

The *Institute of Boiler and Radiator Manufacturers* has adopted a method of rating cast-iron heating boilers based upon performance obtained under tests. This code⁶ now applies to sectional boilers having a grate width of 41 in. or less. Eventually the Institute intends to include all sizes of cast-iron boilers in this program of testing and rating.

The *American Gas Association* has adopted a method of rating gas designed boilers based upon performance under tests. This is described in Approval Requirements for Central Heating Gas Appliances.

The *Heating, Piping and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association* has adopted a method of rating boilers based on their physical characteristics for those boilers that are not rated in accordance with the *SBI* or *I=B=R* Codes. Ratings are expressed on a Net Load basis in square feet of steam radiation.

BOILER EFFICIENCY

The term *efficiency* as used for guarantees of boiler performance is usually construed as follows:

1. *Solid Fuels.* The efficiency of the boiler alone is the ratio of the heat absorbed by the water and steam in the boiler per pound of combustible burned on the grate to the calorific value of 1 lb of combustible as fired. The combined efficiency of boiler, furnace and grate is the ratio of the heat absorbed by the water and steam in the boiler per pound of fuel as fired to the calorific value of 1 lb of fuel as fired.

2. *Liquid and Gaseous Fuels.* The combined efficiency of boiler, furnace and burner is the ratio of the heat absorbed by the water and steam in the boiler per pound or cubic foot of fuel to the calorific value of 1 lb or cubic foot of fuel respectively.

The following efficiencies apply to current designs of boilers operated under favorable conditions at their gross output ratings. Some older boilers designed primarily for hand firing may have lower efficiencies when automatically fired.

Anthracite, hand fired.....	60 to 75 per cent
Bituminous Coal, hand fired.....	50 to 65 per cent
Stoker fired.....	60 to 75 per cent
Oil and Gas fired.....	70 to 80 per cent

Higher efficiencies for hand fired bituminous coal may be obtained by careful firing of either a regular or a smokeless boiler.

RATING OF BOILERS

In referring to boiler rating it is necessary to know the basis on which the rating has been established in order to understand the exact meaning of the term. The following example will illustrate the meaning of three ratings which might be established for the same boiler.

Assume that an installation has the following loads determined in accordance with the section *Selection of Boilers*:

Net Load.....	1000 sq ft of steam radiation
Piping Tax.....	200 sq ft of steam radiation
Design Load.....	1200 sq ft of steam radiation
Pickup Allowance.....	240 sq ft of steam radiation
Maximum or Gross Load.....	1440 sq ft of steam radiation

A boiler that is just large enough to carry this system might be said to have a *net load rating* of 1000 sq ft, a *design load rating* of 1200 sq ft, or a *gross load rating* of 1440 sq ft, depending on the basis on which the boiler is rated.

On a *net load* basis the above boiler would be rated 1000 sq ft of steam radiation and would have sufficient excess capacity to supply the *normal piping and pickup load*. Net *I=B=R* Ratings, *SBI* Net Ratings, and Net Load Ratings of the *Heating, Piping and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association* are established on this basis.

On a *design load* basis the boiler would be rated 1200 sq ft of steam radiation and would have sufficient excess capacity to supply the *pickup load*. It would be of adequate size for a system in which the sum of the *net load* and the *piping heat loss* did not exceed 1200 sq ft of steam radiation. The *SBI* Ratings shown in columns 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12 of Table 2 (not to be confused with *SBI* Net Rating) are established on a *design load* basis.

On a *gross output* basis of rating the boiler would be rated 1440 sq ft of steam radiation and would be of adequate size for a system in which the sum of the *net load*, *piping load*, and *pick-up load* did not exceed 1440 sq ft of steam radiation. Gross *I=B=R* Output and *A.G.A.* Ratings are established on a *gross output* basis.

In the determination of boiler ratings, the *Gross Output* is the quantity of heat available at the boiler nozzle with the boiler normally insulated and when operating under limitations stipulated in the code or method by which the boiler is rated. The boiler may be capable of producing a greater nozzle output but in doing so would exceed some of these limitations.

SELECTION OF BOILERS

Factors Involved in Boiler Selection

The *Maximum Load* or *Gross Load* on the boiler is the sum of the four following items.

The *Design Load* is the sum of items 1, 2 and 3.

The *Net Load* is the sum of items 1 and 2.

1. *Radiation Load.* The estimated heat emission in Btu per hour of the connected radiation (direct, indirect, or forced convection coils) to be installed.

The connected radiation is determined by calculating the heat losses for each room in accordance with data given in Chapters 6, 8 and 14. The sum of the calculated heat losses for all the rooms represents the total required heat emission of the connected radiation expressed in Btu per hour. As practically all boilers are now rated on a Btu basis, it is unnecessary to convert the radiation load to equivalent square feet of equivalent radiation.

2. *Hot Water Supply Load.* The estimated maximum heat in Btu per hour required to heat water for domestic use.

When the hot water supply is heated by the building heating boiler, this load must be taken into consideration in sizing the boiler. A common practice is to add 240 Btu per hour to the radiation load for each gallon of storage tank capacity. For more specific information see Chapter 50.

3. *Piping Tax.* The estimated heat emission in Btu per hour of the piping connecting the radiation and other apparatus to the boiler.

As the heating industry as a whole is not entirely agreed upon piping tax allowances for different sizes of installations it is better to compute the heat emission from both bare and covered pipe surface in accordance with data in Chapter 28. In average house heating systems, it is common practice to consider the piping tax to be equal to 25 per cent of the Net Load. In determining Net *I=B=R* Ratings from Gross *I=B=R* Output, the piping factor allowed varies from 30 per cent for small boilers to 12 per cent for larger boilers.

4. *Warming-Up or Pick-Up Allowance.* The estimated increase in the normal load in Btu per hour caused by the heating up of the cold system.

The warming-up allowance represents the load due to heating the boiler and contents