

# ThermoBloc™ boiler protection recirculation and distribution unit

281 series

**CALEFFI**  
**BIO MASS**



01224/13 NA

Replaces 01224/12 NA



## Function

The ThermoBloc™ boiler protection recirculation and distribution unit is used in hydronic heating systems with non-condensing boilers, including solid fuel, biomass, gas LP or oil-fired. It can be installed with steel, cast iron and copper tube style boilers, automatically controlling the return water temperature, protection against corrosion from condensation occurring when a minimum flue gas temperature is not otherwise maintained. The ThermoBloc™ unit is compact for easy installation, reducing required space and fittings. It combines the functionality of a boiler protection valve with a circulation pump and a unique flapper check valve allowing for thermosyphon flow between the boiler and distribution system during a power outage. The ThermoBloc™ includes three temperature gauges and is encased in an insulation shell.

## Product range

281 series ThermoBloc™ boiler protection recirculation and distribution unit .....connections 1" and 1-1/4" NPT male and sweat union

## Technical specifications

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Materials</b>       |                 |
| - body:                | brass           |
| - shutter:             | PSU             |
| - spring:              | stainless steel |
| - flapper check valve: | PPS             |
| - seal:                | EPDM            |
| - thermostatic sensor: | wax             |

## Performance

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Suitable fluids:                       | water, up to 50% glycol solutions                                   |
| Max. working pressure:                 | 150 psi (10 bar)  |
| Working temperature range:             | 40–210°F (5–100°C)  |
| Temperature gauge scale:               | 30–250°F (0–120°C)  |
| Thermostatic sensor cartridge:         | 130°F (55°C) standard   |
| Optional cartridges (consult factory): | 115°F (45°C)<br>140°F (60°C)<br>160°F (70°C)                        |
| Sensor cartridge accuracy:             | ±4°F (±2°C)   |
| By-pass closed temperature:            | Tset +18°F (10°C)   |
| Connections:                           | - NPT male union<br>1" and 1-1/4"<br>- sweat union<br>1" and 1-1/4" |

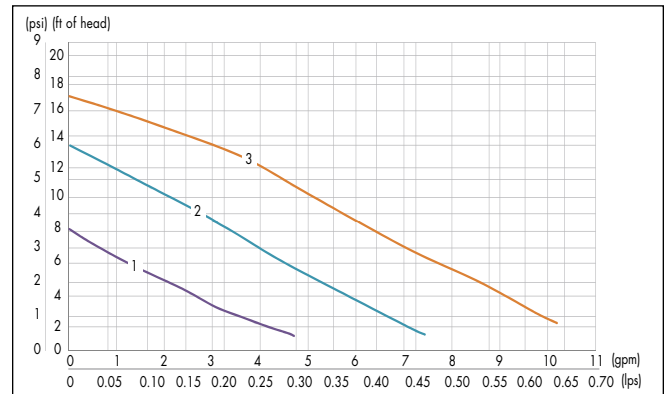
## Insulation

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Material:                  | EPP                   |
| Mean thickness:            | 30 mm                 |
| Density:                   | 45 kg/m³              |
| Working temperature range: | 40–210°F (5–100°C)    |
| Thermal conductivity:      | 0.037 W/(m·K) at 10°C |
| Reaction to fire (UL94):   | class HBF             |

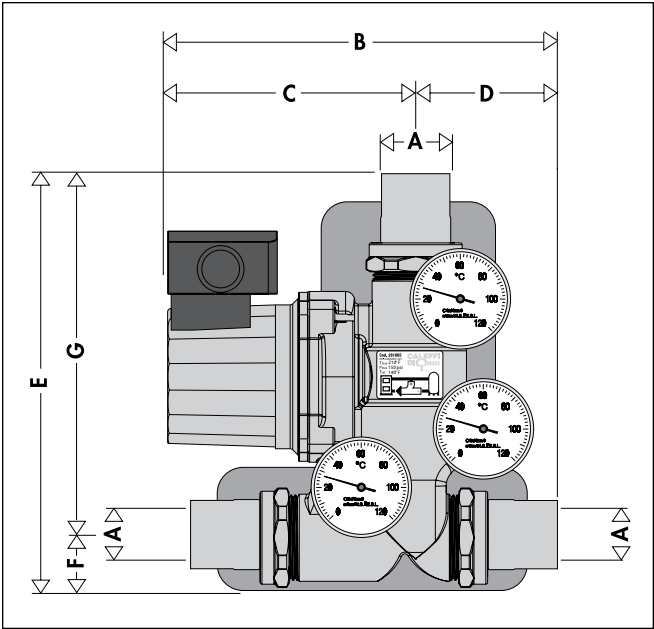
## Pump

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Three-speed pump: | Wilco Star S-16 |
| Body:             | cast iron       |
| Power supply:     | 115 V–60 Hz     |
| Max. pressure:    | 85 psi (6 bar)  |
| Max. temperature: | 203°F (95°C)    |
| Agency approval:  | cULus           |

