

**To:** Michelle Murdoch[Michelle.Murdoch@ofgem.gov.uk]  
**Cc:** Teri Clifton[teri.clifton@ofgem]  
**From:** Nadia Carpenter  
**Sent:** 2013-04-29T12:26:48Z  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** RE: RHI Query - Concrete curing process  
**Received:** 2013-04-29T12:26:49Z

Hi Michelle,

I don't think this process would be considered as being performed inside a building so the process would be ineligible.

The RHI definition of a building is that it be:

1. Permanent or long lasting
2. Wholly enclosed

On the information given there is no structure here of which to speak to assess against these criteria! The polytunnels which are eligible are so because the main structure (supporting poles, etc.) are capable of lasting 20 years. The replaceable parts (plastic covering, etc.) must be capable of lasting 2 years. We would also expect these structures to remain in place for a good period of time (undefined but we may use 2 years).

Does the material covering the concrete have a main supporting structure? What is the lifespan of the waterproof membrane? How often does the waterproof membrane get lifted from the concrete? How long does it stay in place overall?

These are all questions that may need addressing in order to give the enquirer a firm answer. Requesting diagrams may also be useful. However, I have my firm doubts that the waterproof membrane would ever be considered an RHI eligible building, and this is based on a number of counts.

Please note however, that DECC are looking at changing the requirement for **certain** processes to be performed inside a building in the near future and this process could well be included in that. I am curious however, if the GB scheme updates their Regulations how long does it take for NI to follow suit?

The below is an official line sent to me by the policy team previously on the issue in relation to DECC's approach.

DECC, in their consultation, set out that the current regulations required eligible heat use to take place within a building so as to avoid supporting wasteful heat use outdoors. DECC recognised that an unintended consequence of this was that there were heat uses which would not be considered eligible in the regulations but which DECC would want to support. One of the examples of processes they provided was outdoor grain drying.

In DECC's consultation response they have proposed to implement a change that would remove the requirement that using heat to carry out a process must take place within a building so as to provide support in cases where there were eligible heat uses taking place outside a building. The government response said this would be introduced before the end of 2013.

Please get in touch if you wish to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Nadia

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**From:** Michelle Murdoch  
**Sent:** 29 April 2013 11:23  
**To:** Nadia Carpenter  
**Cc:** Teri Clifton  
**Subject:** FW: RHI Query - Concrete curing process

Hi Nadia

Hope you are well. Could you look at the below (it is Northern Ireland). I would assume since it is **not** in a building, it would automatically not be covered by the scheme. However, I am aware that polytunnels can be eligible therefore I seek your guidance to confirm.

Thanks in advance  
Michelle

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**From:** Hutchinson, Peter [mailto:Peter.Hutchinson@detini.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 26 April 2013 16:48  
**To:** Michelle Murdoch  
**Subject:** RHI Query - Concrete curing process

Michelle,

Hope you are well. Grateful if you would consider the following query that has been raised by a colleague of ours in Invest NI (our business development agency) who has been working with a client company.

They have been working with a local pre-cast concrete flooring manufacturer. The company proposes the replacement of inefficient boilers (wood & oil) with a more efficient biomass system. The proposed system will be above 100kW (around 200kW). The proposed system will allow use of biomass during unoccupied periods supplanting large oil consumption at present. The process would be for 'curing' concrete - concrete is cured by wet heating system flowing beneath concrete bed.

The issue is the concrete bed is not located within a building but outdoors and covered by a waterproof membrane after pouring – the

Annotated by RHI Inquiry

heating process would therefore not be within a building but would be covered. They would propose the use of an insulating blanket over the concrete during the curing process.

I appreciate this is quite a technical and specific query but wanted to take your view and ask whether similar processes had been considered under the GB scheme. The main issue is the fact it is not inside a building but would be covered – it might therefore be determined by the nature of covering or any planning approvals required? Can you consider this and advise on the potential eligibility of such an application.

If you need further information let me know and I can speak to the Invest NI Client Executive working with the company in question.

Best Regards,

Peter

**Peter Hutchinson**

Renewable Heat

Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment

Netherleigh

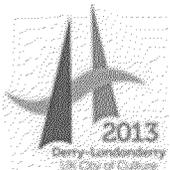
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