



PRESS RELEASE

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Chairman of the Approved Coal Merchants' Scheme says members have a very important role to play in raising customer awareness of the dangers of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

“Even one death is one death too many”, says Nicholas Ross, independent Chairman of the Approved Coal Merchants' Scheme, speaking of the tragic deaths of at least 6 solid fuel users from carbon monoxide poisoning over the last 12 months. “All these deaths and others from fossil fuel based heating systems could probably have been avoided if customers had taken heed of relevant safety information and been aware of the dangers from carbon monoxide poisoning.” To coincide with CO awareness week, Mr. Ross announced changes to the Code of Practice of the Approved Coal Merchants Scheme, which now obliges the Coal Merchant members to make their customers aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

“We all have to face up to the fact that proportionately, deaths and incidents surrounding carbon monoxide poisoning as a result of burning solid fuel or wood are high compared with our share of the heating market. Sadly in many cases the cause is neglect or ignorance on behalf of the customer, nevertheless we must shoulder some of the responsibility. We feel that the Trade must plat its part in ensuring that customers are aware of the dangers and if they perceive

there are actions they should take but are not taking we hope they will step in and offer the appropriate advice.”

The Coal Merchants Federation is making available to coal merchants an information leaflet on carbon monoxide to give to customers, a special sticker to affix to coal bunkers to remind customers on maintenance issues and notices for cash and carry outlets. Merchants are also being asked to put a message on prepack coal sacks together with the logo of the Carbon Monoxide Awareness Alliance.

Issued by:

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Notes to Editors

The Approved Coal Merchant Scheme is an independent voluntary Code for retail Coal Merchants in Great Britain, setting out the levels of knowledge and customer service expected of its members.

There are some 740 members ranging from National companies to sole traders. Further information and a list of members can be found on the Solid Fuel Association website www.solidfuel.co.uk.