## Wilco Star S-16 hydraulic characteristics



Dimensions

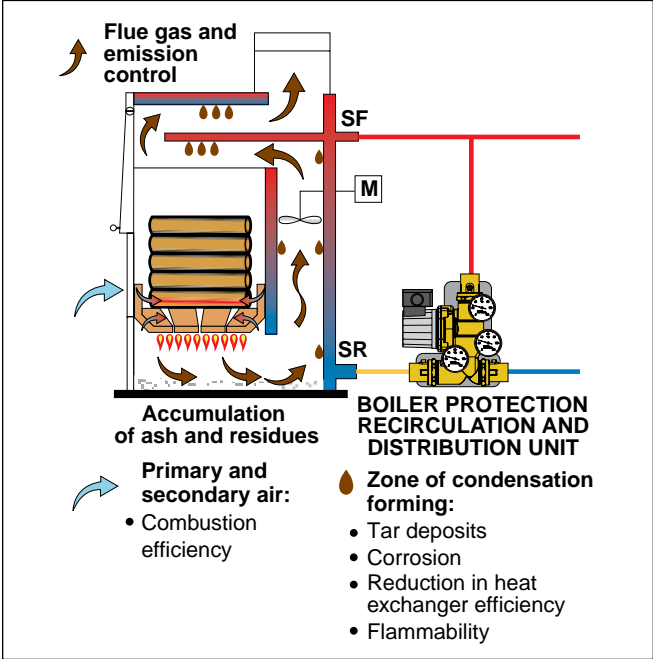


| Code    | A       | B   | C   | D  | E   | F   | G  |
|---------|---------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|
| 281165A | 1" NPT  | 8¾" | 5⅝" | 3" | 9⅞" | 1⅞" | 8" |
| 281965A | 1" SWT  | 8¾" | 5⅝" | 3" | 9⅞" | 1⅞" | 8" |
| 281175A | 1¼" NPT | 8¾" | 5⅝" | 3" | 9⅞" | 1⅞" | 8" |
| 281975A | 1¼" SWT | 8¾" | 5⅝" | 3" | 9⅞" | 1⅞" | 8" |

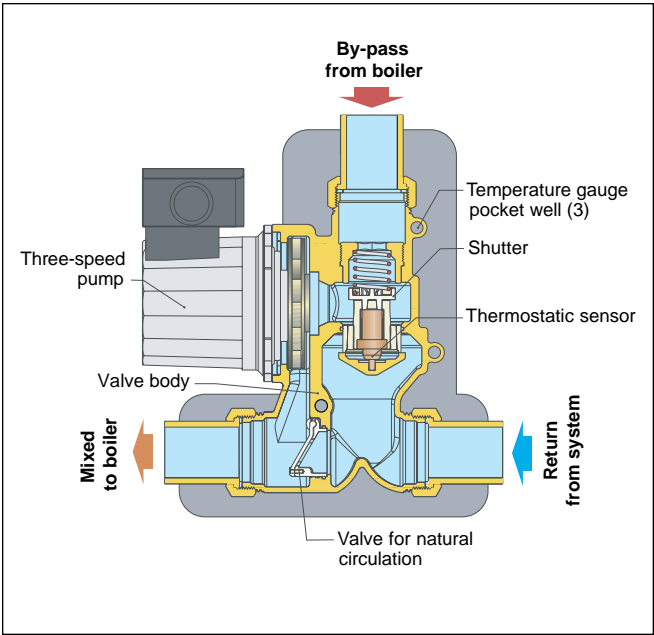
Wood biomass and condensation build-up

Wood contains a variable moisture content depending on the type (logs, pellets, woodchips, etc.). Water vapor is released during the solid fuel drying phase inside the combustion chamber. The presence of cold surfaces in the boiler or flue gas chimney can lower the temperature of the flue gas down to the dew point, causing condensation. Water vapor condenses on the boiler surfaces, together with soot and part of the unburnt hydrocarbons contained in the flue gas, producing tar deposits. These substances stick to the walls of the boiler, covering most of the inner surfaces. In addition to being dangerous due to its flammability, tar is damaging to the integrity of the boiler and limits the efficiency of the flue gas system water exchanger.

