



ACRIB Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry Board

Kelvin House, 76 Mill Lane, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 2JR

Tel: 020 8647 7033
Fax: 020 8773 0165
Email: acrib@acrib.org.uk
Website: www.acrib.org.uk

The EU F-gas Regulation – what it means for you

The European Union's F-gas Regulation No 842/2006 became law on 4 July 2006. Here is a brief summary of its requirements for the UK's Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry, which come into force (unless otherwise stated) on 4 July 2007. (F-gases include all HFC refrigerants, such as R134a, R407C, and R410A.)

Equipment operators

If you operate stationary refrigeration or air conditioning systems, you must prevent leakage and repair any leaks as soon as possible. You must arrange proper refrigerant recovery by certified personnel. If you operate other products including mobile equipment, appropriately qualified personnel must be used to recover gases as long as this is technically feasible and not disproportionately costly.

You must ensure that only certified competent personnel carry out leakage checks, and that these are done to the laid down schedule. The European Commission (EC) will establish standard leak checking requirements. Where leakage detection systems are used on large systems, these must be checked at least annually.

You will need to maintain records of all refrigerants in equipment with a charge of 3kg or more (if hermetic, 6kg or more). You must keep detailed service records for equipment containing a charge of 30kg or more.

Contractors

You will be affected by minimum requirements for training and certification of companies and personnel involved in installation, maintenance, servicing, containment, and recovery activities. By 4 July 2008 at the latest, the Government will establish training and certification requirements based on EC requirements. It is hoped that these will be linked to existing requirements relating to handling of ozone depleting refrigerants (e.g. R22).

All EU Member States have to establish reporting systems to acquire emission data where possible. You may have to implement these systems.

It should be noted that you might be asked by operators to accept some of the operator's responsibilities under an appropriate contract.

Producers, importers, exporters

Producers must report production, expected applications, amount placed on the market, amount recycled, etc. Importers (of more than one tonne p.a.) must report quantity imported or placed on the market, expected applications, amount recycled, etc. Exporters (of more than one tonne p.a.) must report quantities exported.

Manufacturers

Substances, products and equipment must be labelled. The form of label has yet to be established. Information on GWP is to be included in instruction manuals.

Sales

EU sales of non-refillable containers and non-confined direct evaporation systems are prohibited. Sales of F-gases will be restricted to certificated purchasers, from 4 July 2009.

Review

The EC will review requirements by end of 2007 and optionally propose legislation by end 2008, to extend containment requirements to transport refrigeration. The EC will report within 5 years on experience of the Regulation. If the Regulation is not showing reduced emissions, further restrictions are likely.

Further details

Further details may be obtained from ACRIB (www.acrib.org.uk), from Defra/DTI who plan to issue a guidance document in September 2006 at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/fgases/page28889.html>. A copy of the regulation itself can also be downloaded from the DTI site.