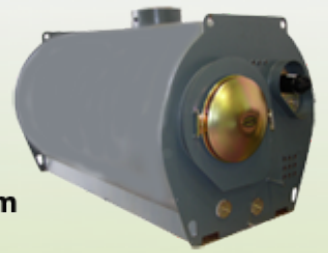


GARN[®]News

Information about GARN's highly efficient, smokeless wood heating system



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From the desk of . . .



Martin Lunde, GARN[®] developer and founder

EPA Directing Removal of Test Efficiencies

May 9, 2013 may be proven to be a pivotal day in the wood heating industry and its regulation.

The Alliance for Green Heat reports that on that date, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent requests to manufacturers of outdoor wood boilers whose equipment is listed on the EPA website, to remove all EPA method 28 related efficiency claims from their websites, literature, etc. [Read the article.](#)

As you know, I have been a longtime critic of the EPA test method, as well as of manufacturers who exploited measurement "inaccuracies" (for lack of a better word) to claim "tested" efficiencies up to 99 per cent. In addition, the false efficiencies were developed using the EPA's specified cribwood fuel (sanitized 4" x 4" bark and dirt free, kiln dried red or white oak.)

Cribwood does not accurately replicate field performance when compared with cordwood. In the linked directive, it is noted that the weighted average efficiency of the EPA Phase II equipment was actually 55 per cent...nowhere near 95 per cent or better. Several years ago, I discussed the differences between cordwood and crib wood in a series of [white papers.](#)

I applaud the EPA for taking this step. Some mistakes were made in the development of the original EPA test method. Recognizing this and taking the necessary corrective steps is the right thing to do, and is in everyone's best interest.

During a webinar also on May 9, 2013, the EPA essentially acknowledged the use of cordwood as a better test fuel than cribwood.

As a result, the EPA has indicated a *leaning* to have all wood heating equipment tested with cordwood. Let's hope this is real, does not take years to implement, or is not corrupted by allowing the testing of either cordwood or crib wood.

This directive is great news for the GARN WHS product line for two reasons:

1. All GARN WHS testing was done using cordwood; and
2. All testing was per ASTM Standard E2618 (which requires cordwood as a test fuel.)

The results stand: GARN WHS overall efficiency numbers range from 80 to 88 percent. Emission levels are approximately **two-thirds less** than the present EPA Standard. In fact, they are *lower* than the new standard that EPA is proposing to take effect in 2015.

GARN: Thirty years of continuing good performance, and our efficiency numbers are as accurate today as they were 30 years ago. And we don't have to remove them from our listing label...