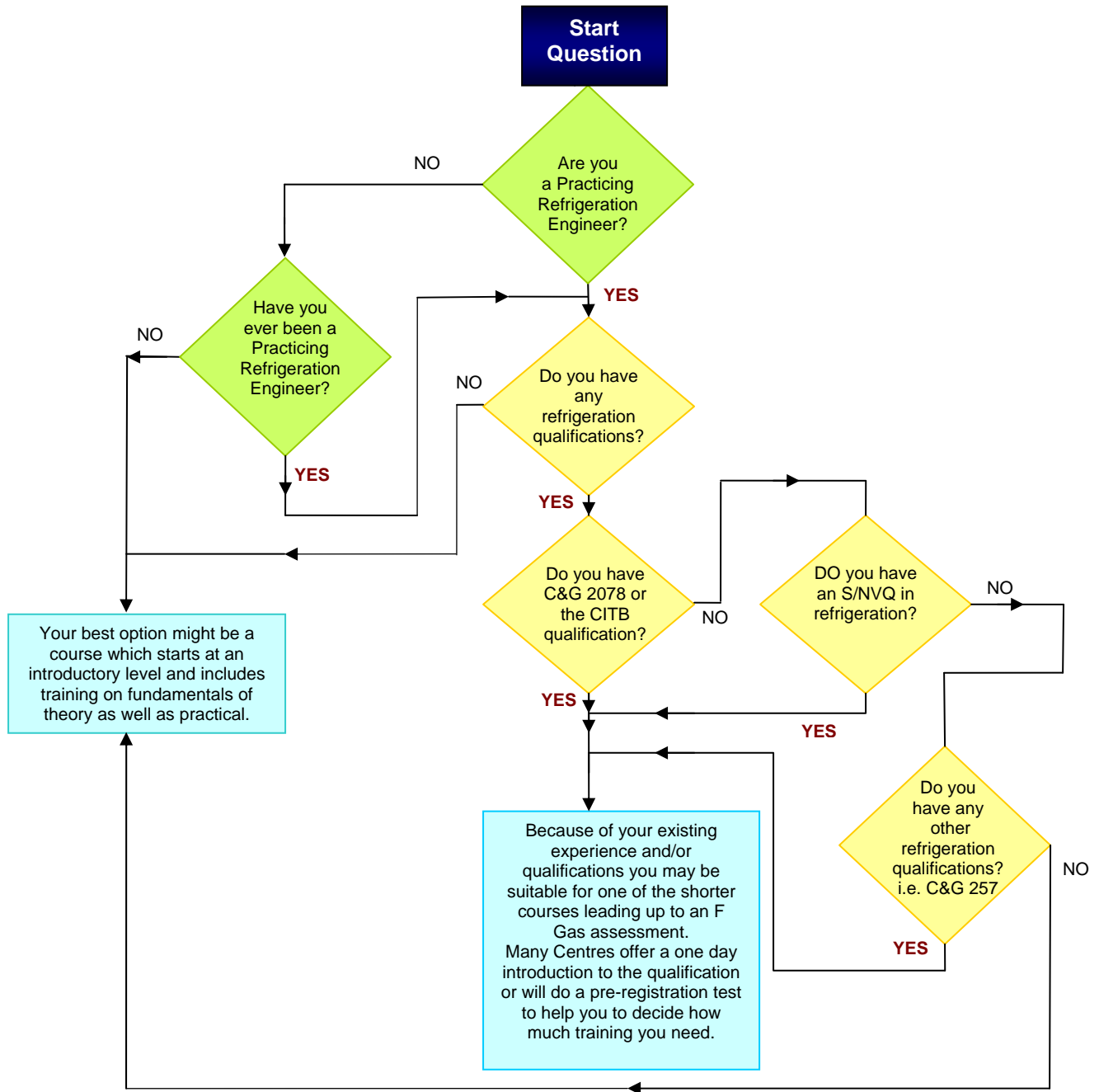


# ACRIB F GAS FACT SHEET 1



## F Gas Training – Need help on where to start?



This diagram is designed as a general guide. You should speak to your chosen training provider for a more detailed assessment of current skills levels of your workforce and training options. Training Centres are offering flexibility in the way they deliver the F Gas training but all individuals will be assessed to the same standard by a theory and practice test that leads to either a City & Guilds 2079 part 1 or a CITB J11 to be eligible to work on equipment containing over 3kg of F Gases. Some training options include:

- Course split several days a week over two weeks at one centre
- On line training in advance, assessment is one or half day at the centre
- One day introductory course after which you decide whether to take shorter or longer training course
- Three day training back up by written course material which you can study in advance or at home

We recommend you contact a few different training providers to see what options are available before you decided which suits you best.

