



# PROGRESS

an industry update on Home Information Packs

## HOME INFORMATION PACKS UPDATE

**September 2006**

[www.homeinformationpacks.gov.uk](http://www.homeinformationpacks.gov.uk)

The Department for Communities and Local Government issued a statement about Home Information Packs on 21 September 2006. The full text of the statement is available [here](#).

Highlights of the announcement are:

- Confirmation that HIPs will be introduced on 1 June next year and they will include mandatory Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs), searches and other legal documents and voluntary Home Condition Reports.
- £4 million has been pledged to support area trials, working in partnership with AHIPP. The first 6 will be in Bath, Newcastle, Southampton, Northampton, Huddersfield and Cambridge and will start in November.
- SAVA is currently going through the approval process to become the first Certification Scheme for Energy Assessors and Home Inspectors. We hope that this will be completed in time to enable them to certificate inspectors before the areas trials begin.
- All Energy Assessors and Home Inspectors will both have to have an appropriate qualification and be members of an approved Certification Scheme.
- National Occupational Standards for Energy Assessors will be available in February 2007. This will provide a framework for a separate qualification for energy inspection.
- Landmark Solutions have been selected as the preferred bidder to set up the Home Condition Report Register and we are now in the final stages of contract negotiation with them.
- To ensure security and facilitate quality assurance EPCs will be required to be lodged on a register.
- Ian McCartney, Minister for Consumer Affairs, has invited applications to run the redress schemes that estate agents providing HIPs will need to belong to from next June. He has also published the criteria to be used to assess the suitability of applicants.
- The intention is that from next June consumers will have a single point of access for all complaints affecting the buying and selling of homes.