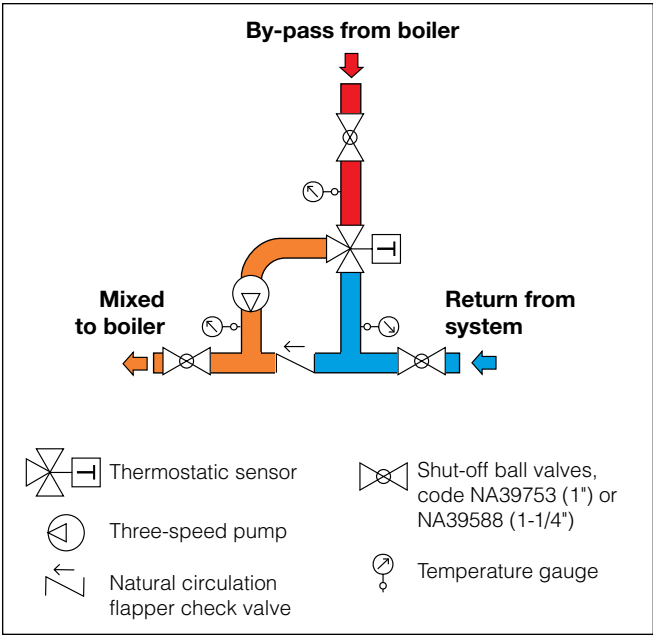
By keeping the boiler walls at the highest possible temperature, the boiler protection valve limits the formation of these substances thereby increasing combustion efficiency, controlling emissions into the environment and prolonging boiler life.



Characteristic components



Hydraulic diagram



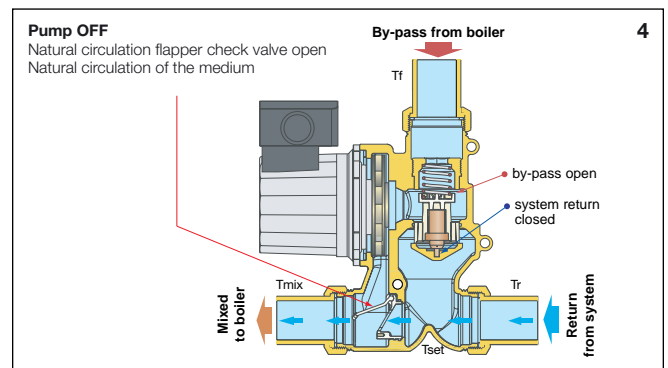
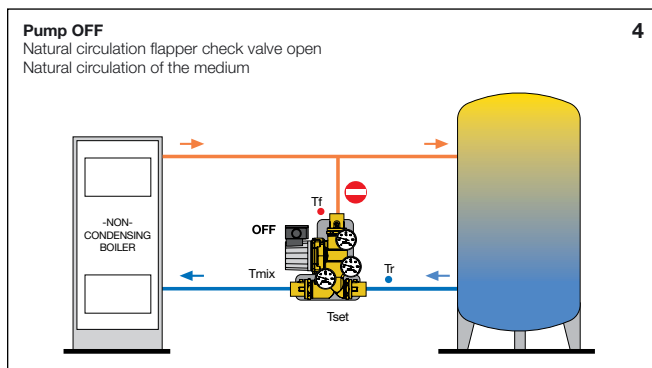
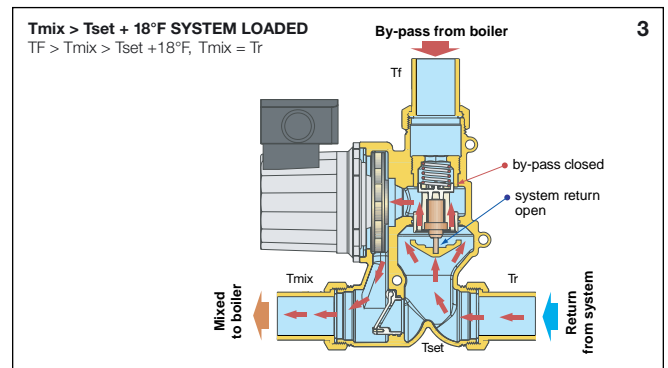
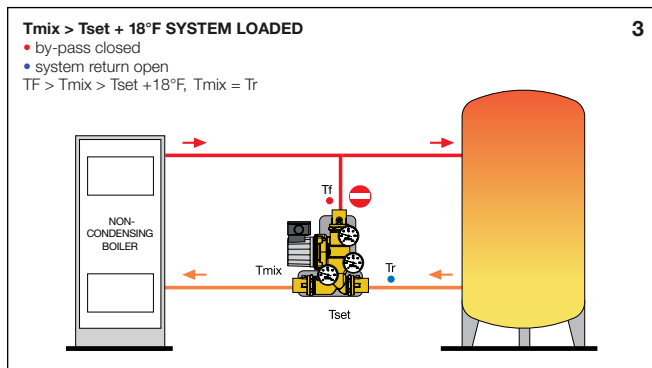
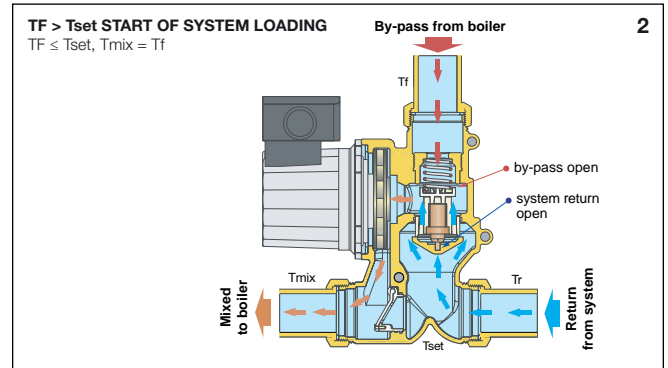
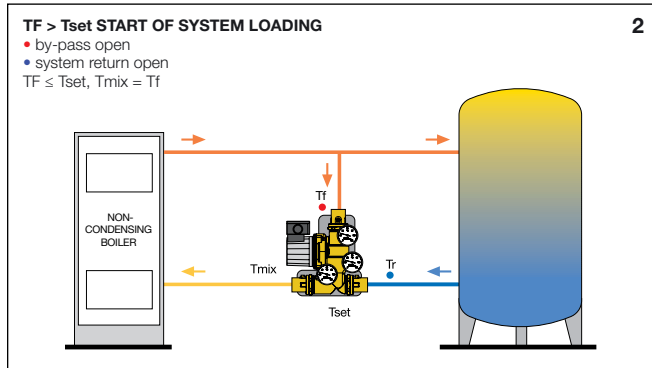
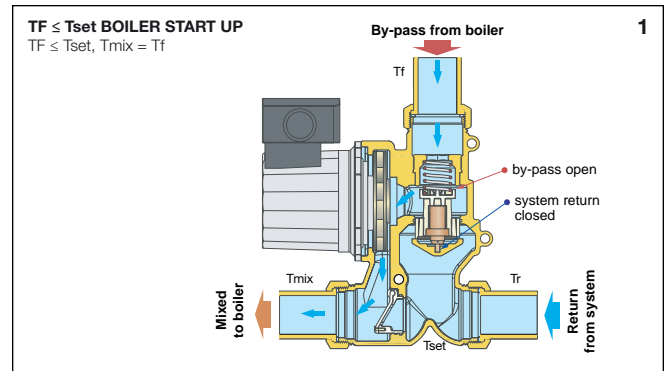
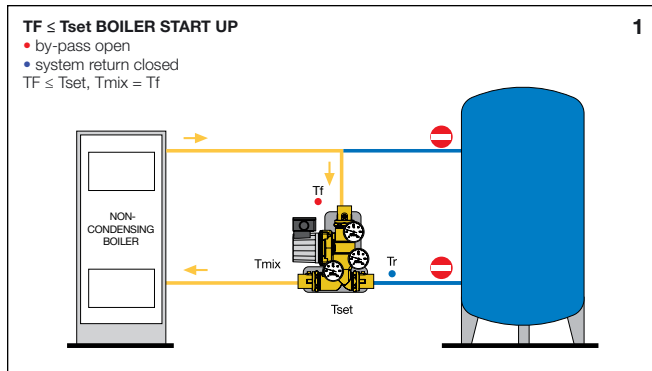
## Operating principle

