A Guide to MVHR Commissioning

To give your ventilation system the best opportunity of achieving a good test result, please go through the following checklist before the test takes place;

Pre-Test Checklist

- ☐ Does MVHR unit(s) have power and run when switched on?
- ☐ Is the condensate connection complete and drains to an appropriate location?
- ☐ Are all room terminals fitted with adjustable valves?
- ☐ Are filters installed?
- ☐ Is the system fitted capable of providing the required flow rates with the length of ductwork attached to it (check with manufacturer or installer if unsure)?
- ☐ If using flexible ductwork ensure it is pulled to at least 90% of its full length and not kinked, trapped or crushed – particularly at bends.
- ☐ Ensure there is at least a 10mm undercut to all internal doors above the finished floor level (including floor coverings).
- ☐ Is safe access available to all units, controls and terminals?

Why should I use MES?

We are fully qualified to carry out flow rate testing and commissioning for all ventilation systems. We are also able to undertake this testing at the same time as performing an air leakage test, minimising site disruption and reducing costs. We use UKAS calibrated equipment, so you can be certain that our on-site measurements are completely accurate and reliable.

The requirement to have ventilation systems checked and commissioned before handover was introduced in the October 2010 edition of Approved Document F - all properties that had their Building Regulations application made after the 1st October 2010 are required to have the in-situ performance of the ventilation system checked and compared to the requirements of Approved Document F and the Domestic Ventilation Compliance Guide.

Why is this required?

Since the revisions to Approved Documents L1A & L1B in 2010 and 2021, buildings have been designed to be more and more airtight in order to minimise uncontrolled ventilation through the building fabric. This helps reduce heat loss and improves the SAP performance. However, it also removes a ventilation source and, unless the ventilation system of the dwelling is providing sufficient air movement then this can result in damp and condensation issues within the building. This testing is to ensure that the ventilation system as installed meets the Building Regulations requirements.

What does a test involve?

We use an anemometer and cone to measure the flow rate at each supply and extract terminal so that we can set the flow to the designed rate and commission and balance the system.

When is a test carried out?

When the property is completed. It doesn't have to be decorated or have carpets fitted, but all of the parts of the ventilation system should be installed and fully operational. Please try to give us as much notice as possible. However if an urgent test is required we can normally do this within a couple of days.

What do you need to send us?

Ideally we will need a set of floor plans and section drawings, a drawing showing the ductwork layout & terminal locations and, if available, a copy of the design calculations showing the flow rates at each terminal.