


## Cosy Toes!

Mike Rodd installs a BS8511 compliant stove

\* Heating Equipment Testing and Approval Scheme

 [www.hetas.co.uk](http://www.hetas.co.uk)



A year or so ago we exchanged our ageing narrowboat for a younger one. One drawback was that, being an ex-hireboat, it had no multi-fuel stove so we had to fit one from scratch. On enquiry, my (then) insurers told me that although full compliance with the new BSI code of practice for the installation of solid fuel heating in canal boats (BS8511:2010) was not a BSS requirement, they strongly advised me to adopt it. Looking around, I found that very few companies offered fully compliant kit.

I opted in the end for the Chilli Penguin system and this was one of the best decisions I have made. One of their recommended installers, The Fire and Stove Shop (Brecon & Cardiff) installed it and did a great job.

The discussions I had with the proposed installers were interesting—they are HETAS\* approved and were fully aware of the new code. (An alternative installer I approached had no idea what I was talking about!) We debated the issues of having a full twin-wall flue system from the top of the stove through the deck collar to the chimney.

However this would have resulted in a very bulky installation with a bright silver pipe from the stove to the ceiling, so we opted instead for the alternative of a single-wall vitreous enamel pipe from the stove to the underside of the deck collar. That meant, however, that we needed to make provision for heat shields to protect any internal panelling close to the stove pipe. This was a serious task but in the end was really just a case of extending the heat shielding

that one would normally provide around the stove itself, right up to ceiling level—a fiddly job, but this did seem to be the better option. Above that came the full twin-wall installation through the roof and a twin-wall chimney.

I am as delighted with the efficient performance of the stove as I was with the installation. The stove uses about 20% less fuel than my previous Becton Bunny Arrow stove using Homefire Ovals, and is much easier to start and to keep going. I stack it up and can leave it quietly burning for up to 8 or 9 hours—and it takes little effort to get back up to full operation in the morning.

The support from Chilli Penguin has been excellent—I recently noticed that the brass on the chimney had become rather black and I couldn't polish it up. I contacted Chilli and their manager embarrassed me by suggesting that maybe the protective plastic covering on the brass had not been removed! Yep, and with a long and hard rub with steel wool the muck finally came off. I also mentioned, though, that some of the straps holding the rain hat onto its base had lost their black paint. It turns out that it is all stainless steel so painting can be tricky. No problem—a day later a replacement rain hat arrived at my front door.

The downsides: the installation costs were high and the long-term worry is that, so far, I haven't found an alternative source of chimneys—so I am locked into Chilli Penguin. However, so far, great service from a great company with a great product designed and made in Wales.