# F Gas Training FAQs



## 1. I already have a City and Guilds 2078 (or CITB J01), so I'm already competent aren't I?

You are deemed to be competent *temporarily* to work under the F Gas Regulations if you hold these qualifications - and only until July 2011. The new C&G 2079 and CITB J11 are the qualifications specified in the regulations and you must have obtained one of these before the deadline if you want to continue to work in the sector.

## 2. I've done regular updates to my existing refrigerant handling qualification – is this new F Gas qualification the same sort of thing?

The new F Gas qualifications are much more stringent and far reaching qualifications. They require a sound understanding of refrigeration theory and legislation, knowledge of a wider range of components, and are subject to a much more detailed and exacting theory and practical test. Obtain a course handbook or syllabus from your training provider before you decide on how much training you think you may need to take your assessment.

## 3. Are there any exemptions for people with experience or other qualifications?

The F Gas qualifications represent a new minimum standard of competence, and therefore everyone has to take the same assessment of theory and practice. There are no exemptions, even if you have recently taken a full apprenticeship training under NVQ. However you should need less days of classroom training as your skills should be up to date.

## 4. Does everyone I employ need a refrigerant handling qualification?

Only those involved in specified activities need to have the qualification: these activities include installation, maintenance, service, decommissioning and leak testing of systems containing refrigerants covered by the F Gas Regulations. A van driver or warehouse supervisor does not need these qualifications.

Trainees enrolled on a course of study leading up to the achievement of one of these qualifications can continue to work, but only under supervision by an F Gas qualified person. If you are employing subcontractors to carry out pipework installation they must also work under supervision of an F Gas qualified person.

## 5. What is the difference between the CITB and C&G qualification?

Both qualifications are designed to meet the European F Gas standard. But there are two main differences:

1. The CITB is renewed every 5 years with a refresher course, as this follows international accreditation scheme recommendations. The C&G is a qualification for life so you only have to sit this once.
2. The C&G theory test is an on line assessment with immediate feedback and randomised questions. The CITB theory test is a written paper (there are a number of different versions of the paper so the candidate never knows which question paper they will get).

## 6. Can I register to obtain an ACRIB Card once I have the new qualification?

Yes, you can get a three year ACRIB card when you have either of the new CITB or C&G qualifications. But if you want to join or renew the ACRIB register and only have an older qualification your card will run out for F Gas refrigerant handling on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 which is the date by which you have to have a new qualification.



### **7. If I fail my theory test, cant I just retake it straightaway?**

The arrangements are different for the two qualifications:

1. For C&G your assessor will need to re-schedule an electronic test which should be possible after a short delay but could take up to 24hrs.
2. For CITB after your paper has been marked, you will be allowed a resit of a different exam paper. Your assessor will advise if further training is recommended before resitting the exam.

### **8. I only work on R22 do I need a new qualification?**

If your work only involves ODS refrigerants such as R22 and you will never handle any other refrigerant you don't need the new F Gas qualification. Some refrigerants contain substances covered by both the ODS and F gas Regulations. You do need to hold an existing City and Guilds 2078 (or CITB J01) under the ODS Regulations.

### **9. I only work on domestic equipment – do I need one of the new qualifications?**

For those working on equipment with a refrigerant charge of less than 3 kg there is an option to hold an in-house qualification or to apply for an interim certificate based on previous experience as a temporary measure. But you will need to gain a new "Category II" F Gas qualification by 2011.

### **10. I employ trainees/apprentices. Do they need to get a qualification too?**

There is an exemption of 2 years for trainees enrolled on a course leading to an F Gas Qualification, but during this time they must work under supervision of an F Gas qualified person.

### **11. DIY shops are still selling air conditioning equipment. Do you need to be qualified to install these?**

Commission Regulation (EC) No 303/2008 in Article 2(1)c requires personnel installing equipment of this type to hold the appropriate qualifications - installation includes completing a circuit irrespective of the need to charge the systems, so this would cover DIY snap fit type equipment and a Category I or II qualification would be needed. These types of system are not currently banned from being placed on the market however, under the EC F gas Regulation, the individual or company taking delivery of the equipment does subsequently have a duty to comply with all 'operator' obligations regarding qualifications of installation personnel and prevention of leakage.

### **12. Where can I go to do the F Gas training?**

ACRIB has a list of training providers which shows the location of their training centre, delivery options and links to websites see [www.acrib.org.uk](http://www.acrib.org.uk). Alternatively you search for your nearest centre at: City and Guilds [www.cityandguilds.com](http://www.cityandguilds.com) or CITB [www.cskills.org](http://www.cskills.org)

### **13. I have more questions about F Gas Regulations and training. Can you help?**

DEFRA have set up an F Gas Support team to help with queries on the F Gas and ODS regulations. They have published a series of guides on all aspects of the regulation including RAC 5 - Certification of personnel and companies all available from their website at [www.defra.gov.uk/fgas](http://www.defra.gov.uk/fgas) or email [FGas-Support@enviros.com](mailto:FGas-Support@enviros.com)