The thermostatic sensor, completely immersed in the medium, controls the movement of a shutter that regulates the by-pass flow from the boiler and toward the system. At boiler startup, the boiler protection recirculation and distribution unit recirculates the by-pass flow from the boiler to bring the boiler up to temperature as quickly as possible (fig. 1). When the by-pass flow from the boiler  $T_f$  exceeds the setting of the fixed thermostatic sensor  $T_{set}$ , the unit's return from the system port starts opening to produce the water mixing  $T_{mix}$ : in this phase the system loading begins (fig. 2).

When the mixed flow to the boiler temperature  $T_{mix}$  is greater than the set point of the boiler protection recirculation and distribution unit by

approximately 18°F (10°C), the by-pass flow from the boiler port closes and water returns to the boiler at the same temperature as the return flow from the system (fig. 3).

When power is out and the circulation pump stops running, the flapper check valve, which is closed during normal operation, opens with a slight pressure differential resulting from the effects of heated water in the boiler and cooler water in the distribution system, a natural thermosyphon flow. This prevents an excessive heat buildup which eventually would cause the pressure relief valve to open (fig. 4).



$T_f$  = By-pass flow from boiler temperature,  $T_{set}$  = Boiler protection valve set point temperature,  
 $T_{mix}$  = Mixed water temperature,  $T_r$  = Return from system temperature

## Construction details

### Single casting and reversibility

The compact brass body casting houses the pump and all functioning components, offering easy installation, either on the right or left side of the boiler. The temperature gauges can be easily removed and re-inserted on the back side of the unit.

