

Press Release

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Stove industry award accolade

The Stove Industry Association (SIA) has been named winner of the Sector Representation of the Year award at the prestigious [Trade Association Awards](#) which took place in London last week (Thursday 27th February).

The Award, sponsored by the Department for Business & Trade, was given in recognition of the work undertaken by the Association and its members to secure [an amendment to the New Build Heat Standard in Scotland](#) to ensure that wood burning stoves could continue to be installed in new properties.

The Trade Association Awards 2025, now in their 22nd year, are supported by the Department for Business & Trade, and recognise excellence, innovation and best practice amongst trade associations in the UK.

To be considered for the Sector Representation of the Year Award applicants had to clearly demonstrate that the representative action taken for their sector was to tackle an issue of importance to the future prosperity and growth of its members, with the judges looking for “evidence of effective engagement that has harnessed the will and power of the sector to deliver something of importance both to the sector and Government priorities”.

Andy Hill, chair of the SIA, explained: “The SIA is very honoured to have received this award. The work undertaken in Scotland last year was complex and detailed, and involved engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including MPs and Ministers, all against the backdrop of a changing political landscape. Thanks to the combined efforts of the SIA, its members and the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps, not only was an amendment to the Standard secured, the evidence we provided also prompted Scottish Government to confirm that it considered the [combustion of biomass to be net zero carbon at point of use.](#)”

Emily Wallace, chief executive of the Trade Association Forum and one of the head judges on the panel said: “This was a brilliant example of the impact a trade association can have. The SIA reacted to a potential existential threat to its sector and using lobbying, media and members, it achieved tangible change.”

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Notes:

- The winners of all categories can be viewed [here](#).
- Since its formation in 1997, the Trade Association Forum has been encouraging the development and sharing of best practice among UK trade associations and promoting the role of effective trade associations to government, industry and the wider public. <https://taforum.org/>

- The Stove Industry Association was formed in 2008 and is a trade association of stove, flue, component and fuel manufacturers, suppliers and distributors, independent retailers, installers and chimney sweeps, training organisations, competent person schemes and other interested industry bodies.
- With over 230 members, the SIA represents the stove industry in discussion with government departments such as Defra and DESNZ, Welsh Government, Scottish Government, and the Greater London Authority.
- The SIA represents the UK in CEFACD, the European Committee of Manufacturers of Domestic Heating and Cooking Appliances and engages openly with all stakeholders.
- Further information on the work of the SIA can be found at www.stoveindustryassociation.org

SIA Top Tips:

- Choose an Ecodesign compliant stove such as a [clearSkies](#) certified appliance. If you currently use an open fire or an older, very basic stove, consider upgrading. A modern Ecodesign compliant stove releases up to 90% less emissions than an open fire and can be up to 80% less than some older stoves. Your local [SIA Retail Group member](#) can help advise on the best stove for you and your family.
- If you live in a [Smoke Control Area](#), your stove will also need to be Defra exempt. All clearSkies Level 3 and above models are certified as Defra exempt.
- Visit your local stove retailer for guidance on choosing the right size stove for your property and for a detailed installation quote. You can find your nearest [SIA Retail Group member showroom here](#).
- Ensure your stove is fitted by an appropriately qualified competent person such as one who is [HETAS](#) or [OFTEC](#) registered.
- Ensure you use quality fuel. Look for the [Ready to Burn](#) logo to ensure your wood logs are at or below 20% moisture content. Never use chemically treated wood or burn waste on your stove.
- Ensure your stove is serviced and your chimney swept at least once a year – the SIA recommends NVQ qualified sweeps for the ongoing maintenance and servicing of your stove and chimney. The [Federation of British Chimney Sweeps](#) has links to all the main sweep associations. Chimney sweeps are a valuable source of information for good practice and advice.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using your stove.