



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

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UK FIRST OFFICIAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON THE F-GASES REGULATION

In order to prepare key national obligations resulting from [F-Gas Regulation 842 \(2006\)](#), UK Official Bodies [DEFRA](#) and [DTI](#) have worked together with stakeholders groups to develop an Initial Guidance Document, in order to assist people running or maintaining HFC containing equipment.

The Regulation will enter into force on the 4 July 2006 and shall apply with affect from 4 July 2007.

The Regulation entails a number of measures which will have [implications for industry](#), mainly manufacturers and operators of equipment containing G-Gases, such as refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment, including mobile air-conditioning.

The Guidance Document is designed to help understanding the implications of the Regulation, and will be regularly updated in dialogue with stakeholders, and taking account of the work of the F-gas Regulatory Committee (as described in article 12).

The Document draws the attention to the role of this Committee, set up under EC [Regulation 2037\(2000\) on ODS](#) (substances that deplete the ozone layer), and which will thereby deal with F gases in both their Ozone and Climate Impact.

Initially the Committee will have to deal with:

- Standard leakage checking requirements (Article 3.7).
- Minimum requirements and mutual recognition for training programmes and certification for relevant personnel and for companies and personnel involved with containment and recovery (Article 5.1).
- Format for notifying to the Commission Member States' training and certification programmes (Article 5.5).
- Format for reporting information to the Commission (Article 6.2).
- Form of label to be used for certain products and equipment containing F gases (Article 7.3).

A table provides a guide as to when the provisions come into force and information on further work required by Member States and the Commission (Government F gas Regulation "Route Map")



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UNEP AGENCY CONFIRMS HFCs ROLE IN CLIMATE PROTECTION

HFCs are confirmed in an [UNEP Fact sheet](#) to have allowed Fluorocarbons contribution to global warming to decline from 33% to 10% compared to CO2 emissions, from 1990 to 2000.

Indeed the Factsheet states “although HCFCs and HFCs are greenhouse gases, it is useful to keep in mind that the [CFCs they replace had a much greater impact](#) on both the ozone layer and the climate.”

Called “Win-win solutions for the climate and the ozone layer - A simplified guide to the [Special Report on HFCs and PFCs](#)”, posted on the [IIR](#) (International Institute of Refrigeration) website, the Factsheet was published by [UNEP Division for Environmental Conventions](#).

It finds optimism in the Montreal Protocol history, under which the phase out of ozone-depleting substances has proceeded faster and cheaper than initially anticipated, and praises the fruitful cooperation between science and industry that made it possible.

Such cooperation could lead to similar success in reducing the climate impacts of HFCs and PFCs.

USA : RESPONSIBLE FLUOROCARBONS USE GUIDE ENDORSED BY REFRIGERATION PROFESSIONALS

A [Responsible Use Guide for Minimizing Fluorocarbon Emissions in Manufacturing Facilities](#) has been developed by the US equipment manufacturers association ARI, has been endorsed by ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, which gathers professionals in air conditioning or refrigeration, among others.

The document, developed by ARI and the US EPA and issued in March 2006, encourages [refrigerant containment and environmental protection](#).

Stakeholders acknowledge that Responsible Use requires all parties – from the engineers designing products to plant managers and workers on the assembly line – to address effectively refrigeration emission issues.



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ASHRAE has already published Standard 147-2002, *Reducing Release of Halogenated Refrigerants from Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Equipment and Systems*, which establishes practices and procedures to reduce and avoid inadvertent release of Fluorocarbons.

Sources :

<http://www.ari.org/policy/environmental/>

<http://www.ashrae.org/template/AssetDetail/assetid/53013>

CFC RECOVERY FROM DISMANTLED APPLIANCES IS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THE CLIMATE

Following the [WEEE Directive](#) Annex II, CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs must be “properly extracted and properly treated”.

The German [RAL Quality Assurance Association](#), in charge of appliances dismantling and recycling is drawing the attention of [the importance of CFC recovery](#).

In Germany for example, about 2.5 million refrigerator and freezer appliances are sent for recycling every year. If all of these waste refrigeration appliances were systematically treated using state-of-the-art processing technology in order to optimally recover CFCs, this would avoid the equivalent of about 6.4 million tonnes of CO₂ to be emitted (by comparison, recycling 2.3 million tonnes of lightweight packaging materials in Germany 2001 save only 0.4 million tonnes CO₂).

This example shows the interest for all EU countries to optimize their appliances recycling procedures, as only a few Member States are achieving the maximum technically achievable recovery.

Huge quantities of CFCs still present in other waste products is another key area that, given the relevance of CFCs to global warming, must definitely be addressed by European governments.



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NEW ON OUR SITE

[Press Release](#) "EFCTC commemorates Ozone Day, the day of signing the Montreal Protocol"

[MOBILE AIR CONDITIONING PAGE](#) updated with the latest 2006 meetings

NEW LINKS ADDED

Science – Ozone

Antarctic Ozone Resources

<http://www.awi-bremerhaven.de/MET/Neumayer/ozone.html>

Applications of SF₆

US EPA - Documents, Tools and Resources on SF₆

<http://www.epa.gov/highgwp/electricpower-sf6/resources.html>