### Brass body

The brass body prevents the formation of ferrous residues in the system, prolonging boiler operating life.

### Thermostatic sensor

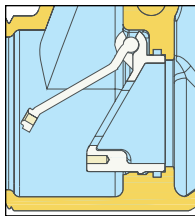
The unit features a thermostatic sensor to control the temperature of water returning to the boiler to prevent condensation.

### Insulation

The ThermoBloc™ boiler protection recirculation and distribution units come complete with an insulation shell to provide perfect thermal insulation.

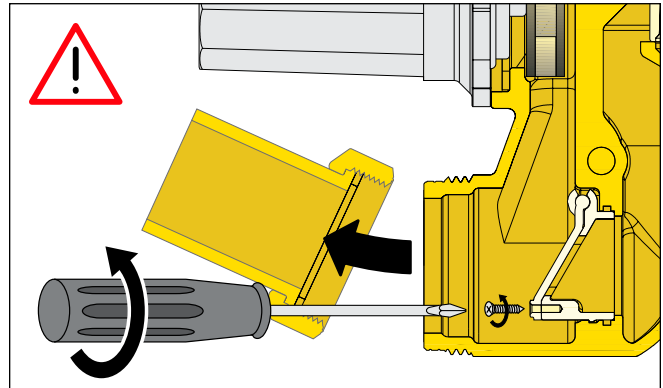
### Natural circulation flapper check valve

The flapper check valve allows the natural thermosyphon circulation of the system heat transfer fluid when the pump stops running due to power failure. When the pump is running under normal conditions the thrust of the flowing medium keeps the flapper closed, forcing flow past the thermostatic sensor. When the pump stops running and the fluid in the boiler is at high temperature, natural circulation begins, by-passing the thermostatic sensor, preventing overheating in the boiler.



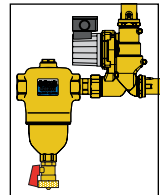
### Flapper check valve – lock

Before installation, remove the screw that keeps the flapper check valve closed. This screw is factory-installed to prevent breakage during shipment. Removing the protective screw ensures full functionality of the flapper check valve as a natural circulation device. To do this, unscrew the union located on the mixed water outlet port (to boiler) and access the screw inside the valve body, unscrewing it using a phillips head screw driver.



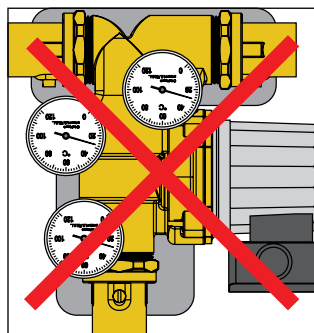
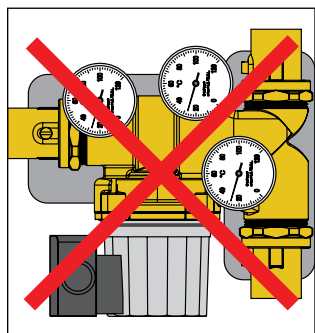
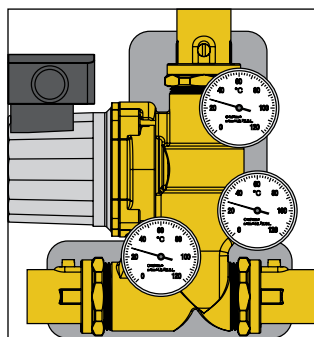
### Dirt separator

The Caleffi DIRTICAL® 5462 series dirt separator should be installed to perform continuous dirt separation.

