresholds for power or ‘useful’ heat efficiency for CHPQA certification. Schemes that fails to meet the Good Quality CHP criteria, will be scaled back accordingly.
 - However clearly if only heat (i.e heat only plant) or just electricity (power only plant) was generated, the scheme wouldn’t be CHP and not be eligible for CHPQA certification, fully or partial.



FAQs

- I supply a CHP with syngas from a gasifier. How do I determine the boundary?
 - The boundary should be drawn at the gas supply into the CHP, and the scheme considered as syngas fuelled.
 - If it is not possible to meter the syngas then the boundary should be drawn at the solid fuel supply point into the gasifier.

- I have just bought a new meter, but its calibration certificate is two years old. Can the calibration period start now?
 - The calibration period started at the last calibration, so the defined schedule (by manufacturer or operators internal schedule) must still be met. Always best to have a meter calibrated just prior to installation to maximise operational calibration period.



FAQs

- Can I include my absorption chillers in the boundary?
 - A tri-generation scheme is certainly applicable in CHPQA. We expect the boundary to be drawn around the supply of heat to the absorption chiller, and the heat consumed to qualify as useful heat in the CHPQA context.



FAQs

- I have received an audit notification. What happens at an audit?
 - CHPQA consultant will attend site on the confirmed date.
 - If small scheme, first activity will be a quick set of meter readings (fuel, power and heat)
 - All schemes, two main aspects to audit
 - Desk based audit
 - Site walkdown



FAQs

➤ Audit (cont)

- Desk audit will review submitted forms – F1, F2 and previous years F4 – against the records held by the RP, so make sure you have records to hand
- Site walk-down will require access to CHP, all equipment and monitoring arrangements.
- Small schemes 1-2h, large schemes 3-5h
- Summary of Observations & Actions will follow, with date for completion of actions.
- CHPQA cannot validate schemes where actions are not closed.