

Product Bulletin 3

KITCHEN EXTRACT SYSTEMS – Auditing / Monitoring

INTRODUCTION

Kitchen Extract Ventilation systems are ductwork systems that service industrial and business kitchens. The system comprises of grease traps and grease filters and, in particularly large establishments, can form an extensive network of ductwork leading through and out of a building. This ductwork can become clogged with grease and it is important to ensure it is as clean as possible to ensure system efficiency, prevent odours, and reduce fire risk.

WHY MONITOR THE SYSTEM?

Kitchen Extract Ventilation systems require regular cleaning depending on their level of use (please refer to bulletin 2 for further information). Implementing a monitoring regime will enable you to establish how often the system needs to be cleaned, identify any problems and ensure the system is working safely.

The Building and engineering Services Association (B&ES formerly the HVCA) good practice guide, TR/19, recommends the Wet Film Thickness Test (WFTT) as the best method of monitoring grease build-up in Kitchen Extract Ventilation systems. This test measures the mean amount of grease deposits in the system by taking samples at various intervals in the ductwork.

OUR SERVICE

Compliance has the capability, both in terms of trained members of staff and equipment, to conduct the WFTT test. It is important to use a specialist contractor to complete monitoring regimes, as access to ductwork to obtain samples can be difficult.

The WFTT test should be conducted at least once a year to assess system performance and identify if cleaning is necessary.

In addition the WFTT can be incorporated in to post clean certification and independent post clean auditing to validate the effectiveness of cleaning regimes carried out by hygiene contractors.

The table below indicates the “trigger Levels” and what action should be taken depending on the amount of grease in the ductwork:

| Surface Grease Deposit Limits (WFTT test) | Recommended Action |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 200 µm as a mean across the system | Complete cleaning required |
| Any single measurement above 500 µm | Urgent local cleaning required |

The table above is based on good practice, but individual requirements may be taken into consideration such as building usage, insurance agreements, vulnerability of the building ect. Depending on monitoring results, Compliance can advise you on the next course of action and provide an independent cleaning service if required.

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