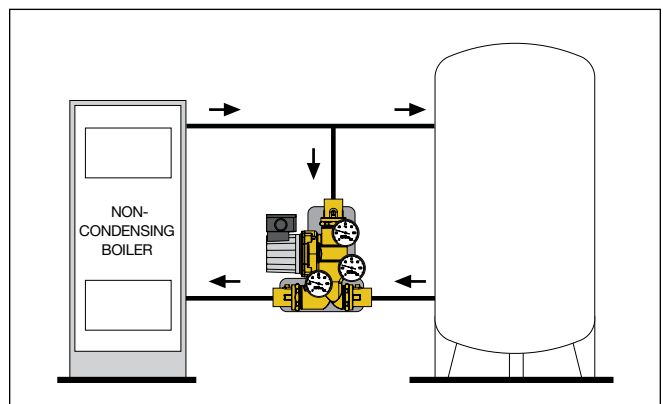


## Installation

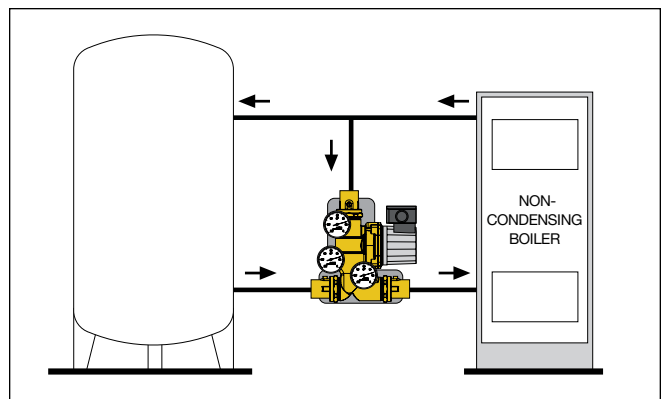
The ThermoBloc™ boiler protection recirculation and distribution unit can be installed on both sides of the boiler following the flow directions indicated on the body. Installation is recommended on the return to the boiler in mixing mode, in vertical position (axis of the pump horizontal and the axis of the thermostatic sensor vertical). This allows for the proper functionality of the natural circulation flapper check valve.



### Installation on right side of generator

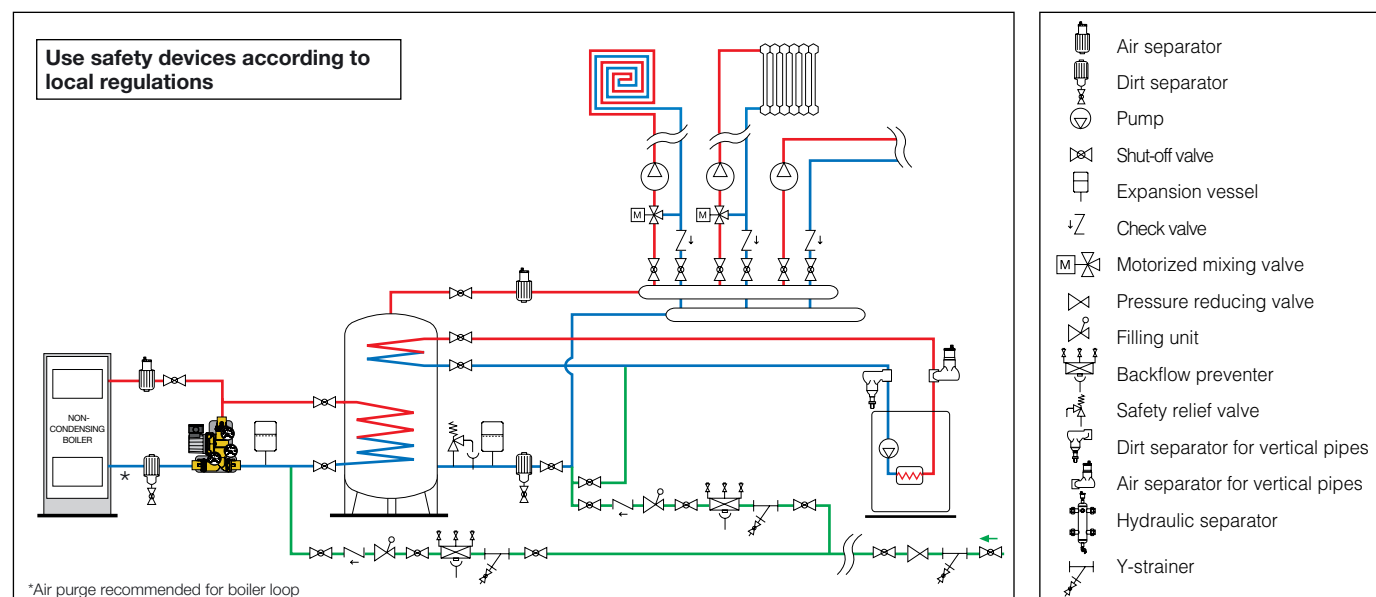


### Installation on left side of generator

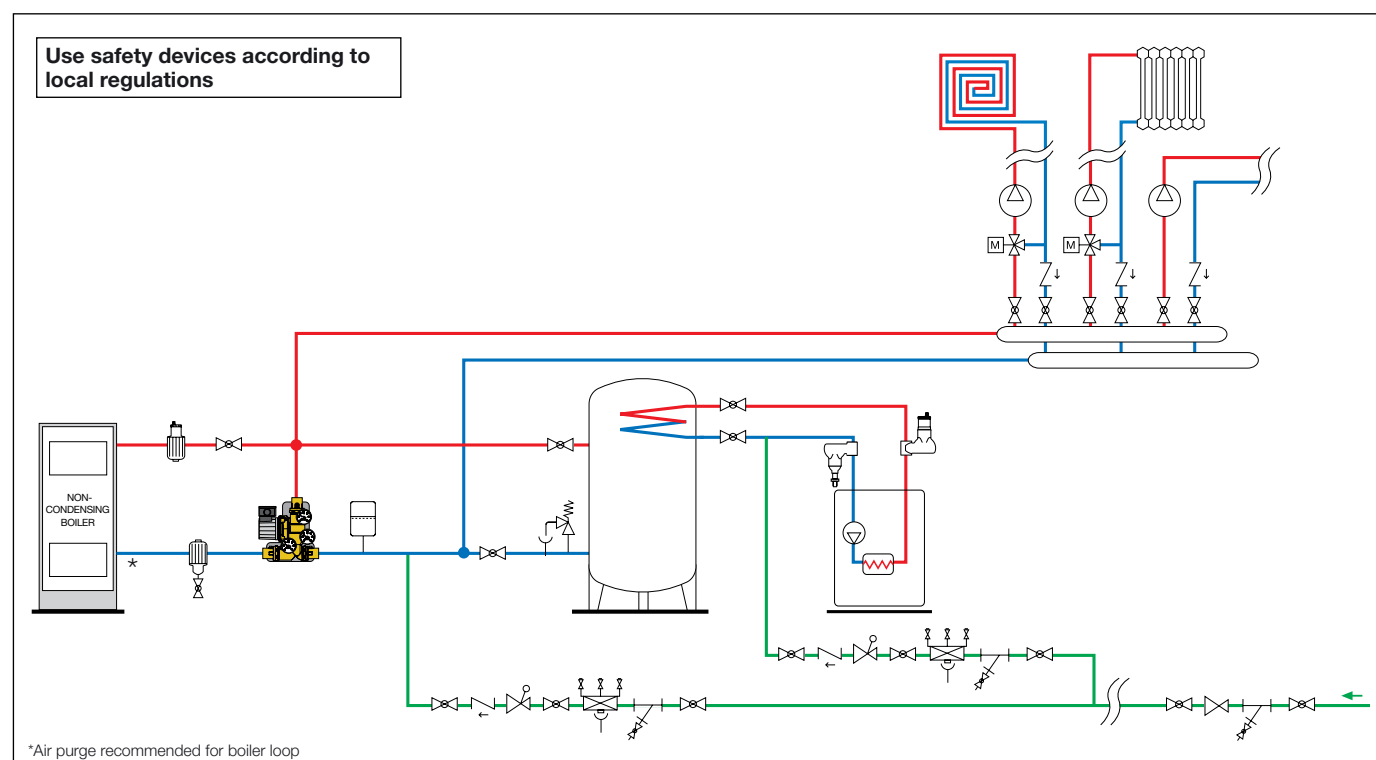


## Application diagrams

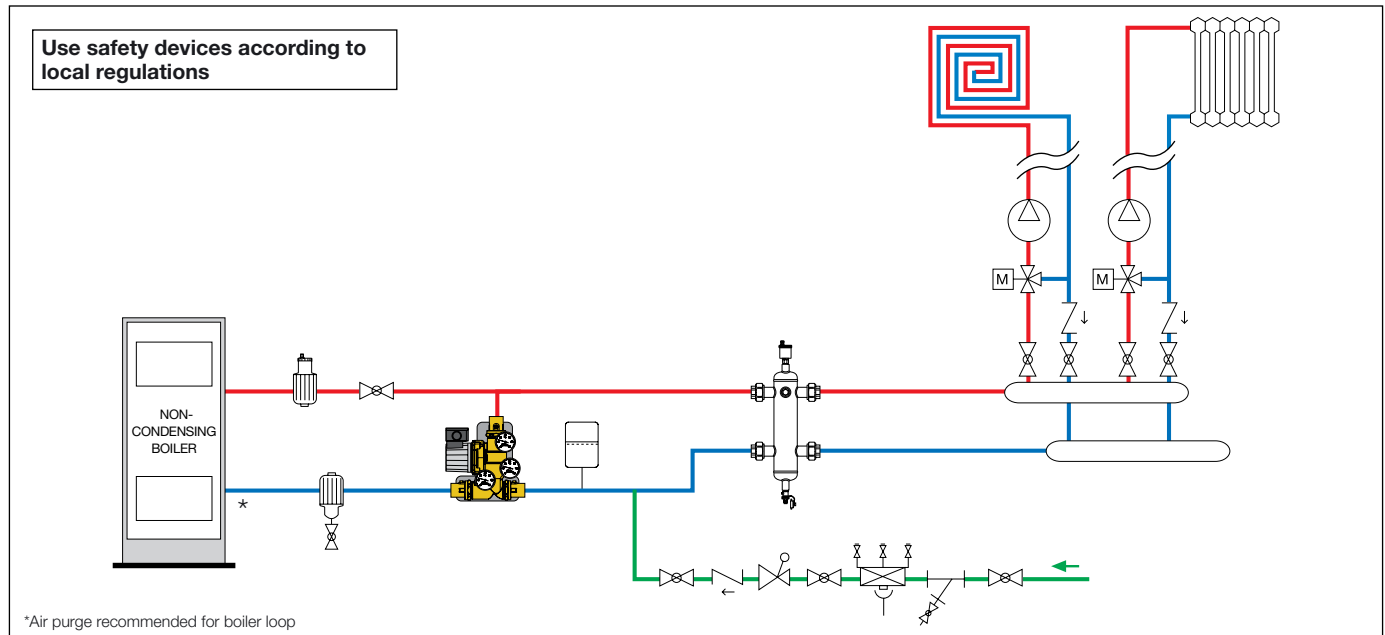
### Non-condensing boiler system with buffer tank



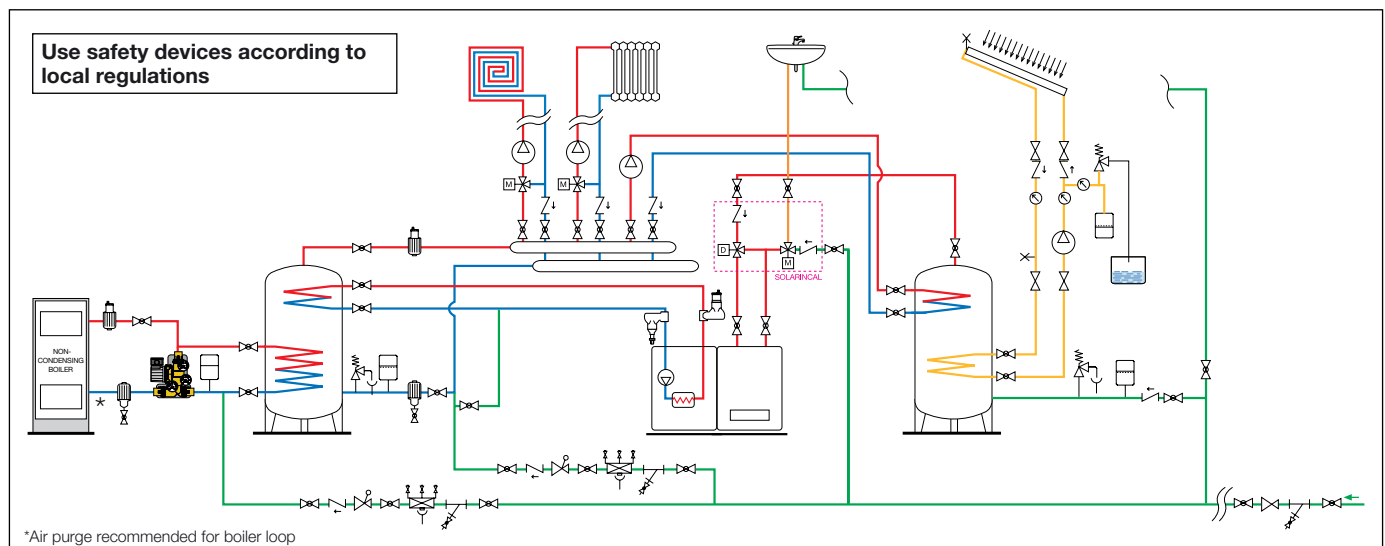
### Non-condensing boiler, connection to buffer tank in parallel



## Non-condensing boiler, direct supply to the system



## Non-condensing boiler, direct connection to buffer tank



## SPECIFICATION SUMMARIES

### ThermoBloc™ 281 series

Boiler protection recirculation and distribution unit. Connections 1" and 1-1/4" NPT male and sweat with unions. Brass body. Brass shutter locking nut. PSU shutter. Stainless steel spring. Polyphenylene Sulfide (PPS) flapper check valve. EPDM seal elements. Medium water and glycol solutions. Maximum percentage of glycol 50%. Maximum working pressure 150 psi (10 bar). Working temperature range 40–210°F (5–100°C). Temperature gauge scale 30–250°F (0–120°C). Built-in wax thermostatic sensor: setting temperature 130°F (55°C) standard; 115°F (45°C), 140°F (60°C) and 160°F (70°C) optional. Sensor cartridge accuracy  $\pm 4^\circ\text{F}$  ( $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ). Hot inlet from boiler complete closed temperature  $T_{set} + 18^\circ\text{F}$  (10°C). Three-speed pump model Wilo Star S-16. Electric supply 115 V – 60 Hz. Complete with insulation.

We reserve the right to change our products and their relevant technical data, contained in this publication, at any time and without prior notice.



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